

**December 17, 2023**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**We Gather in God's Name**

**Chiming of the Trinity**

**Prelude** *Away in a Manger* Keveren  
(Leigh Montague, cello)

**Welcome** Rev. Maxwell Michaels

**Lighting of Advent Candle** The Baker Family

Come, see the lights.

**Let their brightness fill you.**

Come, feel the warmth of the lights.

**Let them give you comfort.**

Come, draw near to the lights,

**for God is breaking through to you.**

**Come, rejoice in the lights, God is with us!**

**We Worship Together**

**\*Processional Hymn** 134 *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH

**Invitation to Confession (the congregation is seated)**

When we come to worship God, we must first remember who we are, and we are people who often sin and turn from the ways of God. Relying on God's abundant grace, let us offer our confession together, knowing that we will be offered forgiveness in Christ.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Gracious God, long ago you sent Christ to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives. You then asked us to go and do the same for we are the church of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, we pray, for we have not continued to share the good news. We have focused on ourselves and neglected to help others. Help us to continue to share the healing and loving words of Christ to all the world and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news! Through the grace and love of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Sharing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us now greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

**\*Holy Interruption** *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

**We Receive God's Word**

**Announcements**

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as**

**we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but**

**deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power**

**and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** *Silent Night* Kerrick  
(Leigh Montague, cello)

**\*Doxology** *Gloria in excelsis deo. Gloria in excelsis deo.* GLORIA

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Thank you, God, for all that we have and all that we are. We take these gifts given today and dedicate them ever and only to you. Amen.**

**A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols**

1<sup>st</sup> Lesson Genesis 3:8-15, 17, 19 Buddy Brooks  
*Adam Lay Ybounden*, 15<sup>th</sup> Century English arr. by Boris Ord

*Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond; Four thousand winter thought he not too long. And all was for an apple, an apple that he took, as clerkes finden written in their book.*

*Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been, ne had never our lady a been heaven e queen. Blessed be the time that apple taken was, therefore we moun singen, Deo gracias, Deo gracias, Deo gracias!*

2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson Genesis 22:15-18 Kathie Cook  
*Savior of the Nations, Come*, 16<sup>th</sup> Century German  
St. Ambrose of Milan, 430 A.D.  
arr. by Martin Luther 1523

*Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home. Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.*

*Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word! To the holy Trinity praise, we sing eternally.*

3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Bill Tillman  
*Comfort, Comfort*  
15<sup>th</sup> Century Traditional, arr. by John Ferguson

*"Comfort, Comfort now my people; Tell of peace!" So says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load. To God's people now proclaim That God's pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!*

*For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away! Let the valleys rise to meet him, And the hills bow down to greet him!*

*Straight shall be what long was crooked, And the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits his holy reign! For the glory of the Lord Now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.*

4<sup>th</sup> Lesson Isaiah 11:1-3a; 4a; 6-9 Marion Anderson  
*The Birthday of a King*, by William Harold Neidlinger  
Eve Nobles & Peggy Hamden Stewart, soloists

*In the little village of Bethlehem, there lay a child one day, and the sky was bright with a holy light, o'er the place where Jesus lay: Alleluia, oh how the angels sang! Alleluia, how it rang! And the sky was bright with a holy light, 'twas the birthday of a King.*

*'Twas a humble birthplace, but o how much God gave to use that day! From the manger bed what a path has led, what a perfect holy way: Alleluia, oh how the angels sang! Alleluia, how it rang! And the sky was bright with a holy light, 'twas the birthday of a King.*

5<sup>th</sup> Lesson Luke 1:26-35, 38 Bill Malloy  
*Sing Lullaby*, Traditional Basque, arr. by Anthony Prower  
Libby Pierce & Richard Pierce, soloists

*Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now reclining, Sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the infant king. Angels are watching stars are shining over the place where he is lying; Sing lullaby!*

*Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, Sing lullaby! Hush do not wake the Infant King, soon will come sorrow with the morning, soon will come bitter grief and weeping; Sing lullaby!*

*Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-doing, Sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the Infant King, soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing, then in the grave at last reposing; Sing lullaby!*

*Sing lullaby! Lullaby! Is the babe awaking? Sing lullaby! Hush do not stir the Infant King. Soon will come Easter, gladsome morning, Conquering Death, its bondage breaking; Sing lullaby!*

6<sup>th</sup> Lesson                      Luke 2:1-7                      Susan Malloy  
*Come to Set Us Free, Traditional South American*  
Traditional Puerto Rican, arr. by Lloyd Larson  
Kane Driggers, shakers; Blair Driggers, steel drum; Lainey Baker, guiro;  
Peggy Hamden Stewart, tambourine

*Come, o come, Emmanuel! Come, o come on earth to dwell! Come, deliver Israel!  
Come to set us free! All the angels in the sky sing their praise to God on high. Soon  
He come on Christmas night, come to set us free!*

*(Chorus): Halle, hallelujah! Halle, hallelujah! Halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Come,  
o come, Emmanuel! Come to set us free!*

*Every valley lift your voice, every creature now rejoice. Everywhere a joyful noise  
come to set us free! (Chorus)*

7<sup>th</sup> Lesson                      Luke 2:8-16                      Dan Tillman  
*Away in a Manger, American Traditional, arr. by Mark Hayes*  
Libby Pierce, wind chimes

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

*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.*

8<sup>th</sup> Lesson                      Matthew 2:1-12                      Elisa Neal  
*O Come, All Ye Unfaithful, by Clow/Kauflin*  
Elisa Neal & John Joyce, soloists; Peggy Stewart, tambourine;  
Lainey Baker, drums; Kane Driggers, shakers

*O come, all you unfaithful. Come, weak and unstable. Come know you are not  
alone. O come, barren and waiting ones, weary of praying, come, see what your  
God has done. Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.*

*O come, bitter and broken, come, with fears unspoken, come, taste of his perfect  
love. O come, guilty and hiding ones, there is no need to run. See what your God  
has done. Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.*

*He's the lamb that was given, slain for our pardon. His promise is peace for those  
who believe.*

*He's the lamb that was given, slain for our pardon. His promise is peace for those  
who believe.*

*So come, though you have nothing. Come, He is the offering. Come, see what your  
God has done. Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you.*

*Christ is born, Christ is born. Christ is born for you.*

9<sup>th</sup> Lesson                      John 1:1-14                      Peggy Stewart  
*Go, Tell It on the Mountain, 19<sup>th</sup> Century African American Spiritual,*  
arr. by Hayes  
Holly Patrick, soloist – Peggy Stewart, tambourine

*(Chorus) Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the  
mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout  
the heavens there shone a holy light. (chorus)*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo above the earth rang out the agnel  
chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (chorus)*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ weas born, and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. (chorus)*

### **\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response** *Love Came Down at Christmas*                      Rosetti  
Traditional Irish melody                      Chancel Choir

**Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; Love was born  
at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.**

**\*Postlude** *For Unto Us a Child is Born*                      Hayes

**Please wait until the end of the benediction response by the choir before exiting.**

\*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk

We welcome and thank Leigh Montague, guest cellist, for sharing her time &  
talents with us this morning by accompanying our Chancel Choir's "Lessons  
& Carols."



***Our Vision***  
***Rooted by God's Grace,***  
***Growing in the Spirit,***  
***Reaching Out with Christ's Love***

**Sunday, December 17, 2023**

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