

Order of Worship

December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve Service



Prelude

It Came upon the Midnight Clear, Warriner

Lighting of the Christ Candle (Responsive)

The Whatley Family

One: How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

All: We do all these things with God's help. For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.

One: Tonight, Christ draws near. Tonight we light the Christ Candle.

All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

One: Tonight, we are not alone.

All: God is near. Love has drawn close. Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. Amen

Hymn No. 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Wondrous God, we gather like the shepherds, unclean, unworthy, and awed by your presence. We are terrified of your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world: how oppression still enslaves; how war brings destruction; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety. You understand the disquiet of our hearts and know how imperfectly we seek you. Still you come to us. With grace and truth you come- to break the yoke that burdens us, to bestow peace upon us, to bring light to our darkness, and to fill the earth with joy. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

Kyrie No. 121 (verse 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 Emmanuel!

Declaration of Forgiveness

Gloria Hymn No. 113 (verse 3)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Passing the Peace

Welcome

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading*Isaiah 9:2-7***Special Music***O Holy Night*, arr. Adam, Dr. Damion Womack, soloist**Word to Grow By****Second Reading***Luke 2:1-20***Meditation**

Rev. Nick Reed

Hymn No. 119*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***Affirmation of Faith** (Unison)*The Nicene Creed*, Hymnal p. 34**Communion**

Hymn No. 145

What Child Is This?

Hymn No. 115

*Away in a Manger***Prayer after Communion****Illumination****Hymn No. 122***Silent Night, Holy Night***Benediction****Congregational Response** No. 134*Joy to the World* (verse 1)**Postlude***Christmas Bells*, Douglas

After receiving communion, you may choose either a candle or a penlight for the final hymn, "Silent Night." Before we begin to sing, ushers will light the candles of those seated near the center aisle, and the light will pass from worshiper to worshiper (holding lit candle upright). Those holding penlights should turn them on when the candle lighting reaches them. Both the candles and penlights should be extinguished when "Silent Night" ends and returned to baskets in the narthex.

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church, Auburn

New to the Presbyterian Church USA? We would love to share with you more about our Reformed tradition of theology and worship.

New to Auburn, or simply new to this congregation? We'd love to share with you more about the rich history of this church and its valuable contributions to the Auburn community.

Searching for a church home? We would love to join you in that search and help discern whether First Presbyterian may be where God is calling you to be nurtured, inspired, and empowered.

Please take a moment to fill out our [online Friendship Register](#) or you may contact either of us directly.

Revs. Nick and Kathy Reed, Co-Pastors



The Poinsettias have been given to the Glory of God

in loving memory of Fisher Martin by Chris, Kerriann, and Mary Elliott Martin

in memory of John and Sara Ann Curry by Martha Curry Reese and John Reese

in memory of John and Sara Ann Curry by Stella and Russell Ivie

in honor of our church staff and congregation for all the ways you
continue to support and uplift all members of our diverse
community by Karen Herring and Leslie Carter

in honor of Kay and Bob Recknor by Bob and Karen Cochran

in honor of Christy Cochran, Kelly Tarca, and Clint Cochran by Bob and Karen Cochran

in memory of Johnny Huggins by Harriette Huggins

in memory of Sanker and Erhardt loved ones by John and Nancy Sanker

in memory of Iowa friends Sandra Carney and Dorothy Bolin by Mari and Terry Ley

in honor of Joel and Becky Buchanan, a warm, loving, and caring couple, with love by Marilyn Hozer

in memory of their parents and other beloved family members by Larry and Luann McQueen

in honor of Dorothy Hinkle-Uhlig by Daniel Uhlig

in honor of Ruth Spencer by Sandra Spencer

in memory of E.L. Spencer, Jr. by Sandra Spencer

in memory of Tom Spears by Dibba, the Whatleys, and the other Spears

in honor of their parents by Chris and Michele Richie

in memory of Mary Helen Foster and Bill Walker by Myrna Walker and Boyd Foster

in honor of Richard and Dorothy Fergus by Wia and Jeff Fergus

in honor of the Cochran Family by Bob and Kay Recknor

in memory of Sandra Kay Recknor by Bob and Kay Recknor

in memory of Hazel and John Goodman by Margaret Brinkley and family

in memory of Donald Brinkley by Margaret Brinkley and family

in memory of Joseph Barnett Farr by Kimberly Farr

in memory of Donald Thurlow by Bobbie Thurlow

by Jim and Patty Disque

in loving memory of Joe and Olivia Harrison and Ray White by Elizabeth and Todd White

The two large poinsettias are given in memory of Frances Vowell
by her family and the Frances Vowell Flower Fund.