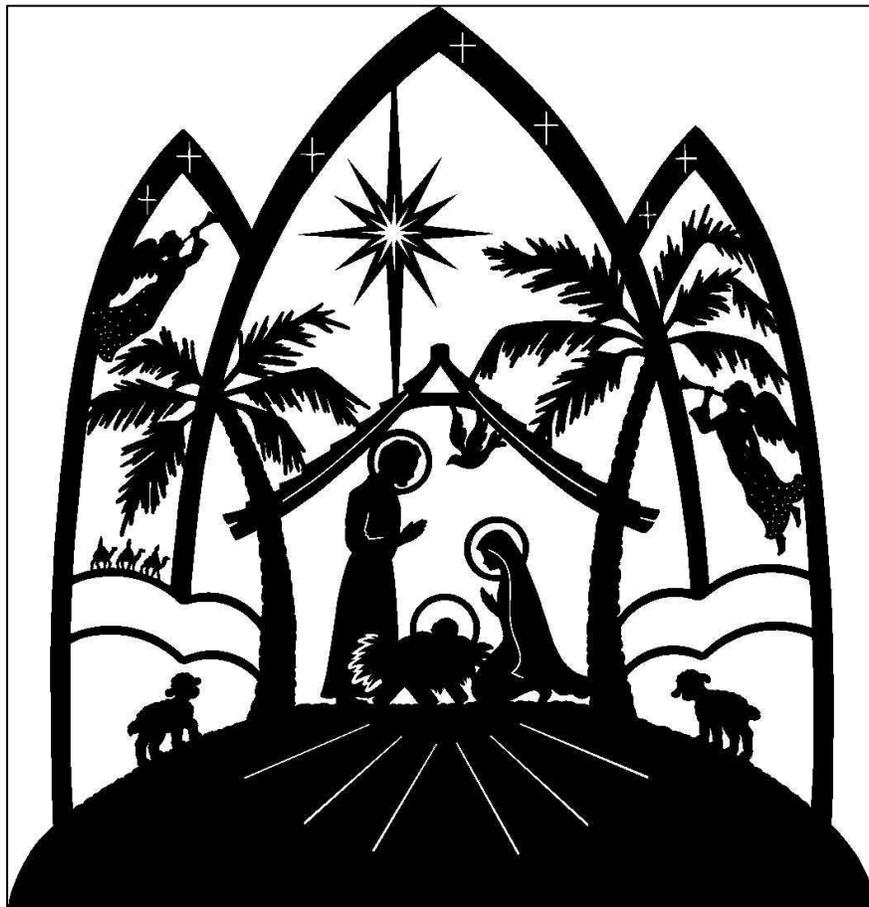


First Presbyterian Church

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Celebrating our history, we look toward our future.



The Order of Worship **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship** **December 24, 2017**

WELCOME. *We are delighted to have you with us this evening!
We hope that your Christmas holiday is holy and blessed.*

Large Print Hymnals and Children's Activity Bags
are available from the Usher.

***Prayer of Confession:**

One: When Jesus was born of Mary, he became like us in all things except sin. In that knowledge and understanding, let us approach the throne of grace, confessing our sins to God and with one another. Let us pray...

All: **Holy God, you offer us new life in the baby at Bethlehem.**

But we confess that we have made something trivial, something sentimental, out of Christmas.

**Your light comes into the world,
and we see only the pretty lights on trees.**

**You shine in the darkness,
but we turn away from the darkness of our world,
and therefore we miss you.**

**Your Word is made flesh,
but we would like something nicer, more spiritual,
than the humanity of God with us.**

**Forgive us, God: strengthen us with the hope that
cannot be packed away with the Christmas
ornaments.**

**May we who have beheld this glory
hold it in our hearts forever.**

One: Our prayers continue in silence.... **Amen.**

***The Assurance of Pardon**

One: Fear not, I bring you tidings of great joy for all people!
Christ, our Savior, is born!

**All: God comes in Jesus to show us love incarnate.
In Christ, God forgives us, encourages us,
and frees us to love others.**

One: As Jesus enters fully into our lives, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

***Celebration of Our Pardon** Hymn #134 *“Joy to the World”*

***The Peace**

One: Since God has forgiven us in Jesus Christ,

All: Let us forgive one another.

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the signs of peace with one another.

*You are invited to greet those around you
with words and signs of God’s reconciling peace.*

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

***Hymn #158** *“Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”*

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon *“A Fitting Christmas Gift”*

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Christmas Creed

**I believe that Christmas is more than a time for parties
and ornaments.**

**It is a time for remembering Christ
and the incarnation of God's love in human flesh.**

**I believe there are gifts more important than the ones under
the Christmas tree,
such as the things we teach our children,
the way we share ourselves with friends,
and the commitment we make to reshaping the world in
our time.**

**I believe that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest
voices, from hearts made warm by the wonder of the
season.**

**I believe in the angel's message that we should not be afraid.
That the child of Bethlehem can overcome all anxieties and
insecurities.**

**I believe in prayer and quietness as a way of experiencing
Christmas.**

And I believe that if I wait in silence

**I will experience the presence of the one born in the stable.
For he lives today as surely as he lived then. Amen.**

Christmas Eve Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

**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.**

Reception of Tithes & Offerings

Special Music *“What Child is This?”*
 Arranged by Richard Heffler

***Offertory Response**

Hymn #132 *“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”* verse 1 and 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 the heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!*

***Offertory Prayer**

***Litany of The Light**

*Please bring your personal candle and bulletin with the words to
Silent Night, and gather around the outside of the sanctuary.*

*The light from the Christ candle will be passed from one person to
the next as we prepare to sing.*

*To pass the light, please keep the lit candle upright, while the one
receiving the light turns their candle into the light.*

*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.*

*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!”*

*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!*

*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.”*

Postlude

Leading Worship Tonight

- Rev. Dr. Steve Robertson – Transitional Pastor
 - Ms. Pat Dymacek – Lead Musician and Bassoon
 - Ms. Karen Altpeter – Pianist / Organist
 - Ms. Sara Dymacek and Mr. Ben Siebenaler - Trumpets
 - Mr. Lee Rash and Ms. Marcia Rash – Ushers
 - Mr. Grant Tiefenbruck and Ms. Becky Tiefenbruck – Greeters
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We worship each Sunday morning at 10:30 am and welcome you to join us.

The Sunday worship service is also broadcast live each Sunday on station KDWA 1460 AM/97.7 FM, and is lived streamed on www.kdwa.com.