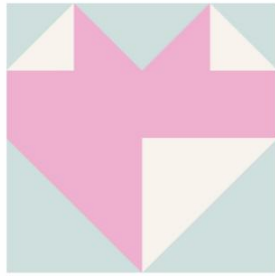




FOR THE BEGINNING

— LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME —



**CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25, 2024
11:00AM SERVICE**



First Presbyterian
Church of Albany

Welcome!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or have grown up here at FPC, we are glad you have joined in worship this morning!
In addition to worship in the Sanctuary, we livestream this service on Facebook each Sunday.

The Gathering

**indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

Chorale 'Lo! How a Rose e'er Blooming'

Johannes Brahms

*Call to Worship

One: The darkness is overcome, the star is in the sky

All: God-with-us has come, our salvation is nigh

One: Christ the Lord is born, with hallelujahs on high

All: The babe's in the manger, near his mother does he lie.

One: We've come to this place like the wisemen of old,

All: So draw close to the babe, And his holiness behold!

*Carol No. 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES



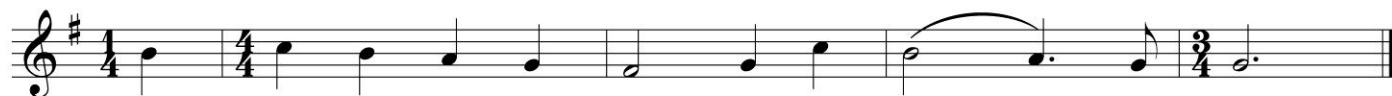
O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come ye; O come ye to
True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, — born of a vir - gin, a
Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; — sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py mor - ning; — Je - sus, to thee be all



Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels!
mor - tal he comes; ver - y — God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted!
heaven — a - bove! Glor - y to God, all glor - y in the high - est!
glor - y given; Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him;



O come, let us a - dore him, — Christ, — the Lord!

***Litany for Christmas Day**

One: The joy of this day exceeds its celebration!

All: All we can do is give thanks,

One: over and over;

All: We give you thanks, Lord God, we give you thanks!

One: For unto us is born this day, in the city of David, a savior,

All: who is Christ the Lord, Emmanuel, God with us.

One: We confess that we need the shout of the angel chorus,

All: and the coming of the light of the world

One: to show us that we live in darkness.

All: Born in our hearts this day, the Christ child brings hope.

One: Born in our hearts this day, the Christ child brings life.

All: He will be the shepherd of our lives.

One: He will lead us to springs of living water.

All: He is the healer, he comes to make us whole.

One: He is a just and gentle judge; guilty in our sin,

All: he will be punished in our stead.

One: He will reveal to us our true selves;

All: and we will know we are children of God.

One: Jesus the Christ child, we celebrate your birth today. May our celebration be more than mere remembrance.

All: Be born in us this day, and help us remember the joy of this first day of Christmas, all throughout the year.

One: With all the angels and choirs of heaven we say,

All: "Glory to God in the highest!"

***The Welcome and Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

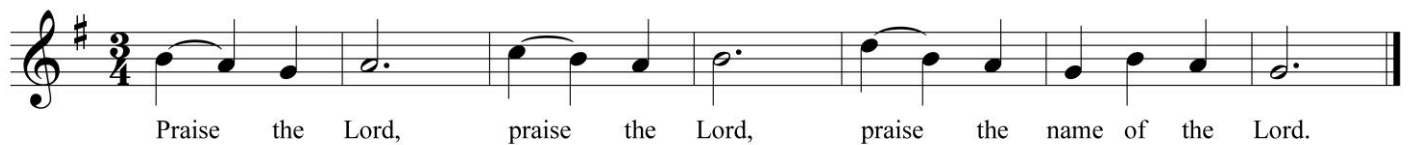
The congregation greets one another with words and signs of peace.

The Word

Psalm 98

Fiona McKinney, *alto*

(Cantor sings the refrain once then followed by the congregation)



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.

Sing to the Lord a new song, the Lord of wonderful deeds. Right hand and holy arm brought victory to God. God made the victory known, revealed justice to nations, remembered a merciful love loyal to the house of Israel. The ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. (R)

Shout to the Lord, you earth, break into song, into praise! Sing praise to God with a harp, with a harp and sound of music. With sound of trumpet and horn, shout to the Lord our king. (R)

Let the sea roar with its creatures, the world and all that live there! Let rivers clap their hands, the hills ring out their joy! The Lord our God comes, comes to rule the earth, justly to rule the world, to govern the peoples aright. (R)

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 52:7-10 (O.T., p. 683)

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

***Medley** (*please sing the verses printed below*)

Carol No. 115

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Carol No. 147*The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say, was to certain poor
 shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay
 keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell; born is the king of Israel.
 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.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell; born is the king of Israel.

Carol No. 145*What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary!

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!

Gospel Lesson: John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16 (N.T., pp. 91-92)

One: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

***Medley** (*please sing the verses printed below*)

Carol No. 123*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

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.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
 when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,
 when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
 and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Carol No. 112*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

SUSSEX CAROL

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the
 news the angels bring; on Christmas night all Christians sing
 to hear the news the angels bring, news of great joy,
 news of great mirth, news of our merciful king's birth.

Then why should we on earth be sad, since our redeemer made us glad;
 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our redeemer made us glade,
 When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?

Carol No. 119*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!*

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
 Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
 with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
 Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Story Sermon*Three Christmas Tales*

Glenn D. Leupold

Our Response***Medley** (*please sing the verses printed below*)**Carol No. 116***The Snow Lay on the Ground*

VENITE ADOREMUS

The snow lay on the ground; the stars shone bright,
 when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
 Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.
 Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.

And thus that manger poor became a throne;
 for he whom Mary bore was God the Son.
 O come, then, let us join the heavenly host
 to praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
 Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.

Carol No. 121*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

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

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.

Carol No. 113*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Pastoral Prayer and The 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.

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

Ushers will pass the offering plates to each pew. There are also offering receptacles are located in the back of the sanctuary. You may place your offering in one on the way into worship or as you leave. You may also donate online at firstpresalbany.org/donate or scan the QR code to the right (turn on your cell phone camera and hold it over this box/the QR code to donate online).



Offertory*Sing we now of Christmas (Noel Nouvelet)*

trad. French Carol

Fiona McKinney, *alto*

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
 Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.
 Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
 Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!
 Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,
 journey forth to Bethlehem, find the lambkin blest."
 In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,
 seated by the manger, watching the holy child.
 From the eastern country came the kings afar,
 bearing gifts to Bethlehem guided by a star.

Prayer of Dedication**The Sending*****Carol No. 134***Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

Charge and Benediction**Response by the People (in unison) Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Amen!*****Responsive Hymn No. 136***Go Tell it on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;
 go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

Postlude*Postlude on 'In Dulci Jubilo' BWV 729*

J.S. Bach

*You may be seated if you wish to listen to the postlude.
 Please join in Fellowship Time in Assembly Hall.*

For your convenience and as an aid to your worship experience, large print hymnals are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

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*Parts of Liturgy were written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |
sanctifiedart.org.*

Serving you on Christmas Day, Wednesday December 25

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Margaret Leupold & Elizabeth Leupold
Online Worship Assistant: Alison Stonbely
Audio Visual Specialist: John Myers

Serving you on Sunday, December 29

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Joanne Gascoyne, Richard Gascoyne, David Hannay,
Amy Jenal
Online Worship Assistant: Alison Stonbely
Scripture Reader: Carol Bullard
Prayer Reader: Betsy Hadden
Communion Servers: Chas Kite & Jon Rice
Offering Counters: Carol Green & John Myers
Audio Visual Specialist: Bruce Brynolfson

Announcements

As 2024 draws to a close, please remember to submit all 2024 check requests in to the office by the deadline, **Sunday, January 5, 2025**. Thank you!

The **paraments** (the cloth on the pulpit, lectern, and communion table) and the **pastors' stoles** (the cloth around their necks) are white, because the liturgical color for the Christmas season is **white**. White symbolizes days and season of joy and mark pivotal events in the life of Christ (Christmas and Easter). The Christmas season is 12 days beginning December 25 and ending on January 5.

All are Welcome in this Place!

New faces and voices are always welcome and add to the spirit of our worship, education, mission and fellowship. Let us know you worshipped with us by either filling in the yellow card in the pew in front of you or by scanning the QR code. Pastors Miriam & Glenn use email addresses to share congregational email and important announcements about the life of the church.



First Presbyterian Church

is a community for all people where apprentices of Jesus seek to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

We are called by God to envision and work toward eradicating systemic poverty, eliminating structural racism and sharing the experience of the good news of God's love, peace and joy.

We welcome children to our worship services. Nursery care for children ages birth through kindergarten is provided on the second floor of the Christian Education Building. Nursery care is available from 8:45am to 12:15pm and is staffed by experienced childcare providers Morgan Odom and Mary Margaret Cabuhat.

Parking is available on Sunday mornings in Washington Park. There is also a parking lot on Washington Avenue just west of Lark Street available during church services on Sunday mornings. The church parking lot on Sunday mornings is reserved for visitors and for those who, for physical reasons, need close access to the church. Please note the spaces reserved for those with disabilities, and please do not block other cars.

We continue to livestream our Sunday worship services on Facebook.

Christian Education on Sunday mornings will resume January 5

9:15-10:15 Education Classes in the Education Building

Godly Play in the Preschool Class on 2nd floor (age 3 thru kindergarten)

Godly Play in The Upper Rooms on 3rd floor (Grades 1-5)

Youth Education in the Youth Room on 2nd floor (Grades 6-12)

Adult Education is the Rose Room

The church office will be closed December 26-27, 2024, as well as January 1, 2025.



**The Poinsettias in the Chancel are given to the Glory of God
and in Memory or Honor of Loved Ones
by Members and Friends of the Congregation**

Given by:

Lizzie Cayro
Celeste Roeller Harp
Ray & Katie Henrikson
His siblings, nieces, nephews & grand-nieces
Annette Johnson
Judy & Don Mark

Given by:

Anonymous
Bruce Brynolfson

Dwight & Leslie Cheu

Ellen & Eric Eisenbraun

Janice Easton-Epner (on behalf of their loving children) Al & Susan Easton

Roger, Carol & Lydia Green

David Hannay

Sue Haney

Celeste Roeller Harp

James, Rose, & Christian Jackson

In Honor of:

Grandma, Rachel Smith
Louise & Brad Roeller
Our Grandchildren
Ron Geuther
Marilyn Hayes
Members & Pastors of 1st Pres.

In Memory of:

Joyce Bascom
Bill Cornell
Ethel Spinks
Janice Krull
Edwin Krull
Andrew Krull
Janey M.Y. Cheu
Eunice & Bob Eisenbraun
Marian & Nelson Limber
Al & Susan Easton
Loved ones
Margaret
Mom & Dad
Auntie & Kenny Jr.
Howard & Doris Roeller
Mrs. Sara E. Logan
Mrs. Lala M. Jackson



Given by:

Annette Johnson

John & Dawn Knutson

Tara Lindsley

Jerry Nathan

Sarah Macinski & Dorothy Sperry

Yousaf & Neelam Mathias

Harry P. Meislahn

John & Lee Myers

Mary Rogers

Harriet B. Seeley

Rachel Smith

Dorothy Sperry

Sharon & Joe Steffens

Bob & Linda Stevens

Roseline & David Takor

Their Children, Grandchildren,

& Great Granddaughters

In Memory of:

Madeleine & Walter Johnson

Our parents, John & Ethel

Knutson and James &

Nancy Sampson

Charlie Kite

Geraldine Nathan

Michael Davis

George & Dorothy Sperry

Lily Adiel

Claudia & Munir Mathias

Esther Mall

Meredith G. Meislahn

Jane Shaw Myers

In honor of departed loved
ones

Avery

Bob Rogers

Dan Carroll

Mary & Jay Seeley

Dwight C. Smith, Jr.

Paul Behrens

Deborah Acker

Beatrice Bisognano

George & Dorthy Stevens

Martha Abunaw

Mami Emilia Takor

Darwin & Florence Geuther

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Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.