



Christmas Eve

First Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2020

11:00am and 7:30pm
Sanctuary

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death, light has dawned.

All: Praise be to God for light that shines in darkness.

One: God commanded the light to shine out of darkness,
to shine in our hearts and give light of knowledge of his glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise be to God for the light in Jesus that enlightens every person.

✠ 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!

✠ *Please Stand*

GREETING

CHRISTMAS PRAYER (Unison Prayer)

Lord God,
we celebrate the moment of moments and the event of events in all of history.
We bow our heads,
but lift our spirits before you and the whole world.
We stand with you at the midpoint of all existence;
we stand in awe that a babe is the embodiment of you, the Almighty.
If we dwell long on the meaning of this anniversary,
we shall tremble rather than rejoice.
In these beginning moments we ask that you come to us anew,
that you give vitality to our sterile lives,
and that you aid us in making a jubilant and adoring statement of faith.
Grant that our recall of quiet hills, a barren stable, lowing cattle,
bleating sheep, and other particulars will but aid us in our joyous festival.
We love you, God. We love Jesus Christ, and we pray through Him. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

ANTHEM

(11:00am) *Away in a Manger*
(7:30pm) *What Child*

Mack Wilberg
Paul Lohman

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

ANTHEM

(11:00am) *There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth*
(7:30pm) *All is Well*

Felix Mendelssohn
Michael Smith

SERMON

THIS Is the Moment

Dr. J. Lewis Johnson

SILENT MEDITATION ON THE CHRIST CHILD

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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.

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.*

✠ 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

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Robert Powell

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES

Dr. J. Lewis Johnson
Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.
Rev. L. Craig Foster
Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Advent Candlelighters (11:00am)

Susan & Cliff Gaubert
Cameron, Evan, and Davis

Holt Andrews, Director
Marcia Andrews, Organist

Additional Musicians

(11:00am)

Quartet: Valerie MacPhail; Lisa Cunningham; Reel Robertson; Paul MacPhail
Mary Irwin and Hayden Green, violins, Mary Ada Poole, viola, and Kathy Foster, cello

(7:30pm)

Christmas Eve Choir
Mathew Gill and Gary Rhoden, trumpets, Jeff Kuntz, trombone, and Zachary Taylor, tuba
Vocalists: Patti Foy and Rafe Andrews

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).

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.

Given the current serious spike in COVID-19 case numbers nationally, in South Carolina, and in Spartanburg County, and given the prospect of further increases following the Christmas and New Year holidays, we feel that the only prudent course of action for First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg is to alter our worship schedule in the following way: For a period of three Sundays following Christmas Eve services, to include December 27th, January 3rd, and January 10th, we will worship via Livestream only (one service on December 27 and both MorningSong and Traditional Sanctuary services on January 3 and 10). After discussion with the Health Cabinet and church staff, and with the support of the Worship Committee, these changes were approved.



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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