

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME

PRELUDE: *The Angel Gabriel*

Joel Raney

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*Betsy Marlow, the Hall Family,
& Beth Chamberlin*

INTROIT: Excerpt from *Song of the Shepherds*

arr. Eugene Butler

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: There is good news of great joy for all!

All: Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.

One: Glory to God in the highest,

All: and peace to God's people on earth.

*O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Adeste Fidelis

**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;**

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

**True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Very God, begotten, not created.**

*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 heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.**

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON

Luis Alvarez

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

**Once in Royal David's City*

Irby

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

CHANCEL TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM: *Advent Promise*

Ruth Elaine Schram

SECOND LESSON

Alyssa Wallace

Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

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?
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 Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

THIRD LESSON

Jane Christopher

John 1:1-14

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *Candlelight Carol*

John Rutter

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

MEDITATION

The Rev. Dr. James S. Currie

“The Cradle and the Cross”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from Brief Statement of Faith PCUSA)

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent
and believe the gospel.**

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and
joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new
earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from
the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Danza Festiva*

Arnold Sherman

*DOXOLOGY # 606

Old Hundredth

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SEALING THE WORD OF GOD

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Breaking, Pouring, Sharing

Wine and grape juice will be served. The wine is red and the grape juice is white.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father which 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.**

TAKING THE WORD OF GOD INTO THE WORLD

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*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.**

**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!**

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE: Chorus from *Christmas Oratorio*

Camille Saint-Saens

*POSTLUDE: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Please stand, as you are able.*



*Tomorrow, Christmas morning at 10:30, come celebrate with songs, scripture,
stories and prayers as we gather round the manger in the narthex for this cozy,
informal FPC tradition. Children may bring a quiet toy & even wear pajamas.
There is always room for a baby doll or two in the manger.*

*Following worship,
Informal Christmas Lunch at the Curries
And
Christmas Caroling at Baywood Crossing at 2:00 pm*

*May the peace and promise of Christmas
live in our hearts throughout the coming year.*

*A special thanks to all
those that provided
the beautiful music today.*

Marilyn Wilkins, Director of Music
Martha Braswell, Organist
FPC Chancel Choir
FPC Handbells
Margaret Bardin, piano
Kirsten Hilson, flute



A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHT

DECEMBER 24, 2016

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PASADENA, TEXAS

The Rev. Dr. James S. Currie, Pastor, Head of Staff

Marilyn Wilkins, Director of Music

Martha Braswell, Organist

FPC Chancel Choir

FPC Handbells

Margaret Bardin, piano

Kirsten Hilson, flute

Barry Webb, Audio-Visual Ministry

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