

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** *No Crib for a Bed*

Matt Matthews

**Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

**Invitation**

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

May the God of silent nights be with you.

**May the God of holy nights be with you.**

Come, let us adore our God as we lift our hearts.

**We pray that God will fill them with joy and wonder.**

Let us echo the songs we have heard from angels on high.

**We will sing glad songs of joy and compassion.**

*Prayer continues...*

**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.**

**Words of Institution**

**Sharing of the Meal**

**Closing Prayer**

**\*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.

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



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

December 24, 2021

Candlelight Communion Service 8:00 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 worshiping the Lord on this glorious night.

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

## **Prelude**

Solo *O Holy Night*

Brandi Lowe, soloist

## **Welcome**

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Mark, Sarah, Sam, Henry and Ellie Laufenberg

## **\*Call to Worship**

An unmarried teenage girl was invited—  
**to carry Christ into this world.**

An ordinary carpenter was invited—  
**to be a father to a child unlike any other.**

The shepherds were invited—  
**outcast and isolated, included at the manger.**

The Magi were invited—  
**foreigners and seekers, included at the manger.**

And if she was invited, and he was invited, and they were invited—  
**then we can trust that we too are invited.**

This story is for us.

**This love is for us.**

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

## **\*Opening Hymn #145 *What Child Is This?***

## **\*Call to Confession**

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God,**

**You throw open the door and invite us into relationship, day in and day out. How ever, instead of running toward you, we dip our toes in the water of this faith. We hold our breath. We play it safe. We struggle to believe that a love so unfettered, so unfiltered, could be for us. As a result, we often deny this worth for ourselves and others. Forgive us for ignoring your invitation to be the people you call us to be. Forgive us for the ways in which we hold back from deeper connection to you or withhold your radical love from others. Open our ears to not only hear your invitation, but to trust that this good news exists even for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Family of faith, even when we fail to trust God’s love,  
and even when we fail to love others as we should, God still loves us. That door *never* closes.  
So hear and believe this good news:

**God invites us into a life of faith. God loves us through every season of life. God forgives us when we lose our way and invites us deeper every step of the way. We are loved, invited, claimed, celebrated, and forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

## **\*Hymn #144 *In the Bleak Midwinter***

## **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***

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

<sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

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

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

<sup>15</sup>When 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.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.