LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

SHARING THE LIGHT

As the sanctuary lights are dimmed, please light your candle. Please feel free to keep your candles lit through Joy to the World and then turn off following the benediction.

May you carry the light of Christ in your heart now and always.

*HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night 122

134

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

2. 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!"

sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.

*HYMN Joy to the World (v. 1 & 4)

*BENEDICTION

Merry Christmas



WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville. We have been part of the downtown Knoxville community since 1792. We embrace people from all walks of life and seek to share our spiritual journey with our community. We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are delighted that you have joined us in worship today.

To learn more about us, please make a note on the Friendship Pad, sign up for our Thursday newsletter, or connect with us at fpcknox.org, via the QR code to the right, or through social media.



Hearing enhancement devices are available for use during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

OFFERING

You may place your offering in the offering plates when they are passed, or you are invited give securely online at www.fpcknox.org/donate or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone.



STAFF AND LEADERS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Mark R. Curtis Senior Pastor

The Rev. Meredith Loftis Associate Pastor

Mark Pace Organist/Choirmaster

Mary Wilson **Adult Ministry Coordinator**

Katie Norrell **Director of Communications**

lane Holland Director of Finance/Facilities

Laura Harmon Church Administrator

Lauren Nunn Director of Parent's Day Out / Childcare Coordinator Sandra Robinson

> Victor Lenoir Custodian

Administrative Assistant

Paul Seguna Sound Engineer

FOR OUR YOUNGER WORSHIPPERS

All children are welcome in worship at FPC. Children, Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Children's Area (2nd floor) after Special Time with Young Disciples. Worship Bags are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. A nursery is available for children, in preschool and younger, in the Nursery rooms (2nd floor).





CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24, 2022 5 P.M. SERVICE

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CHRISTMAS GREETING

Rev. Mark R. Curtis

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life.

Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

Our candles illuminate our story. Dawn invades midnight. The Light of the World has come.

We hear, even today, a chorus of angels bringing good news of great joy for all the people.

And this light is a light for all; igniting a flame within the soul, warming us from within, radiating life, lighting our lives with the presence of God within us and among us now and always.

Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is born!

*HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful (v. 1)

133

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Brandon, Stephanie, William, Lane, and Eliza Spurlock

Sam Buchanan

Here is good news of great joy, for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. God has rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of Christ, in whom we have redemption, and our sins are forgiven.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never overcome it.

Let us pray that we may know the warmth and brightness of Jesus Christ, and show Christ's love to the world.

Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READINGS Matthew 1:18-21

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a

dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Luke 2:1-7

Katherine Buchanan

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

MEDITATION

Rev. Mark R. Curtis

HYMN

Away in a Manger (v. 1)

115

(please remain seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-20

Daniel Curtis

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And 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!" ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vv. 1 & 3)

119

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12 Max Pittenger In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child

who has been born king of the lews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Rev. Meredith Loftis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY

Away in a Manger

Tracy Pace, Alto

Arr. Mark Hayes

147

HYMN OF PREPARATION

The First Nowell (vv. 1 & 6)

(please remain seated)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
WORDS OF INSTITUTION
COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ. As you have given yourself to us, now we offer ourselves to you, to your glory and for the work of your Kingdom. Amen.