



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
December 19, 2021
The Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The World in Solemn Stillness Lay

arr. Michael Ryan

Carol of the Bells

arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Watch and wait, for Christ is coming!

Let us light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

The simple beauty in these candles reminds us of the hope we have in Christ.

We watch and wait for Christ's coming! And we rejoice!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The McGloughlin/DeMotte Family

We light this candle in love. Jesus, the Light of the World, shines for us.

Let us pray: Faithful God, renew us in love that we may be alert to the growing of Christ's light among us.
God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF PRAISE

God of archangels caroling through the heavens, and
God of cherubs with cotton-ball wings and coat-hanger frames;
God of shepherds in the fields, and
God of toddler lambs searching for their mommies;
God of wise men from the East, and
God of magi whose adolescent voices crack when speaking of you;
God of a Bethlehem barn and God of First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary,
we pray to you this morning.

We pray asking for your sacred sight.
We ask you, never-sleeping God,
to help us see the world as you see it –
*As a play, as a pageant,
full of human foibles and dotted with grace,
a bit nerve-wracking, a bit glorious,
dancing on the verge of wonder
and abundant with unexpected joy.*

Help us to see life as a Christmas pageant, God,
an event in which we will all
eventually find our way to you.
Amen.

*HYMN 49 (V.1 – 4)

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, during this season of anticipation, we confess that we busy ourselves with many preparations and neglect preparing our hearts for your coming. Our relationships with you and our neighbors are wounded. We have failed to love as you love us. We do not always live in the joy of the Good News of Jesus Christ, whose coming we both celebrate and await. Forgive us, and mend what is broken.

Silent confession

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Merciful God, open unto us light for our darkness, courage for our fear, strength for our weakness, compassion for our apathy. Prepare our hearts to receive Christ, who brings us hope in our despair, peace in our turmoil, joy in our sorrow, and love in our loneliness. Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (HYMN 31, V.1)

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!"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-7

PAGEANT



Prepare to receive him, the promised Messiah,
the loving and caring, the Savior of all;
the promised, Messiah.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We make our offering today with loving hearts, trusting that the Holy One who comes to us will bless our gifts and our lives, to make us signs of love in the world.

Please leave your offering in the plate in the back of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy and Righteous God, we offer our gifts with humble hearts, knowing the need in our world is great and our gifts alone will never fit that need. We offer our gifts in love that you will bless them and use them to help fulfill your purpose revealed in Jesus Christ, Savior of us all.

Amen.

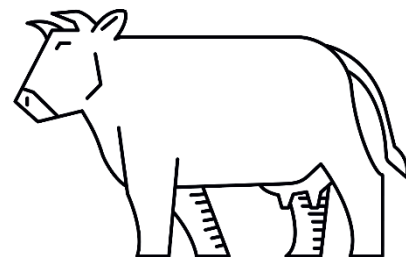
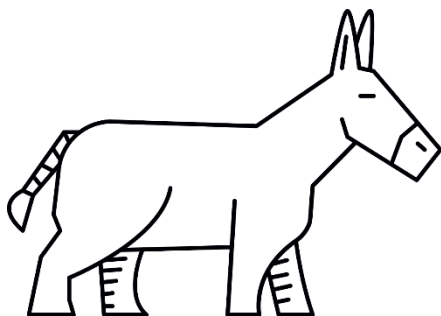
*HYMN 25 (V.1 – 3)

Away in a Manger

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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

French, 16th c., arr. Callahan

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Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

The Handbell Choir

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Kimberly Rausch, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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Luke 2:1-7

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.