

went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God!**

Ceci est la Parole du Seigneur./**Gloire à Dieu** (pronounced “glow-ah ah dew”)

A Christmas Eve Meditation *They Were Astonished!*

Matt Matthews

Prayers of the People

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.**

***Closing Hymn #122 and Lighting of Candles** *Silent Night*

During Silent Night, the worship leaders will light the congregation’s candles from the Christ candle. Tip unlighted candle to flame; do not tip lighted candle.

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

*Please stand if able. Remain seated if need be.

Cover art “Ordinary Glory” by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

December 24, 2021

Family Service 4:00 PM



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Bienvenue à La Première Eglise Presbytérienne de Champaign
Bienvenidos a La Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana

삼페인 제일 장로교회에 오신것을 환영합니다.

Si vous souhaitez que le service soit traduit en français,
procurez-vous un récepteur et des écouteurs à l’arrière du sanctuaire.

Welcome to worship!

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come...” With joy we greet you.

The presence of all who have come to celebrate Christmas adds to the joy of worshipping the Lord on this glorious night.

May the full meaning of Christmas be real to us all...now and always.

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Mark, Sarah, Sam, Henry and Ellie Laufenberg

***Call to Worship**

Joy comes to the world this night!

**In our God who sets aside glory
to become as hopeful and helpless as we are.**

Hope comes to the world this night!

**In Jesus who embraces the poor as family,
who brings justice for those who are oppressed.**

Peace comes to the world this night!

**In the Spirit who would reconcile the divided,
who build bridges and tear down walls.**

This story is for us.

This love is for us.

Family of faith, this is our invitation. Welcome home.

***Opening Hymns #133** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

#119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

We sing of the one who away in a manger, God of holy nights, but ignore the cries of little ones who are forgotten. The gifts of wonder and grace are offered to us, but how silently we use them in our words and lives.

Come to us once again, Bethlehem’s Child, to give us new life and hope. May we join the angels in singing songs of joy, as we bring healing to the broken. May we see each person as precious in your eyes, as well as ours, as the One whose lowly birth we celebrate this night, Jesus our Brother, our Lord.

Silence is kept.

Assurance of Pardon

Here in the silence of these moments, in the light of candles as well as grace, in the warmth of hope as well as those around us, we are offered the good news. This is the night God came to us, to remind us that we are never alone, we are loved and welcomed and affirmed by our God.

O come, let us adore our God whose love came down this night; whose grace and justice walked among us; who peace and hope are the gifts we can share with all around us. Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

***Hymn #115** *Away In a Manger*

Invitation to the Offering *We are invited to return God’s tithes and give our offering.*

Offertory

Sung Response #609 *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

Prayer for Illumination #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*

While we are waiting Come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Gospel *Luke 2:1-20*

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they

Poinsettias

Thank you to the following who donated poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary during this special Christmas season...

Jim and Nancy Bell in honor of Midge Miller, Faye Reid, and Joyce Wittler and in memory of Charlie Wittler,

Jean Brunson and family in memory of Bob Brunson, Conner Skwarsan, also in memory of Ken and Mary Stotler;

Richard and Helen Coddington in loving memory of Richard and Norma Coddington, and John and Marian Rodemer;

Ron Deering in memory of Nancy and John Deering;

Sue Anne Fischer and sons, Jason, Adam, and Timothy in honor and in memory of Dr. Don A. Fischer, loving husband and father;

Judy Geistlinger in memory of Bob and Mary Rose;

Dan Harmon in memory of William L. Smith, Billie Smith, Harley H. Harmon, Vivian Harmon, and Collin Jay Harmon;

Mark and Judy Hendrickson in memory of Jack and Helen Hendrickson and Paul and Jean Bates;

Itch and Sue Jones in memory of Jiggs and Rosine Jones, Gratton and Helen Hill;

Mary Jane Kelley in memory of Paul Kelley;

Nancy Martin in memory of Bob and Betty Eisner and in honor of Lisa and Vivian Shroeder;

Matt and Rachel Matthews in honor of Joseph, Ben, and John Mark;

George and Liz Miley in honor of Jim and Leland Andrews;

Dianne Mortensen and family in memory of Paul Mortensen and in honor of the church staff;

The Nicolette and Born families in memory of Bob Nicolette, Jill Nicolette Izzi, and Beth and Hal Dawson;

Bruce Rainey and Michael Hogue in memory of Arlene Rainey, Bruce's mother, and Gary and Peggy Lietz;

Stacey Roux, Wendy Chao, and Kelly Sansone along with their father, Ken Travers, in memory of Janny Quinn Travers;

Kurt and Lola Ruthmansdorfer in memory of Daniel and Edith Ruthmansdorfer;

Mark and Kathleen Schoeffmann in celebration of Christ's birth;

Cathy Schowengerdt and family in loving memory of Bill Schowengerdt;

Annilee Shaul in memory of loved ones;

Linda Tauber Olson in memory of her father, Karl Tauber;

Luke Waaler in honor of our parents, Jack and Ginny Waaler.

Announcements

• **We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, contact **Pastor Matt** or call the church office.

• Thank you to **Professor Charlotte Mattax** for serving as our organist.

• **Join us again for worship on Sunday, December 26.** We will have one worship service, a Carol Sing, at 9 AM that morning. There will be no Sunday School. Children are invited to enjoy worship with their families.

• Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the **Christmas Joy Offering**, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please mark "Joy" on your check or envelope with your contribution.

• Everyone **must wear a mask** indoors for safety.

• **If unable to attend church**, catch our 9 AM service live each Sunday morning at firstpres.live. The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.

• Wednesdays, January 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 7-8 PM, **we will look with fresh eyes at the history, culture and hopes of Presbyterians in Cuba**, our hermanamientos. This will be a zoom study only. If you are interested in praying with and for our brothers and sisters in Cuba, if you are interested in dreaming about a future trip to Cuba, if you are wanting to experience a little Cuban culture, this will lift your spirits during January. Sign up and join us. Send your email address to info@firstpres.church to get the zoom link.

• **Styrofoam recycling** will be held in a drive through drop-off on Saturday, January 8, 2022 from 9 to 11, in Doxology Lane. The container in the southwest corner of Westminster Hall is for weekly deposits, but Christmas often brings large pieces of Styrofoam packaging and take-out containers.

• If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.

• The **December newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at firstpres.church/newsletter.

The church office will be closed
Monday, December 27, Friday, December 31, and Wednesday, December 29
in observance of the holidays.

May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you all through the year.

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