

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Bill and Pat McPhail, Marilyn Wilkins, Darcy McPhail, and Avery McPhail

PRELUDE: *Sing We Now of Christmas*

Traditional French Carol/arr. by Jeff Bennett

Marilyn Wilkins, Piano Margaret Bardin, Organ

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

INTROIT: *Sounds of Christmas Fill the Air*

Robert Leaf

with: Brett Coe, Clay Covington, Amber Pendleton, Lou Anne Sinor; Handbells

†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: Isaiah 9:2-7

Nola Bray

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

†*Once in Royal David’s City*

**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

SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11

Ruth Askine

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

†O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by,
Yet in the dark street 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 angles 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 given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
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, descent 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!**

THIRD LESSON: John 1:1-14

Jo Ann Currie

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *A Cradle for a Lamb*

Penny Rodriguez

Just a poor humble shepherd boy, No great wealth did I enjoy;
But the angels came to me saying: "Go to Bethlehem.
There you'll find the one you've waited for Your Messiah, Christ the Lord.
You will find Him in a manger bed, in a cradle for a Lamb."

Now I've seen the newborn King; Light and peace to all He'll bring;
But what could be more humbling than a cradle for a Lamb?

God, in love, has found a way: A perfect, holy Lamb will pay for my sins:
He'll sacrifice His precious, only Son, His most precious, only Son.

FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-20

MEDITATION

The Rev. Dr. James S. Currie

“God Enters A Messy World”

†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: *Lo, How Rose E'er Blooming*
Geistliche Kirchengesang/ arr. by Richard Huggins

†DOXOLOGY # 606 *Old Hundredth*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below.
praise God above ye heavenly host;
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 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.

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: *Joy to the World* *George Frederick Handel*

†POSTLUDE: *He Is Born* *18th Century French Carol/arr. by Alice Jordan*

†*Please stand, as you are able.*



Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Here at FPC we take those words to heart.

Families with young children

are invited to sit on the

front and right side of the sanctuary (if desired)

so that their children may do quiet activities

at our "Pray Ground" tables during worship.

We are delighted that you and your children are here!

Christmas Resources are available in the narthex on the glass table

Informal Christmas Morning Worship in the Round...for Everyone!

Monday, December 25 @ 10:30 a.m.

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

A Peek Into the New Year...See Newsletter or Website about these ministries and more...

- ***Sunday School Classes for All Ages*** resumes January 7 at 9 a.m.
- ***Worship for All Ages*** each Sunday at 10:30
- ***Yoga Classes*** resume December 28 and continue each Tuesday & Thursday at 6 & 7 p.m.
- ***Brown Bag Bible Study*** resumes Wednesday, January 3, from noon to 1 p.m.
- ***Decluttering Group*** meets on Wednesday, January 3, from 6-7 p.m. in Room 11.
- ***Prayer Shawl Ministry*** each Tuesday at 2
- ***Youth & Church Family Bowling*** January 14, at Armadillo Lanes following Worship
- ***Wonderful Wednesday***, January 17, at 5:30 light meal and program 6-7 p.m.
- ***Brunch & Book Group***, Saturday, January 20, from 10-12. "*Glass Castle*" by Jeanette Walls

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

CCLI #3275908
CVLI #504019360



A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF CAROLS AND CANDLELIGHT

DECEMBER 24, 2017

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PASADENA, TEXAS

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

Marilyn Wilkins, Director of Music

Margaret Bardin, Organist

FPC Chancel Choir

FPC Handbells

Barry Webb, Audio-Visual Ministry