

# Welcome All to Candlelight Worship Service



CHRISTMAS EVE  
December 24, 2021

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 2408 N. NAVARRO ST. | VICTORIA, TEXAS 77901  
[WWW.FPCOFVICTORIA.ORG](http://WWW.FPCOFVICTORIA.ORG) | [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FPCOFVICTORIA](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FPCOFVICTORIA)

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church  
December 24, 2021  
Christmas Eve  
7:00 o'clock p.m.

Prelude "Ave Maria"

"O Holy Night"

Bach/Gounod

1685/1818-1750

Placide Cappeau/Adolphe Charles Adams

1847/1803-1856

### Welcome and Announcements

### \*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

### Call to Worship

One: Sing a new song to God, all the earth;  
declare the glory of God's saving work.

All: We who have walked in gloom see a great light.  
Into all the shadowy places of life, light comes.

One: Praise God, who created heaven and earth  
as a sanctuary of beauty and strength.

All: We rejoice, for a child is born, an heir is given,  
to bring peace, righteousness, and justice.

One: Tremble before God, who judges people fairly,  
whose truth is proclaimed in unexpected places.

All: Glory to God in the highest!  
We see in a manger good news of great joy!

### Prayer of the Day

Eternal God,  
from the tabernacle of heaven to the poverty of a stable,  
your radiant light shines forth in a tiny baby wrapped in rags;  
such humble Love astounds us.

In Jesus you have become one with us  
that we might become one with you.

Open our hearts to joyfully receive his love  
that he may be born in us, and we in him,  
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath -  
The Christ Candle**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness,  
on them light has shined. *Isaiah 9:2*

**\*Opening Hymn:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**\*Invitation to Confession**

Friends, the grace of Christ educates us  
so that we can live sensible, ethical, and godly lives.  
On this eve of his birth,  
we confess that we struggle to receive him still.

**\*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)**

God of Love Incarnate,  
we confess that, with the shepherds,  
we are terrified of your glory;  
for in glory's light we see plainly  
all that is wrong in the world:  
how oppression still enslaves;  
how garments of war are still stained with blood;  
how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety.  
We also see what is wrong in us:  
how passionately we pursue the things of this world,  
but forget to ponder the mystery of faith;  
how we do not practice the peace you intend  
in our relationships, our community,  
or even in the church.  
Forgive us, we pray,  
and help us not to be afraid.  
Like the shepherds,  
we want to find and follow you.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**\*Kyrie Eleison (*unison*)**

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Good news!  
Great joy!  
In Jesus Christ  
the grace of God has appeared,  
bringing salvation to all.  
Glory to God in heaven,  
and on earth, peace.

Believe in God, Friends!  
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**\*Gloria Patri (*unison*)**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, amen.

**Prayer for Illumination**

Glorious God, in Jesus your grace appears,  
bringing salvation to all.  
Help us to ponder your words of love by the light of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim glad tidings of peace  
and welcome Christ in our world. **Amen.**

**First Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 9:2-7

P. 638 in the Old Testament

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Anthem: "Hallelujah"

Duet by Becky & Les Richter

Leonard Cohen/Clovertown

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-14

P. 58 in the New Testament

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Sermon: Darkness and Despair / Light and Hope

Rev. Jim DeMent

Luke 2:9: Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

*Silence and stillness*

**\*First Congregational Hymn:** "The First Nowell"

No. 56

Offertory: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

-Polish Carol

**\*Doxology** (*unison*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, all heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*unison*)

O Lord, in the spirit of Joy we offer to you our gifts.

May they be used to bring to all the world the good news of your gracious love, manifested by the birth at Bethlehem.

We also dedicate our lives so that we might be for you a light unto the world, in the name of Christ our Lord, Amen.

**\*Second Congregational Hymn:** "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

No. 38

**\*Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)** (*unison*)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**\*Third Congregational Hymn:** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

No. 23

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

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just to give you thanks in every time and in every place, almighty God.

We give you thanks for the gift of creation  
and especially for the gift of our life.  
We are grateful that you have made us in your image  
and that you pardon us when we act  
as though you have no authority over our lives.  
We are grateful that you sustain us in your great love.

And so, with all your people,  
with angels, archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven  
we praise and magnify your glorious name,  
joining our voices in the eternal hymn:

**SANCTUS: UNISON**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who was born of Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of the life that we know.  
You anointed Jesus Christ with your Spirit  
to preach good news to the poor,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
to give sight to the blind, and to liberate the oppressed,  
proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor.  
In Christ's baptism, suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church, and made a new covenant with us by water and the Spirit.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,  
we take from your creation this bread and this wine,  
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming,  
proclaiming the mystery of faith:

**GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF FAITH: UNISON**

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

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your people  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,  
so that the bread we share and the cup we bless  
will be for us the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ  
and with all who share this feast,  
united in ministry in every place.  
As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Make us one with Christ,  
one with our neighbors,  
and one in service to all the world.

Keep us faithful in your service  
until Christ comes in final victory,  
and we shall feast with all your saints  
in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

One:      Eternal God,  
              we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
              in which you have given yourself to us.

All:        Grant that we may go into the world  
              in the strength of your Spirit  
              to give ourselves for others  
              in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*At this time we light our candles as we listen to the closing hymn.*

*Light your candle by tilting it into the flame of the candle of an Elder who will walk down each aisle.  
Upon exiting the Sanctuary, please do not blow out your candle but rather allow an Elder to extinguish it.  
Then place it in the designated basket.*

\*Closing Hymn: "Silent Night, Holy Night"

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.

\*Charge and Benediction

Postlude: In Bethlehem Neath Starlit Skies

*As the church bell rings, go in peace!*

-Grace M. Stutsman, 1886

### O Come, All Ye Faithful

O, come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O, come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing!

### The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God,  
All glory in the highest!

#### Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

And by the light of that same star,  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

#### Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

### It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
From heaven's all-gracious King":  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing!

For lo!, the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

## Angels We Have Heard on High

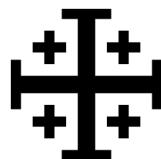
Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

### Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.



## *The Lighting of the Advent Candles*

The last white candle to be lit in the center of the Advent Wreath  
is known universally known as the “Christ Candle.”

With all of the candles now lit, their collective light becomes a beautiful symbol of the Advent Season which culminates in Christmas, the day we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The light from the candles reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world who comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. The light also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others.

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

- John 1:5

## Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler

Gloria Aoueille

Nathan Galvan  
(Son of Leila Galvan)

Kathleen McCameron

Leonard “Mac”  
McCameron

Maria Pezeshki  
(Mother of Leila Galvan)

Linda Patterson

Mikey Ruddock

Jere Swoboda  
(Prior FPC Members)

Carol Wisdom  
(Daughter of Lea Lenz)

Philip Chang

For caregiving concerns—please contact:  
Jack Kleinecke (361. 212.3229); or Gayla Whitaker (361. 935.0950)

## FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

### Sunday, December 26

10:30 AM Christmas Worship Service

*First Sunday after Christmas Day*

*A copy of our  
“COVID-19 Pandemic  
Public Health and Safety Protocols  
for In-Person Gatherings  
at the Church”  
can be obtained as you enter the church  
or at our website:  
[www.fpcofvictoria.org](http://www.fpcofvictoria.org).*

## FPC Victoria Servant Leadership Session Members

Jim DeMent, Moderator  
John Horadam, Worship  
Jack Kleinecke, Clerk of Session  
Billy Leske, Building & Grounds  
Lynn McAuley, Caregiving & Fellowship  
Dawn Neel, Christian Education  
Susan Salinas, Worship  
Jim Stokes, Treasurer, Finance  
Gayla Whitaker, Caregiving & Fellowship  
Bonnie Wilkinson, Asst. Clerk, Mission & Outreach

### Other

Lynn McAuley, Presbyterian Women  
Melissa Samudio, Presbyterian Day School  
Jim Stokes, Treasurer  
Henry Hauschild, Historian

## Special Notice Concerning Office Hours:

The church will also close at noon on Friday, December 31, 2021, and will reopen at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

Unless otherwise requested, any donations to the church received or postmarked on or prior to December 31, 2021 will be recorded as a gift made in 2022.

## Clergy, Music, and Administration

Rev. Jim DeMent, Interim Pastor  
Robert Wyatt, Organist/Choirmaster  
Erica Colding, Office Administrator

## Office Hours

Monday — Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
361.575.2441  
[info@fpcofvictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcofvictoria.org)