

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Matt Schultz—Pastor**  
**Jan Gruhn—Organist**  
**December 24, 2015, 5:30 p.m.**

**Prelude**            *“Medley of Carols”*

**Welcome**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Tonight we gather with joyful hearts to receive God’s greatest gift.

**All: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

Leader: Tonight we hear again the good news that was given for all people.

**All: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

Leader: Tonight we join in steadfast wonder at God’s amazing love.

**All: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

Leader: Tonight we welcome the Savior whose birth has forever changed our lives.

**All: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

✠CAROL            *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*            #151

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Special Music            *“O Holy Night”*            Jim Powell, Tenor

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: “THE FIRST CHRISTMAS”**

*(During this portion of our worship service, you are invited to sing with our play participants.)*

Carol            *“O Come All Ye Faithful”*            (v.1)            #173

Carol            *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*            (v.1)            #155

Carol            *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*            (v. 1)            # 152

Carol            *“Away in a Manger”*            (v.1)            #147

Carol            *“We Three Kings”*            (v.1)            #185

Carol            *“Joy to the World”*            (v.1-2)            # 146

**PRESENTATION OF OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS**

*Our offering tonight will go to support the Downtown Soup Kitchen who opened an emergency cold weather shelter for single women. DSK is working with Catholic Social Services as well as several sponsors and state funding to provide not only beds for the women but access to case managers who can work with the women on a path toward stabilized housing.*

**OFFERTORY**            **Paul Lindemuth**            **Cello**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY**

Leader: Carry your candle, run to the darkness.

**All: Let us seek out the tired, lonely and worn.**

Leader: Hold out your candle for all to see it.

**All: Let us take our candle and light the world.**

Leader: Carry your candle, run to the darkness.

**All: Let us seek out the hopeless, confused and torn.**

Leader: Hold out your candle for all to see it.

**All: Let us take our candle and light the world.**

✠CAROL            *“Silent Night”*            #164

As we sing “Silent Night” the lights will be dimmed. The ushers will light the candle of the worshippers in nearest proximity to them and they in turn will pass the light of Christ to others. As our candles are a sea of light lit from the one Light of Christ, so may we reflect Christ’s light and love in the world. We extinguish our candles after the Benediction.

✠**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**            *“Joy to the World”*            Arr., Young

## Christmas Eve Family Service Participants

Director of Education for Children and Youth: Danna Larson

Lighting of the Advent Wreath  
Scott, Carrie, Hannah, & Timothy Gruhn

### “The Christmas Story in Word, Dance and Song” Cast

Narrator	Megan Junge
Innkeeper	Vernon Lindemuth
Angel Gabriella	Lauren Lindemuth
Mary	Katie Lindemuth
Joseph	Andrew Schultz
Angel Messenger	Hannah Gruhn

Chorus of Angels: McKenzie Perham, Changkadiok Bithow  
Nyachom Bithow, Nyatut Bithow  
Elan Mies, Julia Rowley

Shepherds and Sheep: Madyson Baker, Deng Bithow, Hunter Perham

Magi: Timothy Gruhn, Vernon Lindemuth, Tacoma Sparks

### Thank you to the following....

Director	Danna Larson
Sound and Staging:	Bob Musgrave
Costumes, Props and Staging Assistance:	
	Diana Rotkis, Amanda Lindemuth, Jackie Musgrave Desiree Perham, Whitney Caravan, Elaine Junge, James Schultz

Music: Lisa Geist and Jan Gruhn

And a HUGE **THANK YOU** to our Children and Youth Ministry volunteers for your time, love, and dedication: Diana Rotkis, Elaine Junge, Tammy Lindemuth, Annie Margeson, Jenny Alowa, Katherine Miller, Sarah Kleedehn, Joan Lindemuth, Lisa Geist, Lauren Lindemuth, James Schultz, Beth Margeson, April Hoffman, and Scott Gruhn.

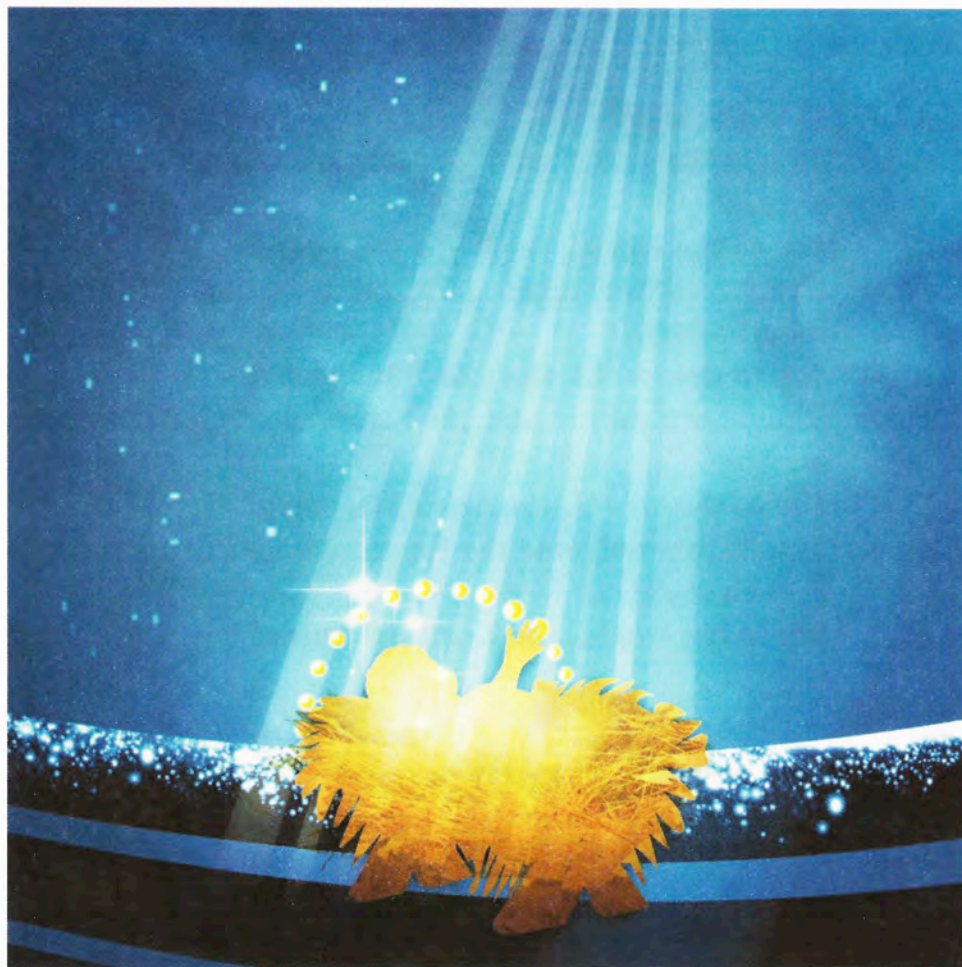
*Join us during the Christmas season for the following:*

*Sunday, Dec. 27: Worship at 11 am*

*Sunday, Jan. 3: Epiphany Brunch and Party (9:30 am) & Worship at 11 am*

*Join us we celebrate the arrival of the Magi*

Welcome to  
First Presbyterian Church  
of Anchorage



Thursday, December 24, 2015 5:30 p.m.  
Family Service