



*First Presbyterian Church, Annapolis, MD
Worship, 5:30 pm*

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

✦ Please rise in body or in spirit.

Welcome to our participatory worship. Tonight we will hear the nativity story and build a crèche scene as the story is told. Legend is that St. Francis of Assisi arranged the very first nativity or manger scene in Italy, because so many people could not read. Using live animals, St. Francis set up a manger scene in the village square to help tell the story of the birth of Jesus. Many, many people came to hear and see this Bible story in the thirteenth century. In your pews are crèche figures. As the nativity story is read by the youth of the church, they will prompt when various characters are to be added to the scene. Please find the person in your pew who is willing to come forward to help create our manger scene. Thank you.

PRELUDE - O Holy Night

arr. Mark Hayes

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Alex & Adeline Jorgensen

The Christmas Candle honors the Child, who warms and lights our lives,
who refreshes us with stories that inspire us with promises,
and whose fruitfulness we hope to be.

It honors ordinary and powerful people, Christmas creatures and a Star,
who found in the Child a love worth remembering.

It honors flowing rivers and teeming seas that lent their power to Jesus,
and an ocean of human souls who have flowed to him over the centuries.
May no heart be untouched this night,
and may every wandering soul find a way to Bethlehem.

HYMN 147, VS. 1 & 2 - The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

A SIMPLE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

'Twas the night before Christ's birth and far above earth,
The angels were ready to announce Jesus' birth.
The people in Bethlehem, a very small town,
Were just getting ready to lay themselves down.
And out on the hillside, while watching their sheep,
A group of young shepherds were falling asleep.

Ella Sweet

HYMN - *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 thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

When suddenly out of the sky came a light
And an angel appeared making everything bright!
Peace to all! Spread the news! Have no fear!
For the news I bring is for all to hear.
A baby is born! This night is his birth.
And he came to live with all people on earth.
In Bethlehem town you will find this dear child
With Joseph and Mary, Jesus' mother so mild.

Jackie Hudiburg

HYMN - *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!"***

Sharing a manger with oxen, donkeys, and sheep,
Nestled in blankets, the babe, sound asleep.
Good news we bring you this wonderful night
Christ Jesus has come, so run to the site.
Glory to God in the highest we sing.
The Savior is here, Christ Jesus our King!

Colt Jett

HYMN - *Away in a Manger*

CRADLE SONG

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

So after the angels delivered the news
The shepherds went searching with no time to lose!
And just as the angels had told them aloud
They found Jesus with Mary and Joseph, so proud.

Sophia Richardson

The shepherds returned, praising God for His Son.
They told many folks about this precious one,
But Mary was different, she kept in her heart
All wondrous events of which she was part.

HYMN - *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!***

Magi who lived in a land far away
saw a star burning like the sun in the day.
They questioned and wondered what this light could mean,
For a star of this brilliance had never been seen.
They traveled in search of a king, but who knew.
They would worship a child from the land of the Jews.
The star showed the magi where Jesus would be.
They offered their gifts to him on bent knee.

Sami Jett

HYMN - *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

***We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!***

Now all of these things came to pass as was told,
Fulfilling the promise of God made of old,
This child, God's son, came to earth as flesh
The beautiful unfolding of God's covenant plan.
So, this season observe the night of Christ's birth,
Remember the good news of God's love and grace.
Let us close with a message that seems only right,
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!

Caroline Kempton

✦ **HYMN 134, VS. 1 & 4 - *Joy to the World***

ANTIOCH

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sophie Hudiburg

Loving God, before time and space
your living Word was with you creating all things.
In the fullness of time, he came to bring peace and to show us how to love.
By the anointing of your Holy Spirit, inspire us to share his light wherever we go
as we carry your good news of salvation to the ends of the earth. Amen.

GOSPEL READING - John 1:1-5, 14-16

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.
(John testified to him and cried out,
"This was he of whom I said,
'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me
because he was before me.'")
From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Isaiah 11:6; Amos 5:24; Psalm 103:8, Luke 2

O God, whose love blesses and unites us in this place and time,
we come before you with hearts gladdened by this holy season,
its lights, its colors, and, most especially, its message of peace and good will to all.

Shine upon them and give them peace.

In the birth of Jesus,
you have given our weary and struggling world reason to rejoice.
In the cry of an infant, you have given hope to all who cry.
By the light of a star, you have helped us find our way again.

Shine upon them and give them peace.

We thank you, good and generous God, that in Jesus the Christ,
you have made yourself known and have beckoned us to join you
in the continual creation of a world
where wolf and lamb shall dwell together and justice will roll down like waters.

Shine upon them and give them peace.

Create in us, O God, hearts devoted to shaping that world,
and bless especially those for whom such a world seems only a distant dream —
the poor, the imprisoned, the ill, the lonely, and the despised.

Shine upon them and give them peace.

Open our hearts, Spirit of Life,
to the news of angels and the wonder of shepherds
that these days may renew us for the days to come.
Grant us, for the sake of Christ's ministry,
hearts that may discern how to make meaningful the Gospel that we cherish.

Shine upon them and give them peace.

May our lives be blessed, that those whose lives we touch may hear in our words
and see in our lives that truly you are merciful and gracious
and abounding in steadfast love!

These things we ask, trusting in your care for us today and always.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Billy Martin

Your offering tonight supports ministries such as:

- the Lighthouse Shelter and providing Coats for Kids
- STAIR – a program that tutors at-risk second graders how to read at grade level
- The Backpack Buddies food program
- a week of Winter Relief housing for the homeless
- Habitat for Humanity housing initiative,
- as well as supporting Comunidad Presbiteriana La Trinidad,
a Hispanic Community who worships in our chapel.
- We also reach out internationally in places like Haiti, Cuba, Rwanda, Guatemala and Letohrad, in ministries of hope.

OFFERTORY - *The Wexford Carol*

arr. Mark Hayes

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Chloe Vowell

Wonderful God,
in praise and celebration we are here this night,
but we recognize we do so not for the sake of the past.
We gather because we have hope for the future.
Use us and the gifts we bring that we might
bring your presence into our community through our loving actions.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*(For everyone's safety, please do not tip a lighted candle.
Children five and under should share holding a candle with a parent.)*

HYMN 122 - Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

A JOYFUL BLESSING

Be people of joy.
Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet.
Share joy by seeing the good in each other.
Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come.
Share joy by praying for our world.
In this Christmas season, we need to see, feel, and share joy.
As you go out into the wonder of God's creation,
share joy, peace, and hope with those you meet.
Amen.

POSTLUDE - In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach

Rev. Dr. Lisa Rzepka, Transitional Pastor

Dr. Robert Muckenfuss, Music Director & Organist / Miss Good, Family Ministry Director

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First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis / 171 Duke of Gloucester Street / Annapolis MD 21401

Partner with the Caibarién congregation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Church of Cuba

The National Naval Memorial of the PC(USA) / An Earth Care Congregation of the PC(USA)

Partner with Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren, Czech Republic

Covenant Church with the Haiti Restoration Partnership

HEARING AIDS, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & BIBLES AVAILABLE FROM USHERS. SANCTUARY EQUIPPED WITH A T-LOOP; SET HEARING AID TO "T" POSITION.

THOSE ASSISTING THIS EVENING - **Liturgists:** Lisa Rzepka, Miss Good; **Ushers:** Clair & Barbara Morris; **Acolytes:** Drew Shallcross, Sophia Richardson.

MEMBERSHIP - The next new members class will be held this spring. If interested, please contact Elder, Bruce Bell (brucebell123@gmail.com) or the church office.

NEW YEAR'S EVE INTERFAITH CELEBRATION - December 31, 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm service at Eastport United Methodist Church (926 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis). New Year's Eve event that combines communal singing, ensembles, prayers and readings by multiple faith groups.

MICHAEL ANELLO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR HAITI REFORESTATION PARTNERSHIP - will visit Annapolis and give a talk on Sunday, January 12, at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. Come hear how CODEP is moving forward despite the tough political unrest. Michael will also be speaking at Youth Fellowship that evening.

LOOKING AHEAD IN WORSHIP

December 29 - First Sunday after Christmas

Rev. Karen Brown will preach one service at **11:00 am only**. Mary Marie Quigley will serve as organist and there will be two soloists.

January 5, 2020 - Celebrate Epiphany and Remember White Gifts!

Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am as we celebrate Epiphany with the annual pageant. 11:00 am Discovery not offered but Sunday School and Coffee Hour as normal.

During the Epiphany service, we bring food items wrapped in white paper as a gift for Baby Jesus. This year the food will be donated to the Backpack Buddies (BB) program at Annapolis Elementary School. Small, individual portions for children to carry home from school are ideal. Monetary donations to the BB program may be made via offering plate using the white envelopes or online (www.annapolis-presbyterian.com/give).



FPC MISSION STATEMENT: WE ARE CALLED TO DO JUSTICE, LOVE KINDNESS AND WALK HUMBLLY WITH GOD. Micah 6:8