

The First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way
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Pastors:

Dr. William G. McCoy
Rev. Christian J. Johnson

Ministers:

All members of the congregation



The Celebration of Worship The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2017

7:00 PM

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship here today.

Large print hymnals, Bibles, hearing devices,
and information about child care are available from any usher.



If your hearing aid has a button for telephone use, turn it on now
to receive sound directly to your hearing aid.

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.
Clipboards, children's Bibles and books to borrow during worship are located at the entrances.

The asterisks (*) invite you to stand in body or in spirit.

We Gather

TIME FOR PREPARATION

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Galatians 4:4-7

PRELUDE

Pastoral Symphony from "Messiah"
Paula Legge, organist

G.F. Handel

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

We Praise God

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill McCoy

*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Christian Johnson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ginna Taylor

Lord our God, You reign over all creation,
yet we try to reduce You to the limits of our understanding.
You come to enlighten us,
and we shield ourselves from the brightness of Your revelation.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Please continue to pray silently.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WELCOME AND CELEBRATION OF FRIENDSHIP

Bill McCoy

Please sign the friendship pad placed at pew's end, so we may greet each other by name.

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

We Declare our Faith

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

Christian Johnson

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

HYMN 581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

We Give Thanks to God

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Christian Johnson

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.

OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

Offertory

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

arr. Raymond Haan

*Doxology

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GINNA TAYLOR

Thank you, God, for coming to us in a human life so expressive of love, that two thousand years have not extinguished the flame. May that love burn so brightly in our lives that its fires will spread. Use our offerings to ignite in the world such caring and compassion, that all may know the joy of Your peace, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Word is Proclaimed

ANTHEM

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

arr. David Willcocks

*God rest ye merry, gentlemen. Let nothing you dismay. For Jesus Christ our Savior was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came, and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*The shepherds at those tidings rejoices much in mind, and left their flocks a-feegin in tempest, storm and wing,
And went to Bethlehem straightway, this blessed babe to find: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*But when to Bethlehem they came, whereat this infant lay, they found him in a manger where oxen feed on hay,
His mother Mary kneeling unto the Lord did pray: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace.
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

The Geneva Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-21, Pew Bible, NT p. 58

Bill McCoy

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

SERMON

THE GREATEST MIRACLE:
Arrival and Realization

Bill McCoy

PASSING THE LIGHT TO THE CONGREGATION

*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.*

*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.*

*INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION

Bill McCoy

*CAROL 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world! 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.*

*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.*

The asterisks (*) invite you to stand in body or in spirit.

Please place your candle in one of the receptacles at the exits as you leave.
Merry Christmas!

Urgent Needs Offering is received tonight. Gifts fund the Emergency Assistance Program at Covenant House, providing for rent, utilities, travel, food, medicine, or clothing for local men, women, and families in crisis situations. A small portion provides assistance for First Presby families experiencing these same difficulties. The need is great, and this offering is received only twice a year. Please give generously as you are able.

Restrooms and water fountains are found through the double doors to the left of the chancel.

Please accompany children.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO KEEP THIS BULLETIN OR DROP IT IN THE RECYCLING BOX AS YOU EXIT. THANK YOU!