

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE: *Celtic Noel* *Sondra Tucker*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE *The Covington Family*

INTROIT: *Sing We Noel* *Noel Goemanne*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader: Once we walked in darkness.

Congregation: Now we have seen a great light.

Reader: Glory to God in the highest!

Congregation: Peace to all 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;**

Refrain

*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.**

Repeat Refrain

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;**

Repeat Refrain

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

Repeat Refrain

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Savior, we confess that we are not people of peace. You came to show us mercy, but we are not merciful to others. You came to establish justice, but we fail to seek what is right. Forgive us, God of grace. Let your light shine upon us to deliver us from evil and lead us in your holy way; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON *David Brakebill* Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

*O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM *St. Louis*

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love._
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

SECOND LESSON *Ross Haskins* Isaiah 11:1-9

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *O Yule, Full of Gladness* *Norwegian Carol arr. Carolyn Jennings*

THIRD LESSON *Alyssa Wallace* Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

**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.**

FOURTH LESSON *Sue Clark* John 1:1-14

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *Song of Mary* *Patricia Mock & Faye Lopez*

FIFTH LESSON *Linley Brown* Luke 2:1-20

MEDITATION *The Rev. Dr. James S. Currie*
“Lighten Our Darkness”

*NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

OFFERING: *Christmas in Duets*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Hark Ye! What News the Angels Bring* *arr. C. Follett*

*DOXOLOGY # 600 *Old Hundredth*

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

TAKING THE WORD OF GOD INTO THE WORLD

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

Franz Xaver Gruber

**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: Excerpt from *Glory to God* from *The Messiah* *G. F. Handel*

*POSTLUDE: *Christmas in Duets*

**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.

***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
Melba Slaven, soprano
Allison McPhail, soloist
Darcy McPhail, soloist
Vera Wilkins, soloist
Paul Garcia, flute
Dannielle LePage, piccolo
Phil Hilson, violin



A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHT

DECEMBER 24, 2015

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PASADENA, TEXAS

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

Marilyn Wilkins, Director of Music
Martha Braswell, Organist