

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service - Christ Candle

Monday and Tuesday, December 25 & 26

The Church Office will be closed in celebration of Christ's Birth

Wednesday through Friday, December 27 - 29

Office hours will be abbreviated, if you need to make an end of year contribution, please make an appointment.

Sunday, December 31

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service (Ordination and Installation Service)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We want to thank the following people who provided Christmas flowers for our worship services.

Debbie and Adeline Aynes in honor of Jesus

Debbie and Adeline Aynes in memory of Papa James

Mackenzie Aynes in memory of Papa James Aynes

Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in honor of our mothers – Debbie Aynes and DiAnna

Greer and Bonus Mom Brenda Greer

Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in memory of our grandparents, James and Clara

Aynes, Hose and Margaret Simpson, Clarence and Mary Greer, and Ernie and Jess Ann Tolle

John and Sue Bohmer in honor of Renee Stormer for all that she does

Mary E Boyce in memory of Tom Lehman Barnard

Mary E Boyce in memory of Mary Elizabeth Barnard

John and Lynda Brown in memory of Kelly Brown Jennings

Edie Brunson in honor and admiration of Hope Sheppard and fond memories of Jim Sheppard

Ross and Sharon Condarco in memory of Sharon's son, Christopher Petton

Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in loving memory R.J. Farmer, D.D.S., Karen Dixon and our parents

Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in memory of Nickie Wilbanks and Marjorie Akin

Kirk Dixon in honor of my lovely wife, Susan

Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of our children and grandchildren

Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Tom Wilbanks

Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Jones and Mary Lee Doughton and family

Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Renee Stormer and FPC staff

Mary Lee and Jones Doughton in honor of Lynda and Dallas Ward, and Lelia Doughton.

Mary Lee and Jones Doughton in honor of our children, Bennett Doughton and Mary Claire Doughton

Mary Lee and Jones Doughton in memory of Erastus B. J. Doughton and Jack MacMillan

Roger Foltz in honor of my children, Scott and Amanda Foltz

Roger Foltz in honor of my children, Emily and Thomas Shoots

Roger Foltz in honor of my children, David and Wendy Foltz

Doug and Jan Fort in memory of our son, Adam D. Fort.

Linda Fricke in loving memory of Dan Fricke and Lisa Fricke

Linda Fricke in memory of Billie Hill, Carolyn Hill, and Hazel Gates

Sheila Hammer in memory of my mom, Christy Portillo

Sheila Hammer in memory of my dad, Roger Rich

Gerald and Cindy Jenkins in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith

Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of the ministry of Tom and Nickie Wilbanks

Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of the ministry of the Doughton Family

Phil and Celeste Johnson in memory of Jim Sheppard

Patricia Kim in memory of Stephen K. Kim

Sarah Kitchens in memory of my sister, Martha Dye

John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of Jerry Woodard, Paula's daddy – with love and precious memories

John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of Jim Kusewitt, John's dad – with our love

John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of our Grandparents – with our love

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our mothers – you are a gift from God.

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our Pastor Emeritus, Dr. Tom Wilbanks and in memory of his wife, Nickie – Thank you for your many years of faithful, selfless service.

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of Ryoji Shimpo and the Music Department

Paula Kusewitt in honor of the FPC Safety Team – thank you for your dedication to us!

Ann Kyle as a gift to the church

Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Pat Smith

Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Loncy and Bettye Leake

Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Leroy and Pauline Tanner

Michael and Robbie Lee in honor of Robbie's mom, Estalene Marshall

Paul and Sue Luce in memory of Edwin and Agnes Carr

Paul and Sue Luce in memory of Robert and Peg Luce

Michael McGee in memory of Aileen and James Tucker

Sheryl Miller in honor of my grandson, Truett

Sheryl Miller in memory of my parents, Ben and Mary Williams

Brian Neece in honor of my dad, Don Neece

Brian Neece in memory of my mom, Sue Neece

Evelyn Parker in memory of Toliver Jordan Hutchinson

William and Gail Richardson as a gift to the Church

Bob and Maurine Robinson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hanby

Bob and Maurine Robinson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Winston Robinson

Bob and Maurine Robinson in honor of Robbie, Janice and Ben Robinson

Roger Samuels in loving memory of Joy

John and Susan Scholl in memory of our parents

Hope L. Sheppard in loving memory of my beloved husband and dearest friend for 70 years, the Rev. James "Jim" R. Sheppard, Jr.

Hope L. Sheppard in honor of the Faith and Life Sunday School Class

Hope L. Sheppard in honor of my church family, for your outreach, prayers and cards

Hope L. Sheppard in memory of a beautiful lady, Sheila Bauer

Hope L. Sheppard in honor of My family, Psalm 133:1

Ann Smith in honor of my children, Brianne and Jeremy Davis, and Megan and Justin Rains

Ann Smith in honor of my grandchildren, Smith & Dylan Rains

Ann Smith in honor of those who teach here at FPC

Ann Smith in memory of Pat Smith

Ann Smith in memory of Nick Seth

Paul F. Snyder in memory of my mother and father

Carol Stephenson in memory of Roger Stephenson, Ray and Kathryn Stephenson

George Venner in memory of Pat Venner

Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of Dallas' parents, the Wards

Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of Lynda's parents, the Carlsons

Nelda Williams in honor of Carol Stephenson

Beverlee Witty in memory of Mel Witty

Beverlee Witty in honor of Jack and Hannah

THOSE WHO SERVE

E. Jones Doughton, Pastor

Ryoji Shimpo, Director of Music/Organist/Pianist

Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant

Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

December 24, 2023

6:00 p.m.



The Star on the bulletin cover is from The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. It marks the traditional site where Jesus was born. One can see that the Star is in light and shadow. Jesus brings us out of the shadows into the light. As we ponder the birth of Christ, may we remember His lowly birth. May we remember that He came to Earth to be with us, to be among us, and to show us the way to live. May this star lead us to humility, mystery, and worship.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We hope you find a welcome here worthy of the gracious God we serve. Conventions in this bulletin include: 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 provide some helpful information. Large print hymnals or hymn sheets are available from an usher. Let us worship God!*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY *Away in a Manger* arr. Steve Calderone

INTROIT 133 (vs 1 & 3) *O Come, All Ye Faithful* John Francis Wade
Chancel Choir

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!
(Refrain) O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.
Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizen of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2*
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And also with you.

I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for unto you is born this day a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

6:00 p.m. - Stephen and Susan Leake

Rev Doughton: The Christ candle is lit. We have watched; we have waited in hope, for peace, for love, and for joy. Now our redemption draws near!

Congregation: **Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Amen!**

*CAROL #134 *Joy to the World*

WELCOME

ANTHEM *Noel Nouvelet* arr. Richard Zgodava
(*Sing We Now of Christmas*)
Chancel Choir

Sing We Now of Christmas, Sing We here Noel!
Of our Lord and Savior We the tidings tell.

Chorus: Sing We Noel!

For Christ the King is born, Noel!

Sing We Now of Christmas, Sing We here Noel!
Angels did say, O Shepherds come and see,
Born in Bethlehem, A blessed Lamb for Thee.

Chorus

In the Manger bed, The shepherds found the Child.
Joseph was there, And Mother, Mary mild.

Chorus

Magi oriental Journeyed from afar.
They did come to greet Him 'Neath the shining star.

Chorus

Now together sing, Let our voices ring,
Thanks to God on High. Sing We here Noel!

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Luke 2:1-7*

CAROL #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Luke 2:8-15*

CAROL #145 *What Child Is This*

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11*

CAROL #124 *Still, Still, Still*

ANTHEM *Glory to God* G.F. Handel
String Quartet Members:
Eileen MacNaughton, violin, Emma Beaty, violin,
Olivia Beaty, viola, and Stella Beaty, cello

SERMON *Christmas Gift*
Reverend Dr. E. Jones Doughton

CAROL #115 *Away in a Manger*

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

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.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Christmas Lullaby - J. Brahms String Quartet

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

CAROL *Silent Night*
Stephen Leake, guitarist

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.

(continued)

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.

CHARGE

Please be seated as the Postlude begins. You may use this Postlude as part of the worship service. Some of you may pause and then leave. If so, we ask that you depart in a worshipful way. Others may wish to remain seated for the full Postlude. Following the Postlude those who have purchased poinsettias may take them home.

POSTLUDE *Silent Night* arr. Preston Keys

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Deacon/Ushers

Nick Scholl, Alberto Villafana,
and David Howard