

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas Meditations and Music
December 24, 2018 - 7 p.m.

Prelude *Gloria* Michael Burkhardt
Gloria Hayes and Gaspard
Margaret Bardin, piano and Ron Ollis, organ

For Meditation in Preparation for Worship

It is a matter of deep faith for us that Love came down at Christmas. From before the world was made, God is Love. From Love the heavens and earth were formed and filled with life. From that Love, God created families to shine divine Love through human love. From that Love, God sent prophets to call us to faithful living. And out of God's loving kindness, God Himself came down to earth to be one of us. Love came down at Christmas, and tonight we gather to experience God's love as one people, loved by our Savior.

Introit *Excerpt from Medley for Christmas* arr. Randy Cox
Invitation to Experience and Share God's Love
Lighting of Advent Candles
Donna and Brett Coe, and Rachel and Adam Robertson
Chancel Time with Children *Jessie Kuehner*

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.
(Luke 2:7)

Scripture Luke 2:1-20 *Rhonda Haskins*
Meditation on Christmas Love
†**Carol #110** *Love Has Come (verses 1 & 3)*

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love!
Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love!
Glory to God on high.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love!
Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love!
Praise to you, God on high!

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CREATION

So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. (Genesis 2:3)

Torah Genesis 2:1-3 *Jessie Kuehner*
Meditation on Creation Love
Anthem: In the Bleak Midwinter arr. Mark Hayes
Melba Slaven, soprano, and Chancel Choir

LOVE CAME DOWN TO SAVE US

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-on then light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

Prophets Isaiah 9:2-7 *Margaret Bardin*
Meditation on Saving Love
†**Carol #129** *Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming (verses 1-2)*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesus's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
it came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

LOVE CAME DOWN IN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:34-35)

Gospel John 13:31-34 *Danny Slaven*
Meditation on the Church
†**Carol #121** *O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses. 1-2)*

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 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.

LOVE COMES DOWN FOREVER

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Gospel John 3:16-21 *Rev. Helen Rose Moore*
Meditation on Eternal Love
†**Carol #132** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Good Christians friends rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christians friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has open heaven's door, and we are blessed forever more.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christians friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

†Christmas Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God whose light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never smother it.
I believe that on a night like this night in Bethlehem
there was born a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.
I believe in the Word who has become incarnate, our very flesh and
blood,
yet full of grace and truth.
I believe in the blessed appearing of the salvation of our God,
that is the joy of all people.
I believe in His Name as Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of peace;
Of the increase of His rule and of His unique peace,
there will be no end.
The zeal of the God of hosts will do this.
This I surely believe!

Offering

Offertory Music *Gloria in Excelsis* Allen Pote
†**Doxology #113** *Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain)*

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

†Prayer of Dedication

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Take, eat; this is my body...Drink from it all of you. (Matthew 26:26b, 27b)

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you,
All: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up unto the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Leader: Let us pray.

Communion Music

The Lord's Prayer
The Words of Institution

The Prayer After Communion

from Luke 2:29-32
Leader: Having travelled to Bethlehem together and beholding the child,
born a king, let us pray using the words of Simeon, a righteous man, who
looked forward to the consolation of Israel and who beheld His coming.
**All: Master, now You are dismissing Your servant in peace,
according to Your Word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which
You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation
to the Gentiles and for the glory to Your people Israel. Because Jesus is
the Light of the world, we pray in His Name. Amen.**

THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS

*I am the Light of the World. (John 8:12)
God is with us forever*

*The pastor will light her candle from the Christ Candle, at that time switch
on your tealight as we sing.*

†**Carol** *Silent Night, Holy Night*

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!

The extinguishing of the candle/tealights

Benediction

†**Carol #134** *Joy to the World*

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 earth, the Savior reigns! Let all 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 make the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Postlude *Fanfare on Mendelssohn*

Gordon Young.

**Merry Christmas
Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom God favors.
(Luke 2:14)**

†*Please stand, as you are able.*

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

*Thank you for joining us in worship today. We are so glad that you are here!
Please take a minute to fill out the friendship pad in your pew and pass it along to others.
Our desire is to serve you and your family as you seek to grow in your faith.*

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” 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 Narthex...for Everyone!

Tuesday, December 25 @ 10:00 a.m.

*Come celebrate with songs, scripture, stories, and prayers as we gather
round the manger in the narthex.*

A Peek Into the New Year...

- **Sunday School Classes for All Ages** each Sunday 9 a.m.
- **Worship for All Ages** each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
- **First Sunday Lunch Potluck** January 6 after worship
- **Committee/Ministries** meet Monday, January 7 at 6:45 p.m.
- **Yoga Classes** resume December 27 and continue each Tuesday/
Thursday at 6 & 7 p.m.
- **Pilates** each Tuesday/Thursday 10:15 a.m.
- **Brown Bag Bible Study** resumes Wednesday, January 9, 12-1 p.m.
- **Decluttering Group** meets on Wednesday, January 2, 6-7 p.m. in
Room 11.
- **Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings** January 8 - Day 10 a.m.,
Night 7 p.m.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** each Tuesday at 2 p.m. in Room 10
- **Young at Heart (55+)** meets January 17, 10-12 p.m.
- **Brunch & Book Group**, Saturday, January 19, 10-12 p.m.,
“The Last Jew” by Noah Gordon
- **Men’s Bible Study** each Thursday at 7 p.m. in the library.
- **Spanish Bible Study** each Thursday at 7 p.m., Room 10, resumes
January 10.
- **Men’s Breakfast** January 26 at 8 a.m.
- **Chancel Choir** each Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- **Handbell Practice** every Sunday at 12:15 p.m.
- **Baywood Crossing Ministry** Wednesday’s 10 a.m.

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



A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF MEDITATIONS AND MUSIC

DECEMBER 24, 2018

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PASADENA, TEXAS**

The Rev. Helen Rose Moore
Jessie Kuehner, Children’s Time
Rhonda Haskins, Communion
Marilyn Wilkins, Director of Music
Ron Ollis, Organist
Margaret Bardin, Pianist
Jamie Taylor, Handbell Director
Barry Webb, Audio Visual