

First Presbyterian Church
White Gift Service



**The Donkey's
First Christmas**

**Wednesday, December 6, 2017
6:30 pm - Sanctuary**

*TONIGHT'S STORY, "THE DONKEY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS" IS WRITTEN BY
BRITISH AUTHOR SUSANNE T. SCHROEDER, PUBLISHED BY TILLI
PUBLISHING LTD., USED TONIGHT WITH HER GRACIOUS PERMISSION AND
ENTHUSIASM!*

White Gift Service

December 6, 2017

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: There's an exciting story to tell!

All: The story of Jesus coming to earth as a newborn baby!

One: It happened in Bethlehem

All: This was no ordinary night!

One: A king was born, many angels sang, and shepherds ran to the stable!

All: This was no ordinary night!

One: Our savior was born!

All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM:

Bethlehem Night

Terry D. Taylor

PRAYER

HYMN NO. 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem
vs. 1-3

MOMENT FOR MISSION: "The Donkey's First Christmas"

ANTHEMS:

Little Donkey

Eric Boswell

Hydom, Hydom

Linda Mitchell

The Christmas Star

Isabel Carley

HYMN NO. 122

Silent Night, Holy Night
vs. 1 – choirs only vs. 2,4 – ALL
(Please remain seated)

ANTHEM

Dona Nobis Pacem
(Grant us Peace)

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

CAROL SING (See insert)

Please join in singing as you wait to bring your gift forward!

PRAYER OF BLESSING

BENEDICTION

CAROL SING

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 world! The savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus
laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where
He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever
and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

O come, All Ye Faithful

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!

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep. (Refrain)

And by the light of that same star three
wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their in-tent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)

(Refrain) Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
born is the King of Israel.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian 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 Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss;
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!



Children's Choirs Sing on Christmas Eve

For those of you who will be in town on Christmas Eve, and would like for your child (age 5K-grade 5) to sing at the 4:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service, there will be ONE REHEARSAL to prepare for this event on Wednesday, December 20 from 5:00-5:45 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you are not able to participate in this service, please note that all children's choirs will resume on Wednesday January 10, 2018.

We wish all children and their families and very Blessed Christmas!



PARTICIPATING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Accompanists:	Bruce Campbell and Julia Wicker
Script:	Martha T. Bean
Voice of Puppets:	Betsy Kneisley
Puppeteers:	Carson and Betsy Kneisley
Mary:	Sarah Kneisley
Reader:	William Lancaster
Soloist:	Finley Sloan
Pastors:	Christi Brown and Tom Evans

Choir Leaders and Accompanists

CHERUB CHOIR: Martha Bean, Charlotte Verreault, Kay McClure

JR. CHORISTERS: Patti Foy, Julia Wicker, Beth Lancaster, Taylor Bowman

SR. CHORISTERS: Marcia Andrews, Bruce Campbell, Mary Ada Poole

Cherub Choir

Sadie Brock
Eliza Edwards
Ellis Goodwin
Catherine Jenkins
Jack Langley
Harriet Lynch
Ramsey Neely
Harrison Pack
Michael Pack
Ali Claire Pingley
Claire Swofford
Madison Workman

Jr. Choristers

Anne Caroline Adair
Kennedy Bozard
Lettie Brown
Malcolm Cleland
Abby Clementson
Jane Close
Jane Colbath
Cooper Davis
Greer Elliott
Addyson Hammett
Eloise Hammett
Mae Holmes
Ellie Jones
Bryson Kiehl
Kate Lancaster
Lilla Langley
Wallace Lynch
Gisele Lytle
Olivia Marsh
Finnigan McDaniel
Anne Neely
Hope Phillips
Madison Raynor

Sr. Choristers

Camille Cleland
Helen Colbath
Savannah Davis
Anna Camille Elliot
Lillian Hanna
Ben Jones
Garrett Jones
William Lancaster
Jane Manello
Killian McDaniel
David Millinor
Wade Neely
Mary Soutter Pack
Damien Pierce
Jackson Pingley
Elizabeth Reynolds
Finley Sloan
Wynn Story
Reese Sullivan
Mary Claire Threatt

The History of White Gift Services

The origin of the White Gift service is credited to the wife of a Methodist minister in 1904 in Ohio. She knew the legend of the Chinese people who loved their king so much that they each brought him a gift on his birthday. The gifts were all wrapped in white paper in order to emphasize the love of the people and the intent of the gift, not the size or value of it. The minister's wife and his daughters asked their congregation to bring a gift wrapped in white for their King, Jesus. These were often packages of food, the kind of thing that even the poorest in the congregation could bring. They were Christmas love gifts to be distributed to people in need in their community. This beautiful idea quickly spread around the Christian world in the early 1900s, and is still celebrated today in many congregations. White Gifts has been celebrated at FPC for over 50 years.

Your gifts tonight will be distributed to these local mission partners of FPC:

THE HOPE CENTER FOR CHILDREN (Spartanburg, SC) – Provides a continuum of care to meet the needs of the children and families in our community. Though we provide many different services, our name captures what is at the heart of each one of our programs - providing hope to children and families. Services include: home visitation and prevention focused case management when a child is able to live at home; an emergency shelter for when children are removed from their home due to abuse and neglect; longer term residential care for girls in foster care; and finally, if a child is adopted or re-unified with kin, our services are able to support this transition back to family life and better ensure that the child is able to thrive. www.hopecfc.org

MOBILE MEALS (Spartanburg, SC) - Glorifies God by providing nutritious meals, services, and fellowship to the frail and homebound citizens in Spartanburg County. Mobile Meals weekly provides hot meals to 1,500 frail and homebound neighbors, delivering love, compassion and hope to those in need. www.mobile-meals.org

THORNWELL (Clinton, SC) - Founded in 1875, Thornwell began as a Presbyterian ministry for orphans. Today, Thornwell is a full-service, nonprofit organization committed to providing the most innovative and effective solutions to help children and families in need. Thornwell's programs are all rooted in the evidenced-based Teaching-Family Model and value a family-style approach to healing. Thornwell provides Christian love and support to hundreds of children and families throughout Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. www.thornwell.org



MOBILE MEALS
God's love in action

