



# ***Christmas Eve Candlelight Service***

## ***First Presbyterian Church***

### ***December 24, 2019***

**6:00 and 11:00pm**

#### **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

#### **OPENING VOLUNTARY**

*Sing We Now Of Christmas*

Gordon Young

#### **ENTRANCE OF THE LIGHT**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: CHRIST CANDLE

(Unison Prayer) Lord, we rejoice that you have come among us.

May the flame of the candle remind us that you are the Light of the World.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **† PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

*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!*

*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!*

#### **GREETING**

#### **CHRISTMAS PRAYER** (Unison Prayer)

Gracious and merciful God, we remember how your Son quietly entered human history on that first Christmas Eve. We come before you in wonder, gratitude, and humble repentance. We are your children, but in need of your healing touch. Forgive our sins and cleanse us, we pray.

Capture our hearts and minds with the quiet splendor that transformed a manger into heaven's throne. If earth were a thousand times more fair, it still would be too poor a cradle for you, dear Jesus. Holy Child, make for yourself a place within our hearts, that each of us may keep for you a quiet, holy chamber. Amen.

(Martin Luther)

† Please rise in  
body or spirit.

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

### ANTHEM

*See Amid the Winter's Snow*

K. Lee Scott

## SECOND LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

### ANTHEM

*Sing to the Child*

Carl Schalk

## THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND WINTER WARMTH OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*African Noel*

André Thomas

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

### 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.

### † HYMN

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**MEDITATION** *The Mysterious, the Glorious, and the Mundane* Dr. Thomas E. Evans

### SOLO

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Divinum Mysterium

For our  
Christmas Eve  
offering, all  
non-designated  
gifts will be used  
to support the  
Winter Warmth  
Project.  
This year, over  
600 coats were  
distributed  
to children  
from all seven  
Spartanburg  
County School  
Districts. Now...  
we need your  
help. A gift of  
\$35 will provide  
a new, warm  
winter coat for  
a child in need.

## 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.*

## RINGING IN OF CHRISTMAS

### † HYMN

### *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 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 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.*

## BENEDICTION

### CLOSING VOLUNTARY

### *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Clay Christiansen

The lighting of candles symbolizes the coming of Jesus who said, "I am the Light of the World" and is a reminder that we spread His light to all humankind. Each person will offer light from his candle to his neighbor. As you take the light, please tilt your un-lit candle toward the flame to avoid spilling wax. To symbolize our sharing of the light with the world, raise your candles high for the singing of the final verse of "Silent Night." Please remain seated.

Please extinguish your candle and leave it at the door.

## PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP SERVICES

Dr. Thomas E. Evans, Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr, Rev. L. Craig Foster,  
Rev. Joanne R. Hull, Rev. Leslie A. Lang, Rev. Ansley B. Page

### Advent Candlelighters

The Bingham Family - Marc, Dawn, Jack, Rex, Merlot, Evangeline  
The Threatt Family - Geoffrey, Monica, Ian, Brooke, Abbie, Mary Claire

Janet Kuntz, Guest Director; Erica Pauly, Guest Organist;  
Christmas Eve Choir; Jeff Kuntz, Djembe

String Quartet: Allison Key and Peter Moore, violin; Mary Ada Poole, viola; Kathy Foster, cello

Soloists: Savannah Davis and Henry Phillips

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*If you are visiting with us today, you are our honored guest! For more information about First Presbyterian, check out the church website ([www.fpcspartanburg.org](http://www.fpcspartanburg.org)).*

*Childcare is available for the 6:00pm Candlelight Service in Room 106 in the Clark Building.*

*A hearing loop has been installed in the Sanctuary. If your hearing aid or cochlear device is equipped with T-coil technology, please switch it to the "T", T-Coil, or telephone position for improved hearing during the service.*

*Hearing impaired devices and large-print bulletins are available from the ushers upon request.*

*The liturgical color for Christmas Eve and Christmastide is white. Christmastide is the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany, January 6. In celebration, the Sanctuary Christmas decorations have been changed to white and will remain in place through Epiphany.*

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## WE WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

### Sunday, December 29

11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

*Join us as we worship together!*

*(No Sunday School nor Children's Worship. Nursery provided for infant through age 3.)*

### Sunday, January 5, we will resume our regular schedule and observe Communion:

8:45am MorningSong (Fogartie Hall)

8:45am Traditional Worship (Chapel)

9:45am Sunday School for All Ages

10:30am Monthly Fellowship (The Perrin Room)

11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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