

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Great God of power, we praise you for Jesus Christ, who came to save us from our sins. We thank you for the hope of the prophets, the song of the angels, and the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We thank you that in Jesus you became flesh and dwelt among us, sharing human hurts and pleasures. Glory to you for your grace-filled love. Glory to you, eternal God; through Jesus Christ, Lord of lords, and King of kings, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

May he, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and good will; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## CAROL (#122)

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*

Accompanied by Stephen Leake, guitar

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child!  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at thy birth, Jesus Lord, at thy birth.**

*Please stand\* for the last verse.*

**Silent night! Holy night!  
Wondrous Star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

*As the guitar continues playing, as directed by the ushers, please quietly exit the sanctuary row by row, beginning with the front one, by the front (west) doors depositing your candle with an usher. You are encouraged to greet one another when you are outside the sanctuary.*

If you provided a **poinsettia** for the sanctuary, you may feel free to take it home after this service.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP AT FPC

**10:15 a.m. - Light Refreshments and Fellowship  
11:00 a.m. - One Combined Service of Worship**

**We will have one combined service of worship next Sunday morning. The combined schedule is to recognize the reality of this last weekend in the Christmas holiday season and to facilitate the inclusion of the ordination/installation of elders and deacons for the coming year. This concluding service of the year 2017 will also conclude the transition time following the retirement of Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks.**

**Our regular Sunday morning schedule, with worship services at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., and Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m., will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2018, under the leadership of our new pastor, Dr. E. Jones Doughton.**

## THOSE WHO SERVE

E. Jones Doughton, Pastor-elect  
Harry C. Meissner, Interim Pastor  
Casey McCollough, Director of Music Ministries  
B.J. Mauldin, Organist  
Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant  
Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

Elna and Laci Singleton are lighting the Christ Candle  
David Starnes is Head Deacon

Instrumentalists include: Doug Cook, trumpet; Lance Flisowski, trumpet; H. Scott Rives, horn; Lance Walker, trombone; Logan Stalcup, tuba; Zach Houston, percussion; Eddie Healey, guitar



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## CANDLELIGHT AND CAROL SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2017 • 6:00 P.M.

*Welcome to this place and to this service! What a wonderful time for the gathering of church family, biological and "adopted" families, and friends on this most holy night. Conventions used in this service are as follows: an asterisk (\*) invites you to stand, as health allows; material printed in **bold** is for the congregation to sing or say; and material printed in italics may give some helpful information. Let us worship the newborn king!*

VOLUNTARY *Let Christians All with Joyful Mirth* Mansfield

INTROIT *All My Heart This Night Rejoices* Ebeling  
*The Chancel Choir*

## GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**And also with you.**

A child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulder, and he is named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*As the music begins, please stand for the opening Carol.*

\*CAROL (# 133, v 1,3,4) *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Willcocks

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels:  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.  
Glory to God, Glory in the highest:  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

*Please remain standing for the lighting of the Christ candle.*

\*LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**The light no darkness can overcome.**

Let your light scatter the darkness.

**And illumine your church.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

*Everyone singing as the Christ Candle is lit: (Hymn 118, v 6)*

**All glory be to God on high, And to the earth be peace;  
good will to all from highest heaven,  
begin and never cease, begin and never cease!**

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord, through whom we pray.

**Amen.**

WELCOME

CAROL *Glory in the Highest* Larson  
*Chancel Choir*

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:2-7

\*CAROL (#119) *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* arr. Willcocks

Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ by highest heaven adored;  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail, the Son of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more shall die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."

SCRIPTURE READING Titus 2:11-14

CAROL *Worship Christ, the Newborn King* Larson  
*The Chancel Choir*

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-14

\*CAROL (Hymn 147, v 1,5,6) *The First Nowell* arr. Willcocks

The first Noel the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three,  
Fell reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
And with his blood mankind has bought.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

SERMON Harry C. Meissner

*What I Learned from a Dog Named Max*

\*CAROL (#134) *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

SILENT PRAYER AND CONCLUDING PRAYER

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 king-  
dom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERING *Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child* Hayes  
Duet—John and Paula Kusewitt

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*Please tip the unlighted toward the lighted one so that candle wax will not get on you, the floor, or the furniture. We have battery operated "candles" for children or anyone else who is uncomfortable with a burning one.*

REFLECTION *What Child is This* Traditional  
B. J. Mauldin, piano