



## **First Presbyterian Church**

**149 Broad Street**

**Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111**

**Church: (716) 692-1319**

**Rev. Leslie Latham**

**CCLI License # 2839486**

*Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin*

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service**

**December 24, 2021**

**8:00 pm**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the beginning, darkness covered the face of the deep.

**God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.**

And God saw that the light was good.

**Prophets of old envisioned a light to come**

**and brought hope to people lost in the darkness.**

No longer shall the sun be our light by day,

**Nor the brightness of the moon shine upon us at night.**

The Lord shall be our light forever.

**God shall be our light and our glory.**

**GATHERING CAROL** #140 "Once in Royal David's City," verses 1-2

**CAROL:** #113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

## **PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**CAROL** #133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful," verses 1, 3, 4

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Isaiah 9:2-7

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "O Holy Night" solo by Kelsey Burns

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Psalm 96

**CAROL** #134 "Joy to the World!"

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Luke 2:1-20

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)" solo by Kelsey Burns *by Amy Grant*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**CAROL** #121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

## **OFFERING**

**CAROL BEFORE COMMUNION** #114 "Away in a Manger"

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

## **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CAROL** #122 "Silent Night" *verses 1-3 (see insert)*

## **BENEDICTION**

## **Hymns**

### **“Once in Royal David’s City” #140**

1 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.

2 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.

### **“Angels We Have Heard on High” #113**

1 Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. (Refrain)

#### **Refrain**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)

3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

### **“O Come, All Ye Faithful” #133**

1 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! (Refrain)

#### **Refrain**

O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

### **“Joy to the World!” #134**

1 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.

2 Joy to the world, 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.

3 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.

4 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.

### **“O Little Town of Bethlehem” #121**

1 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.

2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels 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.

3 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.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend 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 Immanuel!

## **“Away in a Manger” #114**

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

2 The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 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.

## **Silent Night, Holy Night #122**

1 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.

2 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!

3 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.

## Christmas Eve Communion

A child is born for us in Bethlehem, wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger; and he will be our Shepherd, feeding his flock in the strength of the Lord. Welcome to this Table—the Lord’s Table. Our newborn Savior invites those who trust him, and those who want to trust him more, to share this feast which he has prepared.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Why do we give thanks at this table?

**You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and called us to love and serve you and sent us a child called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In him, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld your glory: Emmanuel, God with us!**

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior. Born in a stable, he is our Good Shepherd, and your holy Lamb. Lying in a manger, he is the bread of life, food for our souls. Praised by the heavenly host, he is the hope and joy of all the earth.

What do we remember at this table?

**Remembering God’s wondrous acts in Jesus Christ, we take this bread and this cup from the gifts of your creation, and with sisters and brothers around your world, we joyfully celebrate Christ’s presence and reconciling love.**

### **Why do we eat bread at this table?**

Jesus took bread, blessed it, and gave it to his friends.

### **Why do we drink from the cup at this table?**

Jesus gave them the cup as the promise that our sins are forgiven.

### **But this just everyday bread and juice.**

Let us pray that the everyday bread and juice will become holy:

**Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world.**

As Christ's body sent to serve the world you so love, O God, we lift before you our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need, saying, "God in your mercy," and responding with, "Hear our prayer."

Gracious God, grant that when we are called, we may faithfully serve, strengthened and renewed at this table. Help us to repent and live in peace with you and with one another, watching and praying your new heavens and new earth where righteousness and justice will be at home.

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

With the confidence of the children of God, we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### **Words of Institution**

#### **Communion of the People**

*Please partake of the juice and bread.*

#### **Prayer after Communion**

**God of grace and peace, as you have shared your life with us through the child in the manger and this simple meal together, let us share your life with others as the body of Christ in the world; through Jesus, the bread of heaven. Amen.**