

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

SHARING THE LIGHT

The ministers will bring the light to the worshippers at the end of each row. Please hold lighted candles upright and tip unlighted candles into the flame of a lighted candle. Following the benediction, please extinguish your candle. May you carry the light of Christ in your heart now and always.

*HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

122

*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.*

*Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born."*

*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,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star lend thy light
With the angels let us sing.
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born.
Christ the Savior is born.*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Albert Travis

*Please stand if you are able.

GUEST MUSICIANS

Gordon Tsai, Helen Bryenton, Violin
Kathryn Gawne, Viola
Andy Bryenton, Cello

WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville. We have been part of the downtown Knoxville community since 1792. We embrace people from all walks of life and seek to share our spiritual journey with our community. We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are delighted that you have joined us in worship today.

To learn more about us, please make a note on the Friendship Pad, sign up for our Thursday newsletter, or connect with us at fpcknox.org, via the QR code to the right, or through social media.



Hearing enhancement devices and large print hymnals are available for use during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

OFFERING

You may place your offering in the offering plates when they are passed, or you are invited to give securely online at www.fpcknox.org/donate or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone.



STAFF AND LEADERS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Mark R. Curtis Senior Pastor	Laura Harmon Church Administrator
The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis Associate Pastor	Lauren Nunn Director of Parent's Day Out / Childcare Coordinator
Dr. Andy Morgan Director of Family Faith Formation	Sandra Robinson Administrative Assistant
Mark Pace Organist/Choirmaster	Victor Lenoir Custodian
Mary Wilson Adult Ministry Coordinator	Paul Seguna Sound Engineer
Katie Norrell Director of Communications	
Jane Holland Director of Finance/Facilities	

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

Hark the Herald Angels Sing
How Far to Bethlehem
Angels' Carol
What Is This Lovely Fragrance
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Tune: Adeste Fideles
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Tune: Veni Emmanuel

One License #150707
One License # HB747
One License # 80728
One License # 80984

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Tune: Es Ist Ein' Ros'
Joy to the World
Tune: Antioch
Silent Night, Holy Night
Tune: Stille Nacht
Joy To the World

One License # 10-791-14

FOR OUR YOUNGER WORSHIPPERS

All children are welcome in worship at FPC. Children, Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Children's Area (2nd floor) after Special Time with Young Disciples. Worship Bags are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. A nursery is available for children, in preschool and younger, in the Nursery rooms (2nd floor).



By Stushie Art

First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

CHRISTMAS EVE 2023

10:30 P.M. SERVICE

CAROLS, COMMUNION, AND CANDLELIGHT

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

CAROLS, COMMUNION, AND CANDLELIGHT

PRELUDE	<i>Joy to the World</i>	Arr. Lloyd Larson
	<i>Silent Night! Holy Night!</i>	Arr. Lloyd Larson
	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	Arr. Lloyd Larson
	<i>How Far is It To Bethlehem</i>	Arr. Anna Laura Page
	Adult Handbell Choir	
	<i>Bring a Torch</i>	Arr. Michael Tyree
	String Quartet	
	<i>This Child, This King</i>	Daniel E. Gawthrop
	<i>Angels' Carol</i>	John Rutter
	<i>What is This Lovely Fragrance?</i>	Healey Willan
	<i>Rise Up, Shepherds, and Follow</i>	Arr. Gordon Thornett
	Adult Choir	
	<i>O Holy Night</i>	Adolphe Adam
	Ryan Ford, Tenor	

CHRISTMAS GREETING Rev. Mark R. Curtis

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Zee Troutman, Sandra Robinson,
& Stacy Davis

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,
and set lights in the sky — sun and moon and stars.
By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys.
By these stars, they knew God was with them.
In the beginning was the Word.
And the Word has come down from heaven to earth.
By the Word made flesh, Christ our Savior,
we know that God is with us.

**Tonight we light five candles to bring the fire of the stars
down from heaven to earth,
to dwell among the people of God.**

We name this candle Hope.

We name this candle Peace.

We name this candle Joy.

We name this candle Love.

We name this candle Christ.

Our lives are a journey, and we do not always know the way.

But we chart our path by the star of Christ.

**Even when faith burns low
and its promises seem too good to be true,
we set our face steadily towards the light.**

Listen to ancient words come true anew this night:

“The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

For 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” (Isaiah 9:2, 6).

**Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of Christ’s presence
this night and this week,
help us to become the signs of Christ’s presence
that others are searching for.
As these candles are but a glimpse of the light
of the heavens,
help us to be a glimpse of heaven on earth.
Help us to shine like stars in the world. Amen.**

***HYMN** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* 133

***UNISON PRAYER** Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis

**Good and gracious God,
on this holy night you gave us your Son,
the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes;
the Savior of all, lying in a manger.
On this holy night you shattered the darkness of our world
with the life that is the light of all people.
On this holy night, shepherds keeping watch over their flocks
saw the glory of the Lord shine round about them.
On this holy night you sent a star to point the way
to your love.
On this holy night draw us into the mystery.
Join our voices with the angels that we may sing your praise,
and guide us by that star to find the light of the world,
so that we may see the one for whom we have waited,
Jesus Christ, our Messiah and Lord. Amen.**

THE ANCIENT PROPHECY Isaiah 7:10-14 Sandra Robinson

CAROL *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vv. 1, 6, 7) 88
(please remain seated)

THE ANGEL’S VISIT Luke 1:26-37 Katie Norrell

CAROL *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming* 129
(please remain seated)

THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM Luke 2:1-7 Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis

MEDITATION Rev. Mark R. Curtis

ANTHEM *Christ Our Emmanuel* John Rutter

THE ANGEL’S ANNOUNCEMENT Luke 2:8-14 Rev. Mark R. Curtis
And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields,
keeping watch over their flocks by night. And, lo, the angel of the
Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about
them: and they were sore afraid.

**And the angel said unto them, “Fear not: for, behold, I
bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all
people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.**

And this shall be a sign unto you; you shall find the babe wrapped in
swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the
heavenly host praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in
the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all.”**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES - Christmas Joy Offering

OFFERTORY *Gesu Bambino* Pietro Yon

THE SHEPHERD’S JOURNEY Luke 2:15-20 Mary Wilson

***CAROL** *Joy to the World!* 134

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *In the Bleak Midwinter* M. J. Trotta

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter
our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of
Christ’s presence, that we may clearly see the way to walk,
the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord
Jesus Christ. As you have given yourself to us, now we offer
ourselves to you, to your glory and for the work of your
Kingdom. Amen.**