

First Presbyterian Church

“Worship joyfully the One who awaits your praise!!”

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2009, 8 p.m.

- Preludes** “Shepherds Came, Their Praises Bringing” Helmut Walcha
“Gesu Bambino” Pietro Yon, arr. Frackenpohl
(Kirk Severtson, Piano)
“What Child Is This” Richard Purvis
“Sonata in D” P. Franceschini
(James and Tom Madeja, Trumpets)
“Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head” arr. M. Larkin
(Kirk Severtson, Piano)

Chiming of the Hour

***Carol of Praise** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” 41

- Vs 1 “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!
Refrain O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.
Vs 2 Yea, Lord we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! (**Refrain**)
Vs 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! (**Refrain**)

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Choral Introit: “Come, Child of Peace” Ruth Schram

Christmas Prayer

Christmas Offering “I Wonder As I Wander” arr. John Jacob Niles
(Tammara Madeja, Kate Waters, Sopranos)

Christmas Story

Lesson 1: Prophets Foretell The Messiah’s Birth

Scripture: John 1: 1-3a, 4-5a; Numbers 24: 17, 19; Isaiah 9:2;
Jeremiah 23: 5, 6b

Anthem “The King Shall Come” Robert Hobby
(James Madeja, Trumpet)

*The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.
Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.
The King shall come when morning dawns and earth’s dark night is past;
O haste the rising of that morn, the day that e’er shall last;
And let the endless bliss begin, by weary saints foretold,
When night shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.
Come quickly, come. Come quickly, King of kings.
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
Come quickly, King of Kings!*

Carol “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

- Vs 1 “Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.
Vs 2 Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.”

Lesson 2: Angel Gabriel Visits Mary

Scripture Luke 1: 26-38

Anthem “To a Virgin Meek and Mild” arr. Grotenhuis
“To a Virgin meek and mild came an angel holy,
greeting her, the undefiled, in her chamber lowly:
Hail to thee, thou blessed one, chosen mother of God’s Son.
Through a wondrous birth, He shall come to earth,
And shall reign as a King forever, Jesus, blessed Savior.

Lesson 3: Jesus Is Born

Scripture Luke 2: 1-7

Carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem” 44

- Vs 1 O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Vs 2 *For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.*

*O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.*

Vs 3 *How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

Vs 4 *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!*

Anthem “All My Heart This Night Rejoices” Arthur Frackenpohl
*All my heart this night rejoices as I hear far and near sweetest angel
voices;*

*“Christ is born,” the choirs are singing, till the air everywhere now with joy
is ringing.*

*Hark! A voice from yonder manger, soft and sweet, doth entreat,
Flee from woe and danger; Brethren, come; from all that grieves you, you
are freed;*

all you need I will surely give you.”

*Come, then, let us hasten yonder; Here let all, great and small, kneel in awe
and wonder.*

*Love Him who with love is yearning; Hail the star that from far, bright with
hope is burning.*

Lesson 4: Angels Tell the Shepherds of the Birth

Scripture *Luke 2: 8-14*

Anthem “Christmas Gloria”
Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Congregational Carol “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Vs 1 *Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Vs 2 *Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?*

Vs 3 *Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.*

Lesson 5: Shepherds Go to Worship the King

Scripture *Luke 2: 15-20*

Solo “Mid-Winter” Bob Chilcott
(Kate Waters, Soprano)

*In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;*

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heav’n cannot hold him nor earth sustain:

Heav’n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:

*In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty
Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there, Cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;*

But only his mother in her maiden bliss worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

*What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a
lamb;*

If I were a wise man I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him -

Give my heart, my heart

Lesson 6: Wise Men Follow The Star

Scripture *Matthew 2: 1-15*

Congregational Carol “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Vs 1 *We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,*

Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain *O—star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright; westward leading,
Still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

Vs 2 *Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.*

Refrain

Vs 3 *Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshiping God Most High.*

Refrain

Vs 4 *Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*

Refrain

Anthem “In the Silence” Craig Courtney
(Emily Theisen, Oboe)

*Have you ever, in the silence, wondered at His birth, of how the Son of God
was born, a Child upon the earth?*

*Have you ever thought of Him at rest upon the hay,
Smiling at the faces of the creatures that He made?*

*Have you ever, in the silence, wondered at the sight of shepherds
 watching in the fields upon a starlit night?
 Have you ever thought it strange they left their sheep and ran
 to a stall in Bethlehem to kneel before a Lamb?
 Have you ever, in the silence, wondered at the thought of how it came to pass
 the Wise Men chose the gifts they brought?
 Frankincense for holy ones, and gold for kings, but myrrh?
 Why a gift for tombs they brought on this, the Savior's birth?
 Have you ever, in the silence? Silence?*

Lesson 7: The Mystery of the Incarnation

Scripture *John 1:1-14*

***Congregational Carol** *“Joy to the World”* 40

- Vs 1 Joy to the world! The Lord is Come:
 Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room,
 And heaven and nature sing,(2x)
 And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*
- Vs 2 Joy to the World! The Savior reign: Let us our songs employ;
 While fields and flocks, rocks, hills, and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy...*
- Vs 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found...*
- Vs 4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
 And makes the nations prove the glories of
 His righteousness, and wonders of His love..."*

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

(Holy Communion this evening is by intinction. All are welcome to come forward and receive the elements. As you approach the servers, please tear off a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and partake.)

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Congregation says words in bold)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

(please join the Choir singing this refrain from “Angels We Have Heard on High”:

“Glo---ria in excelsis Deo; Glo---ria in excelsis Deo”

The Bread and the Cup

Lighting of Candles

***Carol** *“Silent Night”* 60

- Vs 1 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.*
- Vs 2 Silent night, holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar,
 Heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born.*
- Vs 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.*
- Vs 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.*

Benediction

Postlude *“Unto Us Salvation Has Come”* David Cherwein

**Stand as you are able*

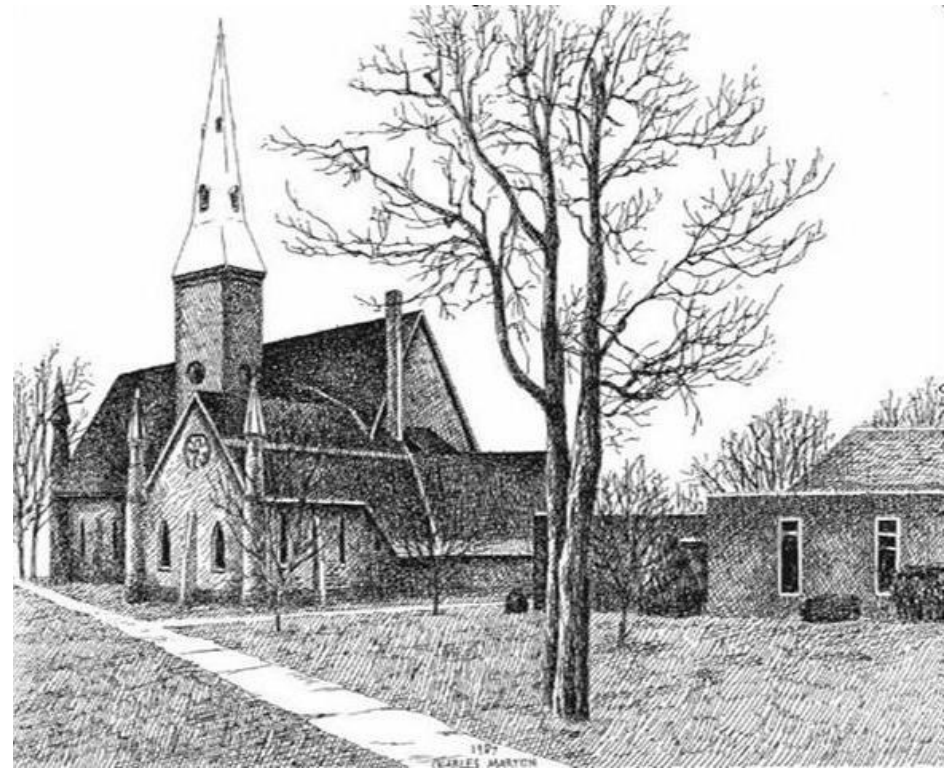
*Many thanks to Kirk Severtson for accompanying the Homecoming Choir,
 and to Jim and Tom Madeja for their glorious trumpet music.*

Reminder: *there will be a Christmas Day service at 10 a.m. in the Center, as we celebrate His birth through the stories and singing of some of our favorite carols. Breakfast will be served in the Center afterwards – all are welcome!!*

Request: *Because we will begin holding our worship in the Center starting this Sunday, it would be greatly appreciated if everyone could pick up a hymnal and a Bible and bring these into the Center as you are leaving tonight. Thank you very much!*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"A community gathering in Christ and ministering as God leads"



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