

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2020*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

CAROL: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" - (Verses 1&2)

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Bechtel Family

CAROL: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" - (Verse 3)"

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

The Prophet Speaks -- Isaiah 9:2-7

Read by Ben Wold

CAROL: "Still, Still, Still"

Still, still, still,
he sleeps this night so chill!
The virgin's tender arms enfolding,
warm and safe the child
are holding.
Still, still, still,
he sleeps this night so chill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep,
he lies in slumber deep
while angel hosts from heaven come winging,
sweetest songs of joy are singing.
Sleep, sleep, sleep,
he lies in slumber deep.

Mary Visited -- Luke 1:26-38

Brian King

CAROL: "Mary Did You Know"

Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you

Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God

Mary did you know? Mary did you know?

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect lamb?
That sleeping child you're holding is the great I am

Mary did you know?

The Messiah is Born -- Luke 2:1-7

Hannah Rhude

CAROL: GofG#145 -- "What Child Is This"

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet
with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch
are keeping?
2. This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard
and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
4. Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!
5. This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard
and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

A Gift From the Children -- "Christmas Acrostic"

The Shepherd's Visit -- Luke 2:8-20

Justin Anderson

CAROL: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

1. 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!
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
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!

A Christmas Homily -- "Freedom to Live Differently"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CAROL: "Joy to the World"

1. 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.
2. Joy to the earth,
the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins
and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his
blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
4. 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.

The Light of the World -- John 1:1-5, 10-14

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

CAROL: "Silent Night, Holy Night"

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born!"
3. 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.
4. 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.

WE ARE SENT

SENDING PRAYER & BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE:



We at First Presbyterian wish you a joyous Christmas season as we celebrate the coming of God into our lives. May God bless you with hope, peace, joy and love as you invite into your hearts God's gift of Jesus Christ.

Many thanks to the participants in the worship service:

Readers:

- 1. Josh, Avery, Parker, and Rowen Bechtel**
- 2. Ben Wold**
- 3. Brian King**
- 4. Hannah Rhude**
- 5. Justin Anderson**
- 6. Children: Sidney, Silas, Noah, JJ, Matthew, Elena, Kyle, Quinn, Parker, Aubrey**

Musicians:

**Liz Riley
Danny Shuford
Kat Shuford
Nick Jones
Jeff Cover**

Pastors:

**Hilary Downs
Tom Abbott**

Filming/Editing:

Hannah Sites

Assistance:

Lexee Barrera