



## PRELUDE

“ARIA” by G. F. Handel

Borislava Iltcheva, violin  
Amelia Brencick, violin  
Christopher Lowry, viola  
Adalus Manzini, cello  
Steve Gustafson, organ

## LESSON I

*The Announcement*

From Luke I: 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,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above:  
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest!” [Refrain]

Father eternal, thine eternal splendor  
Now veiled in flesh our eyes shall see:  
God as an infant swaddling clothes about him. [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]

\*Congregation standing

## LESSON 2

*The Journey*

Luke 2: 1-7

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

“IN THOSE DAYS=THESE DAYS!”

Gerrit Dawson

## CAROL

“AWAY IN A MANGER”

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes,  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

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.

## LESSON 3

*Angels and Shepherds*

Luke 2: 8-20

## CAROL

\*“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav’nly song? [Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem, and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heav’n and earth!  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, with us sing our Savior’s birth. [Refrain]

## THE LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE

*The Christ Candle will be lit by Adelaide, Andrew, James and Claudius Barr.*

## OFFERTORY

*Your special offering helps The Christian Outreach Center and Gardere Community Christian School.  
Please place your offering in the baskets as you exit worship today.*

“GESU BAMBINO” by Pietro A. Yon

Cara Waring, Lauren Honea and Dedrian Hogan

## CAROL

\*“IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR”

CAROL

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’s all-gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still thru the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav’nly music floats o’er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov’ring wing,  
And ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road and 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.

## CELEBRATION of the LORD’S SUPPER

*You will find the communion elements in your gift bag. Please partake of the bread and wine.*

## PRAYER OF FREEING FAITH

Lord Jesus, on this holy night, we are glad to come home to you. We have wandered far, down rugged paths of self-assertion. We sought fulfillment apart from you, and so we found only emptiness. 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, knowing that you are as close as our own heartbeat. You are as near as our next breath. Only our stubborn sin keeps us from you. Oh, forgive us. We would draw near to you again in communion. We would come to the manger to see the Lord of life, to receive your body and blood, and so be joined to you again. Amen.

## 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; Heav’nly hosts sing “alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!”

Silent Night! Holy Night! By his love, by his might,  
God our Father us has graced as a brother gently embraced  
Jesus, all peoples on earth. Jesus, all peoples on earth.

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

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

## POSTLUDE

“REJOUISSANCE” by G. F. Handel

## 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 Gardere Community Christian School.

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

## PASTORAL STAFF

Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor  
Whitney Alexander, Associate Pastor of Missions  
Barry Phillips, Ministry Executive  
Jim Solomon, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Prayer  
Darin Travis, Director for Discipleship, Men’s Ministry and Young Adults

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 27, WE WILL HAVE ONE 10.30 AM SERVICE.

*Sanctuary services are videotaped and livestreamed.*

\*\*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.



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD  
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