

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR DEC. 24, 2023

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT 116 *The Snow Lay on the Ground* (vrs. 1&4) VENITE ADOREMUS

Gathering Around The Word

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE *The Wright Family*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *from Luke 1:46b, 49*

One: My soul magnifies the Lord.
My spirit rejoices in God my savior.

All: **For the Mighty One has done great things,
and holy is God's name.**

***HYMN 113** *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)
Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us,
yet we often make plans without listening to you
and discover that our human agendas
can drown out our ability to hear your will for us.
We repent of these faults and turn to you in love.
Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins,
that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *from Ps. 126:3, 6*

One: Children of God, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is
everlasting.

All: **Thanks be to God: we are forgiven!**

***PASSING THE PEACE**
We invite you to share the peace of Christ with others.

***RESPONSE 581** GLORIA PATRI
**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.**

**for portions marked with an asterisk, you're invited to rise in body or spirit*

Listening To the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING ISAIAH 9:2-7
(The scripture readings can be found on the side panel of the bulletin)

ANTHEM *Do You Hear What I Hear?* NOEL REGNEY
GLORIA SHAYNE

SECOND READING LUKE 2:1-14

SERMON "Coming Home for Christmas" Rev. Dr. Tim Noel

Responding to the Word

***HYMN 144** *In the Bleak Midwinter* CRANHAM

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** APOSTLES' CREED

**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;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

SHARING OUR PRAYERS *See prayer concerns list, back page*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *page 35 in hymnal*

GIVING BACK TO GOD'S KINGDOM

*Joining Mary's joyful song,
our souls proclaim the greatness of the Lord,
and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.
With humble and grateful hearts,
let us bring our offerings to God.*

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY 606**
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *from Luke 1:52-53*

God Sends Us Forth

***HYMN 110** *Love Has Come* BRING A TORCH

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

***BLESSING**
HYMN 137 *He Came Down* (vrs 1) HE CAME DOWN

POSTLUDE

Visiting today? Welcome!

Please tell us a little about yourself!
You can scan this QR code with your
smartphone to fill out our online form.
We would love to get to know you better!



This Week

TONIGHT! @ 6:00pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 25 - Jan. 1 - Church Office Closed
(for timely matters, call 606-875-3474)
Thur., Dec. 28 @ 5:45pm - Centering Prayer

Next Sunday

Sun., Dec. 31 @ 4:00pm - Watch Night Service
Sun., Dec. 31 @ 4:45pm - Coffee Plus

Worship Assistants Next Week

Liturgist.....Paula Burlew
Ushers.....John & Lynn Cain
Audio.....Josh Jones
Video.....Jon Burlew
Coffee Plus.....Laura Wright

First Reading—Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Second Reading—Luke 2:1-14

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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 in the guest room.

⁸Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And 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!”

Scripture verses taken from the New Revised Standard Updated Edition



Prayers for Comfort, Concern, and Healing

Autumn Brock; Mary Beth Waller’s mom; Pat Carpenter’s son,
Josh White; Angie Butler; Barbie Cooper; Rogelio Castillo;
Don Haney; Autumn Brock’s mom, Marie; Jennifer Williams;
Glenda Wilson; Pat Carpenter; Bill House; Ed & Joyce Mick;
Leslie Phillips

Current Giving

	Rec’d month of Nov.	Needed Monthly	Received YTD	Needed YTD
Pledged Offering	\$10,699	\$13,934	\$140,176	\$153,271
Non- Pledged	\$4,938	\$3,154	\$48,227	\$34,698

Blessing Box Attendant

This Week.....Marci Randall
Next Week.....Suzanne Kidd

Assisting In Worship Today

Ministers.....Every Member
Liturgist.....Mary Jones
Ushers.....Jo & Jimmy Salmon
Audio.....Josh Jones
Video.....Jon Burlew
Coffee Plus.....Laura Wright
Director of Music.....Theresa Jean Kibby
Piano & Organ.....Debby McDonald
Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Tim Noel

Deacons:

Paula Burlew	Eileen Stockham	Carol Prater
Cindy Fountain	Mary Beth Waller	Sue Guffey
Marshall Judy	Marci Randall	

Elders:

<i>Class of 2023</i>	<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>
Forrest Brock	Charles Leveridge	
Kimberly King	Zack Vaught	Sharon Mandt
Chris Phillips	John Wright	Perry Waller

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First Presbyterian Church

December 24th, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Valente, Liz. Mary and Joseph Arrive in Bethlehem, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59308> [retrieved December 20, 2023]. Original source: Liz Valente, <https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente/>.

People of God, Welcome Home!

May Christ’s peace and presence fill your heart as you worship this day, and may you go forth with the light and love of God shining within you.

We welcome you to worship, and ask that any electronic devices be placed on silent so that all may hear what God has to say.