

First Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Communion Service
6:00 p.m., December 24, 2016,

PRELUDE	Jennifer Blackburn
WELCOME	
CALL TO WORSHIP	
LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE INVOCATION	Martin, Nancy, Grace, and Faith Lifer
*OPENING HYMN	<i>IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR</i> IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR, THAT GLORIOUS SONG OF OLD, FROM ANGELS BENDING NEAR THE EARTH TO TOUCH THEIR HARPS OF GOLD; “PEACE ON THE EARTH, GOOD WILL TO MEN, FROM HEAV’N ALL GRACIOUS KING!” THE WORLD IN SOLEMN STILLNESS LAY TO HEAR THE ANGELS SING. FOR LO, THE DAYS ARE HAST’NING ON, BY PROPHETS SEEN OF OLD, WHEN WITH THE EVER-CIRCLING YEARS SHALL COME THE TIME FORETOLD. WHEN THE NEW HEAV’N AND EARTH SHALL OWN THE PRINCE OF PEACE THEIR KING. AND THE WHOLE WORLD SEND BACK THE SONG WHICH NOW THE ANGELS SING.
SCRIPTURE READINGS	Micah 5:2; Luke 2:1-7
RESPONSIVE CAROL	<i>WHAT CHILD IS THIS?</i> WHAT CHILD IS THIS WHO, LAID TO REST ON MARY’S LAP IS SLEEPING? WHOM ANGELS GREET WITH ANTHEMS SWEET, WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCH ARE KEEPING? THIS, THIS IS CHRIST THE KING, WHOM SHEPHERDS GUARD AND ANGELS SING; HASTE, HASTE, TO BRING HIM LAUD, THE BABE, THE SON OF MARY.
SONG OF PRAISE	<i>BREATH OF HEAVEN</i> Grace Lifer, solo Amy Grant/Chris Eaton
SCRIPTURE READINGS	Malachi 4:2; Luke 2:8-14
*RESPONSIVE CAROL	<i>HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING</i> HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING, “GLORY TO THE NEW-BORN KING! “ PEACE ON EARTH, AND MERCY MILD; GOD AND SINNERS RECONCILED!” JOYFUL ALL YE NATIONS RISE, JOIN THE TRIUMPH OF THE SKIES; WITH TH’ ANGELIC HOST PROCLAIM, “CHRIST IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM!” HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING, “GLORY TO THE NEW-BORN KING! “ HAIL, THE HEAV’N-BORN PRINCE OF PEACE! HAIL THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS! LIGHT AND LIFE TO ALL HE BRINGS, RIS’N WITH HEALING IN HIS WINGS. MILD HE LAYS HIS GLORY BY, BORN THAT MEN NO MORE MAY DIE, BORN TO RAISE THE SONS OF EARTH, BORN TO GIVE THEM SECOND BIRTH. HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING, “GLORY TO THE NEW-BORN KING! “
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>SWEET LITTLE JESUS BOY</i> Forrest Blackburn, Soloist MacGimsey

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

Visiting with Us for Christmas Eve? We warmly welcome you to our worship of God in the Name of Jesus Christ in this special service. **We hope that you can be with us again on forthcoming Sundays** – as we begin each week on Sunday mornings celebrating the Good News of our Risen Lord Jesus and that we joyfully and gratefully begin the week as his Body coming together as He calls us to do.

Most certainly, we invite you to **continue the Christmas worship that we have just begun tonight** by joining us here in our Sanctuary **at 11:00 a.m. tomorrow for our Christmas Sunday Worship and Celebration.**

Deacon of the Month: Ellen Boles
Greeter Tonight: Lynne Zimmerman
Ushers Tonight: Dave and Ellen Boles, and Loren Zimmerman

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *from* The Nicene Creed, Article II
[I believe] in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

THE DOXOLOGY Hymn 592

CALL TO BRING GOD’S TITHE AND CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERINGS	Freddie Rasberry
OFFERTORY	<i>O HOLY NIGHT</i> Forrest Blackburn, solo Adolphe Adam

SCRIPTURE READING	Luke 2:15-20
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GOSPEL INVITATION	<i>Let Us Go to Bethlehem and See</i> Martin Lifer
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* CAROLS OF GOSPEL INVITATION	<i>O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL</i> 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!
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<i>O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM</i> O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, HOW STILL WE SEE THEE LIE ABOVE THY DEEP AND DREAMLESS SLEEP, THE SILENT STARS GO BY; YET IN THY DARK STREETS SHINETH THE EVERLASTING LIGHT, THE HOPES AND FEARS OF ALL THE YEARS ARE MET IN THEE TONIGHT. FOR CHRIST IS BORN OF MARY AND GATHERED ALL ABOVE, WHILE MORTALS SLEEP THE ANGELS KEEP THEIR WATCH OF WONDERING LOVE. O MORNING STARS TOGETHER PROCLAIM THE HOLY BIRTH AND PRAISES SING TO GOD THE KING AND PEACE TO MEN ON EARTH. HOW SILENTLY, HOW SILENTLY, THE WONDROUS GIFT IS GIVEN, AND GOD IMPARTS TO HUMAN HEARTS, THE BLESSINGS OF HIS HEAVEN NO EAR MAY HEAR HIS COMING, BUT IN THIS WORLD OF SIN, WHERE MEEK SOULS WILL RECEIVE HIM STILL, THE DEAR CHRIST ENTERS IN. O HOLY CHILD OF BETHLEHEM, DESCEND ON US WE PRAY, CAST OUT OUR SIN AND ENTER IN BE BORN IN US TODAY! WE HEAR THE CHRISTMAS TIDINGS, THE GREAT GLAD TIDINGS TELL. O COME TO US, ABIDE WITH US , OUR LORD EMMANUEL.
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SHARING THE LORD’S SUPPER ON THE NIGHT WE CELEBRATE HIS INCARNATE BIRTH

INVITATION TO HIS TABLE *(Open to All Baptized Believers Properly Prepared to Partake of His Body and Cup)*

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison) 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.
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SHARING THE BREAD *(Please Hold the Bread Until All Have Received, So that We May Partake Together)*

PARTAKING OF HIS CUP OF THE COVENANT *(Please Hold the Bread Until All Have Received, So that We May Partake Together)*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST** *(After your candle is lit, please turn to light the candle of the person sitting next to you. Remember, never tip a lit candle, and the unlit candle always bows to the lit.)*

**The congreagation is invited to stand.*

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Mohr/Gruber

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!"

Drew Dieckmann, guitar

Following the Benediction, we invite you to carry your Light (your lit candle, symbolic of the Light of Christ in all believers) outside; we will congregate on the front steps and lawn on the FPC Hill for some final, joyful singing and exchanging Christmas Eve blessing. After we conclude, please leave your extinguished candle in the receptacles, ... but continue to bear and share Christ's Light in the world! Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Come “*as you are*” – after your early-morning Christmas activities – and **join us for:**

- **A Christmas Fellowship at 10:30**
 - *with a Birthday Cake for Jesus (Fellowship Hall)*
- **Our UNIFIED 11 a.m. Christmas Sunday Worship Service**
 - *with childcare provided for infants and young children.*

"AWAY IN A MANGER"

BE NEAR ME, LORD JESUS, I ASK THEE TO STAY
CLOSE BY ME FOREVER, AND LOVE ME, I PRAY.
BLESS ALL THE DEAR CHILDREN IN THY TENDER CARE,
AND FIT US FOR HEAVEN, TO LIVE WITH THEE THERE.

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply, Echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis De-o, Gloria in excelsis De-o.

See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, With us sing our Savior's birth.
Gloria in excelsis De-o, Gloria in excelsis De-o.

Gloria in excelsis De-o, Gloria in excelsis De-o.