



# First Presbyterian Church

## Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025, 6:00 PM



\* Indicates that those who are able may stand

**Bold type is spoken by the people.**

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### VOLUNTARY:

Sussex Carol

*Lani Smith*  
*Beverly Cardinal, piano*

#### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*Katie and Josh Malone*

ONE: We light the Christ candle to symbolize God's promise fulfilled.

*Lighting of the Christ candle*

ONE: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all on whom his favor rests.

**ALL: Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Amy Woods, Liturgist*

ONE: Sing a new song to God, all the earth!

**ALL: The oceans roar, the forests sing for joy.**

ONE: For God has shattered the yoke and tossed the boots of the oppressor into the fire.

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among all people of goodwill!**

ONE: Do not be afraid, for good news thrills creation:

**ALL: Today our liberator has been born!**

#### \*OPENING HYMN:

O Come, All Ye Faithful

**#133**

#### CALL TO & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: God came into a broken world, and we know all too well the ways it is still broken and hurting. Let us confess the ways we have done harm, that we may be part of the healing, saying...

**ALL: Emmanuel, you have given us a gift that we can never deserve. You do not ask us to be worthy. You do not ask us to earn your love. Yet the ways we have fallen short threaten to overtake us. But we know we can come to you, even on this holiest of nights, to seek the forgiveness you offer so freely, grateful for your mercy.**

## SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

\*RESPONSE HYMN: Lord Have Mercy Upon Us

#575

## \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to us all! With Christ's birth comes forgiveness and redemption.

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest heaven,**

ONE: and on earth peace among those whom God favors!

## \*GLORIA PATRI

#581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!**

## TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

*Rev. Michael McLaughlin*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

**P.600**

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Titus 2:11-14

**P.202**

ONE: And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*Hal H. Hopson, arr.*

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!  
Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!  
Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

**P.54**

## SERMON

*Rev. Michael McLaughlin*

COMMUNAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Confession of 1967, 9.27*

**The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.**

\*GREETINGS

After an exchange of Peace between the Pastor and the Congregation, we encourage you to greet one another. The Greetings will conclude with the first verse of *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*.

ONE: ...The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**ALL: And also with you.**

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

#306

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ONE: ... Lord, in your mercy,

**ALL: hear our prayer.**

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY:

Lo, How a Rose

*Lani Smith*

OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY

#606

**ALL: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ONE: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

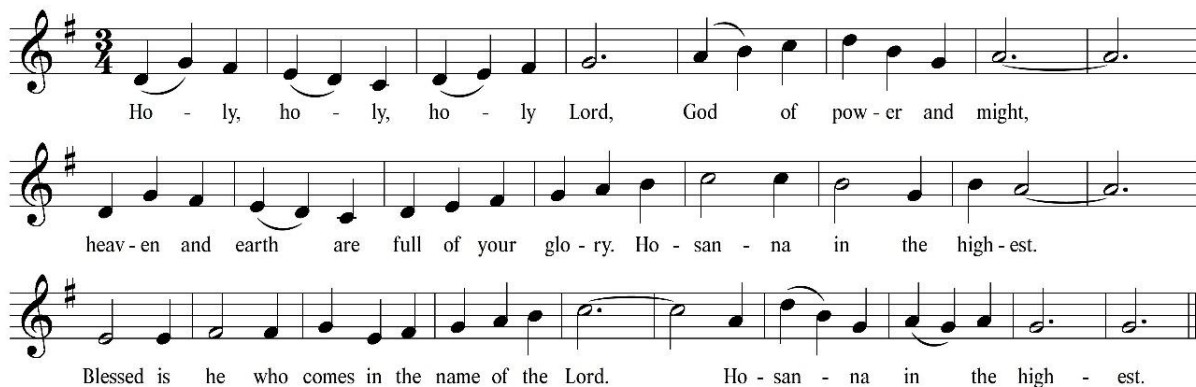
ONE: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

ONE: ...Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:



ONE: ...Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast.

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

## THE 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.

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING

\*CLOSING HYMN:

Silent Night, Holy Night

#122

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

ONE: ...Alleluia!

ALL: Alleluia!

ONE: Amen!

\*RESPONSE:

Joy to the World (*first verse*)

#134

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