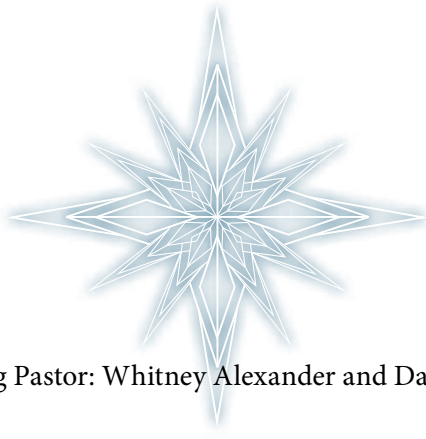




CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, AD 2024
SIX O'CLOCK



Assisting Pastor: Whitney Alexander and Darin Travis

PRELUDE

Borislava Iltcheva, violin
Stefka Madere, violin
Aaron Farrell, viola
Susannah Knoll, cello

LESSON ONE

The Announcement
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

The Christ Candle will be lit by the Donnarumma family:
Anne, Fabrizio and William.

LESSON TWO

The Journey
Luke 2:1-7

CAROL

*“What Child Is This?” GREENSLEEVES

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?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. [Refrain]

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh
Come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him. [Refrain]

LESSON THREE

The Angels and Shepherds
Luke 2:8-20

CAROL

*“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 naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought. [Refrain]

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

“It Is Good That You Exist!”
Gerrit Dawson

Prayer of Freeing Faith

Even when everything is so hard, the challenges so big, and my strength is so small, yet a song keeps singing in my heart. For I know that I am yours. I am part of you. You are kin to me and all my times are in your hand. Lord Jesus, this Christmas Eve, this very hour, I come home to your love. As I see you in the manger, I say back to you, “It is good that you exist! Thank you for loving me, wanting me and saving me.”

OFFERTORY

Please remain seated as the offering plate is passed.
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

Those seated downstairs may come forward for Communion.
The plate will be passed for those seated in the balcony.

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

*“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.

*“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

Please place your candle in the baskets 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 to assist in 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, family and friends.

PASTORAL STAFF

Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor
Whitney Alexander, Associate Pastor of Missions
Darin Travis, Associate Pastor for Discipleship
Scott Graham, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Prayer
Colton Underwood, Associate 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 29, we will have one 10.30 am service in the Sanctuary.

**For parents with small children, our nursery is available in the Education Building for children through age four.

Sanctuary services are videotaped and livestreamed.

