



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 2017

10:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

VOLUNTARY: Carols of Christmas

John Alexander, organ

INTROIT: Away in a Manger.....Mueller

Cherub, Credo and Canticle Choirs

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

WELCOME Sid Batts

PROCESSION OF THE NATIVITY AND LAS POSADAS

* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: No. 41 – O Come, All Ye FaithfulADESTE 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.**

* CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

Wyatt McHenry, reader

Henry Chase, Connor Frick, and Turner Pierce, Advent Wreath Lighters

Leader: Come with us this holy night, let the candles of peace and hope light the way as we go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.

People: **With awe and wonder, let us ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.**

Leader: Let the candles of joy and love guide our search for the gold of the Christmas star.

People: **With awe and wonder, let us listen for the brush of angels' wings.**

All: **Come this holy night, let the Christ candle guide us to Bethlehem and as we find our kneeling places before the baby Jesus.**

– adapted from Ann Weems' Kneeling in Bethlehem

CHORAL RESPONSE: Arise, Shine, Jesus Has Come!

Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo

Credo and Cherub Choirs

Arise, shine, Jesus has come!

Come, come, hurry and see.

Arise, shine, Jesus has come,

Come for you and me.

What joy we feel as now we see

The King we've waited for.

Arise and sing as praise we bring

To worship and adore

Arise, shine, Jesus has come!

Come, come, hurry and see.

Arise, shine, Jesus has come,

Come for you and me.

What joy we know as we behold
the angels as they sing.

With heard and voice we all rejoice
And glorify the King.

Arise, shine, Jesus has come!

Come, come, hurry and see.

Arise, shine, Jesus has come,

Come for you and me.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION..... Josh Musser Gritter

The Birth of Christ

CHORAL RESPONSE: *Hodie Christus Natus Est*.....Michael Bedford
Canticle Choir

Hodie Christus natus est! Gloria in excelsis Deo! Alleluia!
(Today Christ is born! Glory to God in the Highest!)

The angels sang to the shepherds three, As they knelt on bended knee,
“Christ is born this holy morn! Hurry to Bethlehem and see!”
The shepherds left the hillside bare, Traveled over the meadows fair,
Till in awe the Child they saw, Lying in a manger there.

May we, like those three shepherds poor,
Come the Christ Child to adore;
May we here, every year, Worship within the church’s door.
Then may we, with joyful call, Carry the news outside this hall;
Thus we’ll share, everywhere, God’s great gift to one and all.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Luke 1:26-35; 38*Emily Witherspoon

WORSHIP IN SONG: *Mary Had A Baby* arr. Anna Laura Page and Jean Anne Shafferman
Cherub Choir

Mary had a baby, yes, Lord!
Mary had a baby, yes, my Lord!
Mary had a baby, yes, Lord!
Little tiny baby born in Bethlehem.

Angels came a singing, yes Lord!
Angels came a singing, yes, my Lord!
Angels came a singing, yes Lord!
Angels came a singing down in Bethlehem.

Hear the bells a-ringing, yes, Lord!
Hear the bells a-ringing, yes, my Lord!
Hear the bells a-ringing, yes, Lord!
Hear the bells a-ringing down in Bethlehem.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Luke 2:1-7*Summer Oakley

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: No. 60 – *Silent 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.**

The Angels' Proclamation

SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Luke 2:8-14* Anna Barnett

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: No. 56 – The First Nowell 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 akeeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.**

**Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with His blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.**

The Shepherds' Journey to Bethlehem

SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Luke 2:15-20* Buck Duggins

ANTHEM: I Saw Three Ships Traditional carol
Credo Choir

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning!
And what was on those ships all three on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And what was on those ships all three on Christmas Day in the morning?
The Mother Mary and her baby on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
The Mother Mary and her baby on Christmas Day in the morning.
And all the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And all the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas Day in the morning!

The Wise Men's Journey to the Manger

SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Matthew 2:1-5* Elle Lackey

SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Matthew 2:7-12* John Stroud

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: No. 66 – We Three Kings of Orient Are..... THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

**We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts to traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER.....Lara Musser Gritter

OFFERING

*If you would like to contribute to the Weekday Preschool Scholarships,
please place your offering in the enclosed envelope.*

OFFERTORY

MUSICAL OFFERING: The First Noel

John Stroud, violin

ANTHEM: Ding Dong! Merrily on high.....Ken Berg (b. 1942)

Canticle Choir

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heav’n the bells are ringing:

Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv’n with angel singing.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E’en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,

And i-o, i-o, i-o, by priest and people sungen.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you dutifully prime, your matin chime, ye ringers;

May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: No. 40– 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.

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.

* DOXOLOGY: Hymn No. 22 – Angels, from the Realms of GloryREGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ,
the newborn King!**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION..... Rachael Skipper

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP..... Sid Batts

* BENEDICTION.....Caroline Cochrane

MUSICAL BENEDICTION: Hymn No. 23 – Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o’er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

** Worshipers who are able are invited to stand.*



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Children's Choirs

Cherub Choir

Kendall Abraham
Crocker Driscoll
Madeline Faucher
Charlotte Freeze
Melody Nall
William Netherton
Lila Witherspoon

Credo Choir

Mimi Albert
Mady Ballenger
Trip Driscoll
Lydia Hare
Audrey Faucher
Susan Forbes Fields
Garnett Nall
Jackson Netherton
Henry Scott
Zoë Upton
Evan VanGorden
Caroline Wilson

Canticle Choir

Lizzie Albert
Emma Ballenger
Sarah Cochran
Emma Forbes Fields
Evelyn Hare
Ce Ce Hunt
Sarah Parrish
Isobel Shiffler
Ashlyn Showers
Lauren Showers
Rachael Skipper
Nick VanGorden

5th Grade Worship Leaders

Anna Barnett.....Greeter, Reader
Henry Chase..... Advent Wreath Lighter, Usher
Buck DugginsGreeter, Reader
Connor Frick..... Advent Wreath Lighter, Usher
Elle LackeyGreeter, Reader
Wyatt McHenry Reader, Usher
Summer OakleyGreeter, Reader
Turner Pierce Advent Wreath Lighter, Usher
Rachael SkipperGreeter, Reader
John StroudGreeter, Reader
Emily Witherspoon.....Greeter, Reader

Nativity Participants

(Kindergarten class)

Mary.....Frances Richardson
JosephMac Payonk
InnkeeperHarrison Gunter
Wise Men Max Cooke, Andrew Wilson, Emerson Xu
Lead Angel..... Caroline Wilson
AngelsNora Lee Kirkpatrick, Thompson Peddrick, Cherub Choir
Shepherds John Ross Adcox, Tucker Botros, Henry Egerton,
Hayes Murphy, Daniel Ndayisenga, Henry Permar

All are welcome this morning

This is a family service and children of all ages are welcome. No nursery care is provided during our Christmas Eve services, but children are welcome.

Today's special offerings

If you would like to contribute to the Weekday Preschool Scholarships, please place your offering in the enclosed envelope. At our 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service, the offering will support the ministry of Hot Dish & Hope; and our 11 p.m. service offering will support our Youth Ministry.

Please do not take photos during worship service. Photos may be taken during the rehearsal and after the worship service. *No photos or videos may be posted to personal social media sites per FPC's Child Protection Policy.*

About this morning's poinsettias

The poinsettias that adorn the sanctuary are to the glory of God and to honor or memorialize family, friends and loved ones as we celebrate Advent. All of these memorials and honor gifts are acknowledged in a Christmas Memorial and Honor Booklet, available at Sanctuary and Life Center entrances today.

Please recycle your bulletins

at the door, and be sure to take any personal belongings with you.

Church offices will be closed

Monday, *December 25*; Tuesday, *December 26*; and Monday, *January 1*. When church offices are closed and you have an emergency, call (336) 908-8615. Leave a message with your phone number and the pastor on call will be in touch with you.

December 31 is Seminary Student

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. worship in the sanctuary. Our preacher will be Savannah Caccamo, who grew up at FPC and is a first-year student at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. No nursery, worship enrichment, or church school for children and youth.

December 31 church school

YMBC and Seekers are the only 9:30 a.m. church school classes scheduled to meet.

January 7

Communion Sunday, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. worship in the Sanctuary, and 10:30 a.m. Rejoice! in Mullin Life Center. Nursery and worship enrichment available. All classes begin their winter milestone classes. Confirmation begins. Kindergarteners and third- and fourth-graders will receive their Bibles in church school; we will have a Bible blessing for our kindergarteners in the Rejoice! service, and a blessing for third- and fourth-graders in the 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service. *Look for more information about our adult church school offerings.*

Leading in worship

Sid Batts, *Senior Pastor*

Lara Musser Gritter, *Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident*

Josh Musser Gritter, *Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident*

Donna Chase, *Director of Christian Formation*

Lisa Witherspoon, *Associate Director of Children's Ministry*

John Alexander, *Director of Music and Principal Organist*

Anne Albert, *Worship and Music Coordinator*

Caroline Cochrane, *FPC Youth*