

Merry Christmas

DECEMBER 24, AD 2022
SIX O'CLOCK



Merry Christmas

Assisting Pastor: Whitney Alexander and Darin Travis

PRELUDE

Borislava Iltcheva, violin
Stefka Madere, violin
Aaron Farrell, viola
Molly Goforth, cello

LESSON 1

The Announcement
From Luke 1: 26-28, 31-33, 38

*CAROL

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” ADESTE FIDELES

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,
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

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! [Refrain]

PRAYER OF PRAISE

THE LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE

Annie, Shelby and Connor Miller will light the Christ Candle.

LESSON 2

The Journey
Luke 2: 1-7

*CAROL

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSSOHN

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 th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

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 the Virgin’s womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Refrain

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 we no more may die;
Born to raise us from the earth; born to give them second birth. Refrain

LESSON 3

The Angels and Shepherds

Luke 2: 8-20

*CAROL

“The First Noel” THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel, the angel 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.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav’nly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind hath bought. [Refrain]

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

“Home Calling”
Gerrit Dawson

Prayer of Freeing Faith

Lord Jesus, on this holy night, we hear the home-calling in our hearts. We want to be safe, connected, seen and loved. We want to know we have a place. We confess that we have sought Home in barren places. We have wandered far, down rugged paths of self-assertion. We sought peace apart from you, and so we found only restlessness. We sought life apart from you, and so we found only death. Forgive us. We would return to our heart of hearts and find you there. We would return to you, the true Home-maker. You are as near as our next breath. Only our stubborn sin keeps us from you. Oh, forgive us. We would enter our Home with you by taking you into the home of our bodies. We would come to the manger, your first home with us, to receive your body and blood, and so be taken into the everlasting home that is you. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Your special offering helps The Christian Outreach Center and the daily operations of Gardere Community Christian School.

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” arranged by Christopher Phillips

CELEBRATION *of the* LORD’S SUPPER

COMMUNION MEDITATION

“Make Room” by Matt Maher and Mark Hall

THE LIGHTING *of the* CANDLES

Ushers will light the candles at the end of each pew. Please turn and offer the light to the person next to you. To prevent wax dripping, always keep lit candles straight up. Turn unlit candles horizontally to catch the flame.

CAROLS

No. 147 "Silent Night! Holy Night!" STILLE NACHT

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 the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*No. 125 "Joy to the World!" ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let men 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.

*BENEDICTION

You may place your candle in one of the baskets provided as you exit the Sanctuary.

POSTLUDE

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

We are pleased to receive a special Christmas Offering in the spirit of the greatest gift ever given—the gift of the Son of God to redeem unworthy sinners and restore them to life. Christ has asked us to give from what he has given us “to proclaim good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4: 18-19).

All donations to the Christmas Offering this season will be given to The Christian Outreach Center and the daily operations of Gardere Community Christian School.

In the pew racks, you will find envelopes for your convenience. Please use them to include your gift in the collection of the offering this morning. Make all checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate “Christmas Offering.”
Members and visitors alike are encouraged to give.

MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

Our beautiful Sanctuary is decorated with poinsettias purchased by church members. Please visit the Connection Center for a list of all who gave in honor or memory of a loved one.

PASTORAL STAFF

Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor
Whitney Alexander, Associate Pastor of Missions
Barry Phillips, Ministry Executive
Darin Travis, Associate Pastor for Discipleship
Scott Graham, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Prayer
Colton Underwood, Assistant Pastor of Children Youth and Families

May the peace of Christ go with you this Christmas season and throughout the new year. Thank you for sharing Christmas Eve with us.
~The Elders and Staff of First Presbyterian Church

On Sunday, December 25, we will have a quiet 5 pm service in Dunham Chapel.

**For parents with small children, our nursery is available in the Education Building for children through age four. You may also watch the service from the Reception Room should you need a quiet place to view the service on our closed circuit TV.

Sanctuary services are videotaped and livestreamed.

