



Sunday, December 24, 2023 ~ Christmas Eve Service
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship (*Sanctuary*)

Welcome (10:40 PM)

Rev. Wes Allen

Carol Concert

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

(During our worship, please refrain from applause. Receive the gift!)

Chapel Choir

<i>In Silence, We Wait</i>	Lloyd Larson
<i>Born 'neath a Star</i>	Cynthia Gray
<i>Born to Set Us Free</i>	Jay Althouse
<i>Guiding Star Carol</i>	Danish
<i>Hark! The Angels Sing</i>	Taylor Davis
<i>Noel! Noel! Noel!</i>	George Strid

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Hunter Allison, Dave Fauvell

***Call to Worship** *From Sounding the Seasons, by Malcom Guite*

Rev. Allen

We think of Him as safe beneath the steeple,
or cozy in a crib beside the font.
But He is with a million displaced people
on the long road of weariness and want.
For even as we sing our final carol,

His family is up and on that road,
fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.
Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower,
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled.
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,
and death squads spread their curse around the world.
But every Herod dies and comes alone
to stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

***Hymn No. 146**

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come

***Prayer of Adoration**

Rev. Allen

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Linda Lockart

Hymn (*Seated*)

Lift Up Your Heads

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates. Behold the King of glory waits.
The King of Kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!
Redeemer, come, I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

Rev. Allen

Response

Lord, For Thy Coming Us Prepare

Adult Choir; Tyler Kim-Director

Moravian

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Brian Perkowski

Anthem

To a Virgin Meek and Mild

Amanda Schkeeper, Alto; Adult Choir Women

Spanish Carol

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Fourth Lesson (*Seated*)

Isaiah 11:1-9

Lilly Rykaczewski

Hymn No. 167 (vs. 1-2)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Leah Rykaczewski

Anthem

Thou Child Divine

Adult Choir; Jennifer Wait, Soprano; Tyler Kim, Tenor

Schulz

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

Alivia Nawrocki

***Hymn No. 152**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Seventh Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12, 16

Alex Perkowski

Anthem

And the Trees Do Moan

Adult Choir

Southern Folk Melody
arr. Fritchel

Christmas Offering

Rev. Allen

Offertory

Once He Came in Blessing

Adult Choir

Schnabel
Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

*Eighth Lesson

John 1:1-14

Vivian Allen

Anthem

My Lord Has Come

Adult Choir

Todd

Meditation

Rev. Allen

Christmas Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ('debts')

Lighting of the Candles

*When receiving a flame from the person next to you, be careful to tip your UNLIT candle to the lit one.
As we light our candles, remembering Jesus is the Light of the World, let us stand and sing.*

****It Came Upon the Midnight Clear***

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old.
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing;
and ever o'er its babel sounds, the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on. The prophets seen of old,
when, with the ever circling years, shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling;
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

***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 affair; 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.

***Christmas Benediction** (*Carefully extinguish candles*)

Rev. Allen

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Following worship, candles may be deposited in the boxes at the exit doors.



11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Ministry

Audio Technician:	Harris E. Ransom
Live Video Streaming:	Harris A. Ransom
Musicians:	Joel Krott, Kathy Gunsallus, Chapel & Adult Choirs
Ushers:	John Miller, Patrick McIlroy, Bill Pettit
Trustee Greeter:	Rich Corbin
Property Staff:	Steve Margerum, Sam Caraballo
Cover Artwork:	Sofia de la Cruz (<i>8 years old</i>)

[Alternative Gift Fair](#) will be available after Services **TONIGHT** as well as through the church's website fpcmoorestown.org. Alternate Gifts allow donations to worthy causes in the name of the recipient. The Alternative Gift Fair Catalog is available online on the Church Center Events page.

Monday, December 25: Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m., Dr. Jonathan Miller preaching.

Church Office will be closed December 26-27 and January 1, 2024.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the First Presbyterian Church staff!

[Moravian Love Feast](#): Please join us on Sunday, **January 7, 2024** at **7:00 p.m.** for a Moravian Love Feast featuring the Choristers, Chapel and Adult Choirs. Choirs will perform carols, songs, and anthems of the season in context of historical Moravian tradition: corporate sharing of singing, Christmas cookies, and fellowship to celebrate Epiphany.