

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 3, 2021

Second Sunday of Christmas

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

Almighty God, you have filled us with the light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of faith shine in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.ⁱ Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*LITANY FOR CHRISTMASⁱⁱ

One: The Word was made flesh,

All: Alleluia, Alleluia!

One: and dwelt among us,

All: Alleluia, Alleluia!

One: Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father,
Light eternal:

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

One: Jesus, King of glory, Sun of righteousness, born of the
Virgin Mary:

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

One: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting
Lord:

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

One: Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls, perfect in
holiness:

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

One: Jesus, Friend of all, Protector of the poor, Treasure of
the faithful:

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

One: Jesus, Good Shepherd, inexhaustible Wisdom, our Way,
our Truth, and our Life:

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

One: Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of all the saints:

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

One: Christ is born! Give him glory! Christ has come down
from heaven! Receive him! Christ is now on earth! Exalt
him! O earth, sing to the Lord! O you nations, praise
him in joy, for he has been glorified!

All: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word” #454

Blessed Jesus, at Your word We are gathered all to hear You; Let
our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear
You; By Your teachings true and holy, Drawn from earth to
love You solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness
shrouded, Till Your Spirit breaks our night With the beams of
truth unclouded; You alone to God can win us, You must work
all good within us.

Glorious Lord, Yourself impart! Light of light, from God
proceeding, Open now our ears and heart, Help us by Your
Spirit’s pleading; Hear the cry that we are raising; Hear and
bless our prayers and praising.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Paul shares that God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the
world to be holy and blameless before him in love. Our holiness is
tainted with sin, we are not blameless, and our love knows limits.
Let us confess our sin, ask God’s forgiveness, and trust in his
sanctification.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSIONⁱⁱⁱ

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as
light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not
welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have
closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and
hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that
we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth
of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Paul also shares, “In Jesus we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of his grace
that he lavished upon us.” Repent of your sin, and take comfort in
God’s forgiveness and redemption. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

. . . *to Proclaim God’s Word*

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:7-14 **p. 734**

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 1:3-14 **p. 192**

***GOSPEL READING** John 1:1-18 **p. 91**

SERMON “Chosen, Adopted, and Blessed” Rev. Andy Smothers

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.

*CONFESSION OF FAITH *Heidelberg Catechism* (Question 69-71)

One: How does baptism remind and assure you that Christ’s one
sacrifice on the cross benefits you personally?

**Many: In this way: Christ instituted this outward washing
and with it promised that, as surely as water washes
away the dirt from the body, so certainly his blood and
his Spirit wash away my soul’s impurity, that is, all my
sins.**

One: What does it mean to be washed with Christ’s blood and
Spirit?

**Many: To be washed with Christ’s blood means that God, by
grace, has forgiven our sins because of Christ’s blood
poured out for us in his sacrifice on the cross. To be
washed with Christ’s Spirit means that the Holy Spirit
has renewed and sanctified us to be members of Christ,
so that more and more we become dead to sin and live
holy and blameless lives.**

One: Where does Christ promise that we are washed with his blood and Spirit as surely as we are washed with the water of baptism?

Many: **In the institution of baptism, where he says: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” [Also, where he says,] “The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.” This promise is repeated when Scripture calls baptism “the water of rebirth” and the washing away of sins.**

... to Give Thanks to God ...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

Gracious God, you gave us the Law to show us our sin, Christ Jesus to show how humans might live without sin, and the Holy Spirit to reside within us and guide us through a Christian life. You free us from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ. Continue to grow us in faithfulness and holiness. We return a portion of what you have given us for the work of your church on earth. Guide our Session to invest it according to your will. Amen.

... and to Be Sent in God’s Name.

CLOSING HYMN: “O Word of God Incarnate” #327

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high, O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky: We praise You for the radiance That from the hallowed page, A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.

The church from You, dear Savior, Received this gift divine, And still that light is lifted On all the earth to shine. It is the chart and compass That, all life’s voyage through, Amid the rocks and quick-sands, Still guides, O Christ, to You.

O make Your church, dear Savior, A lamp of purest gold To bear before the nations Your true light, as of old; O teach Your wandering pilgrims By this our path to trace, Till, clouds and storms thus ended, We see You face to face.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wed. Jan. 6 Evening Prayer 6:30 PM

Sun. Jan. 10 Session 12:30 PM

Welcome to worship this morning! As we continue to social distance, we will not be offering child care for a time. Feel free to keep your children in worship — even if they’re a bit noisy. You’re also welcome to take them into the coatroom.

Our thanks go to our lay reader Pat Keil, and pianist Juanita Rodriquez.

Consider joining us for worship through prayer, liturgy, scripture readings, and fellowship on **Wednesday evenings** at 6:30 PM. You can join us in-person or remotely by calling 978-990-5110 and using access code 749966# when prompted. Make sure to include the “#” sign in the access code, and note that a long distance charge may apply depending on your carrier.

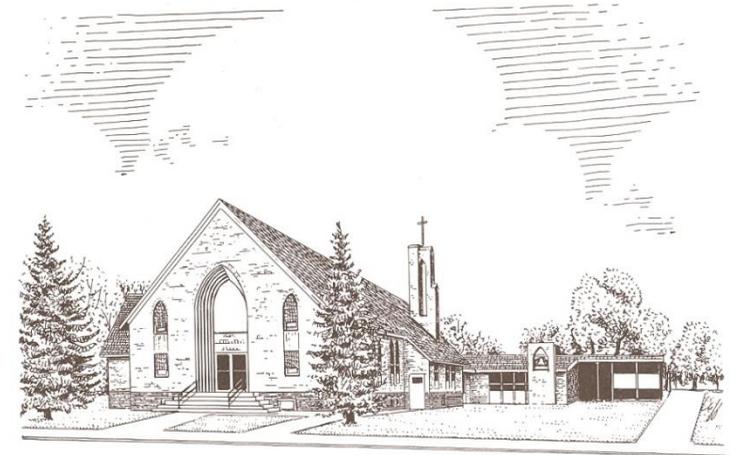
Items for the **January church newsletter** are needed in the church office ASAP.

We need the **annual reports** in the office no later than this Friday, **January 8th**.

Ordination and Installation of elders and deacons will be held Sunday, **January 17th**.

Last week, combined giving was **\$1,944.00**. In order to meet expenses, we need to average **\$2,588.00** per week.

First Presbyterian Church



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ⁱ Book of Common Worship, 189.

ⁱⁱ Book of Common Worship, 166-167.

ⁱⁱⁱ Book of Common Worship, 180.