

December 24, 2018

Eleven O'clock

## Christmas Eve Worship SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

### WELCOME

Whatever your religious background and however you have come to be here, we are honored that you have chosen to worship today at First Presbyterian Church. We hope you feel welcome, inspired, and strengthened by the power of God to meet the challenges of your daily life.

### GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*We begin worship with the musical prelude and lighting of the candles, reminding us of Christ's presence with us. Please use this time to make the transition from getting here to being here.*

PRELUDE *Christmas Fantasy on a theme* J.S Bach arr. by G. Rebling

### GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHORAL INTROIT

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**All: Glory to God in the highest!**

One: For a child has been born for us, a son has been given to us.

**All: Glory to God in the highest!**

One: He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**All: Glory to God in the highest!**

One: The Word of God has come to us, bringing salvation to all.

**All: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace among all people.**

\*HYMN 140 *Once in Royal David's City* IRBY  
*Soloist will sing the first verse; please stand and sing on the second verse.*

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth,  
when we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us.  
When we reduce Christmas to what we will get instead of what we might give, have mercy on us.

When we are complacent about poverty, remind us that Christ was born in a stable and lived among the poor.

Where we have been led astray, send your star to guide us back to the child who reveals your great love, to us. We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...

\*KYRIE 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem, v. 4* ST.LOUIS  
*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

### \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*GLORIA 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, v. 3* IN DULCI JUBLIO  
*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now you 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!*

### PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FOCUS ON CHILDREN with  
the LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE The Brouwer Family

HYMN 141 *On This Day Earth Shall Ring (v. 1 & 4)* PERSONENT HODIE

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7

One: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Away In a Manger* arr. David Willcocks

\*GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-20

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION Rev. Cat Goodrich

### DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

\*HYMN 134 *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH

### WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS\*\*

*Part of your offering today is the gift of your presence.  
Please acknowledge your presence by signing the welcome book at the end of your row.*

OFFERTORY *Christmas Night* V. Goller

\*RESPONSE 145 *What Child Is This, v.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.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

### CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: May the child of Bethlehem be with you...

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts...

**All: We lift them to one who came to us that first Christmas morning.**

One: Let us give thanks to the one who is the light of the world!

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise....**

One: We join our voices with the faithful of every time and place who forever give glory to your name:

**All: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace and good will to all.**

One: Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

### 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.**

### CHORAL RESPONSE

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING OF THE CUP

*We are serving communion by intinction tonight. There are four stations at the front of the sanctuary. Please go to the next open station, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, and eat. Then return to your seat by an outside aisle or through the parlor, chapel or narthex.*

*Gluten free, dairy free bread is in a small dish on each plate.*

### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

### CAROLS DURING COMMUNION

121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS  
144 *In the Bleak Midwinter* CRANHAM  
151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are* KINGS OF ORIENT

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace,  
You sent your Son to be our savior:  
our light in the midst of darkness, our hope in the face of despair, our peace amidst conflict and division.  
May the Word we have heard and the meal we have shared inspire us to go forth with the curiosity of the shepherds, the wonder of Mary, the perseverance of the magi, and the joy of the angels, that the light of Christ might shine through our lives. Amen.

### SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

### SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

\*HYMN 122 *Silent Night* STILLE NACHT

### \*CHRISTMAS BLESSING

### \*CHORAL BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* arr.C. Uehlien

\*Please stand as you are able.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LET THE BELLS PLAY!** Our 37-bell Rushton Memorial Carillon was the first such instrument in Birmingham and the third in the United States, when installed in 1924.

**WE WELCOME GUESTS** and celebrate that you are worshiping with us today. Your presence enriches our community. We hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. If you are returning to a distant home, we wish you the Lord's grace and a safe journey. However, if you live in the area and are seeking a faith community, we hope you will return soon so that we may get to know you better. To learn more about opportunities for spiritual growth and service, visit us on the web at [www.fpcbham.org](http://www.fpcbham.org). May God's peace and blessing be with you.

**IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME**, our Session meets on the *first Sunday of the month* in the Chapel following the 11:00 worship service to welcome new members. If you are looking for a faith community, we hope you will make First your home.

**FOR CHILDREN:** Children's bags and bulletins are available in the Narthex (ushers can locate them for you). Please empty and return the bags after worship. While all children are welcome in worship, the following alternatives also are available: *Nursery* is provided for infants (at least six weeks old) and toddlers. After the *Focus on Children*, children ages 3-7 will go to the balcony, where they experience a little of what worship is like while doing learning activities related to the scripture with coloring, puzzles, books, children's bulletins and more. When the sacraments of the Lord's Supper or Baptism are celebrated, children will return to the sanctuary. We invite those in second grade and above to remain in the sanctuary and participate in the entire worship service.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** Please use the Prayer Request and Information Change cards, found in the pew rack, to relay information to the church office. Print your name and any other information you may need to relay to the office and place it in the offering plate.

**SERMONS** are available from our website at [www.fpcbham.org](http://www.fpcbham.org).

The **LITURGIST** for today is Su Reid-St. John.

\*\*If you would like to make a gift electronically, scan here to be directed to our online giving site:



*Have you remembered the church in your will?*

## MISSION CENTERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**FIRST LIGHT, INC.** is a mission center of FPC, giving shelter and support services for homeless women and children. If you would like to help, speak to our pastors or call Ruth Crosby, Executive Director (323-4277). First Light's website: [www.firstlightshelter.org](http://www.firstlightshelter.org)

**RUTH AND NAOMI SENIOR OUTREACH (RNSO)** has as its mission to become spiritual companions to isolated older adults and to call, equip, and support others to do so as well. Contact [chaplain@ruthandnaomi.org](mailto:chaplain@ruthandnaomi.org).

**THE RUSHTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER** provides quality childcare in a loving, nurturing environment – accredited by NAEYC and licensed by the Department of Human Resources. Call the CDC office at 322-8310. The Center's website is [www.eprcdc.com](http://www.eprcdc.com)

**FAITH IN ACTION ALABAMA**, a faith-based community-organizing effort FPC shares with faith communities throughout the city, works to improve quality of life for all our citizens. Faith in Action is a PICO network affiliate and can be reached at [daniel@faal.org](mailto:daniel@faal.org).

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION** provides support to First Presbyterian Church for the maintenance and upkeep of this historic sacred space built in 1889. 10% of the Foundation's annuity payment aids mission selected by session. Contact Mark Aldridge for more information.

THE REV. CATHERINE GOODRICH, Pastor and Acting Head of Staff

THE REV. CATHERINE OLIVER, Interim Associate Pastor

THE REV. JIM STANFORD, Parish Associate

MS. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education

DR. TIMOTHY THOMAS, Director of Music

DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Organist

MS. EMILY BURT, Youth Director

MR. OWEN BLOMELEY, Administrator

MS. LAURA H. ROBERTSON, Office Administrator

MS. DEBBIE BOONE, Bookkeeper

MS. KANDIE WILEY, Sexton

THE REV. DR. ROBERT S. CRUTCHFIELD, Pastor Emeritus