



December 24, 2023 ~ Christmas Eve
8:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship (Sanctuary)

*please stand as you are able

Welcome and Work of God's People

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Music in Preparation for Worship

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

In Silence We Wait

Larson

Chapel Choir

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lemi Chen, Mannis Chen, and Evan Shaw

*Hymn No. 146

Joy to the World

Prayer of Adoration

Rev. Wes Allen

Christmas Liturgy

Reader: Gabrielle Swanik

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: **All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.**

Leader: Holy, Holy, Holy, is God the Lord, the Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

People: **And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and they beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Congregation: **King of Kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.**

Leader: For the law was given by Moses.

People: But grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Leader: No one hath seen God at any time.

People: The only begotten Son, Who is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.

Congregation: **And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love; For that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above, and He leads His children on to the place where He has gone.**

Leader: In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. He was in the world and the world knew Him not. He came unto his own, and His own received Him not. But to as many as received Him, to them He gave power to become the children of God, even to them that believe in His name: born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, but of God.

People: He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. He upholdeth all things by His power, being the brightness of God's glory, and the express image of His person.

Duet: *Then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad?
Then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad?
when from our sin He set us free, all for to gain our liberty?
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore. Amen."*

Soloist: Alivia Nawrocki

Leader: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, and good will toward all men and women!

People: Glory be to Thee, Lord God our Father, in that Thou has chosen us in Jesus Christ, our Lord, before the foundation of the world.

Leader: Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on us, that we should be His children.

People: Thou has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. Let us be wise men and women as we, with one accord, sing praise to thee, our Lord, Amen.

*Hymn No. 171

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Christmas Offering

Rev. Wes Allen



*Merry Christmas, we're glad you're here. Please consider how God may be calling you to bring hope and love to others through prayer, service and financial gifts. Your offerings dramatically impact our ministry, and allow us to fund church operations and our work in the world. [Give easily online](#) or directly from your phone by [using the Church Center App](#). **Christmas Green envelopes are in the pews for your holiday offering to First Presbyterian Church.***

Offertory

Noel, Noel, Noel

Chapel Choir

Strid

Gospel Reading

Scripture Passages: John 1: 14 (p. 92 Pew Bible); 1 John 1: 1 – 4 (p. 238 Pew Bible)

Rev. Spencer

Meditation

“Hands On”

Rev. Spencer

The Lord’s Supper

Stuart Spencer & Wes Allen

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, you sent your Son, Jesus (the Word who became flesh), to be born of Mary; and now we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory. His name – the Prince of Peace and Lord of all – is above every name. In Him we have been brought out of darkness into your marvelous light. For this reason we gladly praise you, joining our voices with all who magnify you:

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

The Words of Institution

The Prayer of Consecration

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Christmas Prayer ~ The Lord’s Prayer (‘debts’)

Rev. Spencer

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 ...

*Hymn No. 170 (all verses, candles become lit)

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, by 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.

*Hymn No. 164

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! 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.

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.

*Benediction

Rev. Spencer

Following worship candles may be deposited in boxes at the exit doors. You are invited to keep your candle and take it home as a reminder of the light of God's love.

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8:30 p.m. Worship Ministry

Audio Technician:	Harris Ransom
Live Stream:	Jonathan Nawrocki
Reader:	Gabrielle Swanik
Ushers:	John Miller, Mike Welch and Gail Sorin
Soloist:	Alivia Nawrocki
Property Staff:	Sam Caraballo and Steve Margerum
Trustee Greeter:	John Miller
Cover Artwork:	Sofia Rubcich, age 13

- **Holiday Schedule** -- The church campus will be CLOSED December 25-26, and open with a limited staff December 27-29. The office will be closed January 1, 2024. *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the First Presbyterian Church staff.*
- **Monday, December 25:** Combined Christmas Day worship in the Sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** with guest preacher Rev. Dr. Jonathan Miller. **Sunday, December 31:** Combined Fifth Sunday worship service in the Sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** There will be no Sunday School, adult spiritual formation nor nursery care.
- **Epiphany Concert:** Please join us on **Sunday, January 7, 2024** at 7:30 p.m. for a Moravian Love Feast concert. The concert features the Choristers (grades 5-8), Chapel Choir (grades 9-12) and Adult Choir of First Presbyterian Church, who will perform carols, songs, and anthems of the season in context of historical Moravian tradition -- corporate sharing of singing, Christmas cookies and fellowship in the sanctuary as we celebrate Epiphany.