



CHRISTMAS

EVE SERVICE

24
DEC



5:00
PM

2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF PORTLAND



*Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Carmen Goetschius

*We're so glad you're here and would love to connect with you!
Please fill out the blue "Welcome" card in the pew to learn more about our congregation
and programs. You can drop the completed card in one of the offering plates.
Online visitors may click the blue "Visiting FPC? Let's Connect!" tab on our website.
Thank you for being a part of our Christmas Eve service.*

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

In him, there is no darkness.

[Candles are lit]

**Shine on us, O God of glory,
as we welcome the gift of your Son!**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Heidi Bolt

Long ago, prophets spoke words of hope to a people longing for a savior.

At just the right time, God came to us in Jesus Christ.

Not with pomp and circumstance. Not with royalty or worldly riches.

Jesus came to us in humility, born in a stable, laid in a manger.

As we prepare to hear the message of the angels once again,
and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,

**let us open our hearts to the holy scriptures
and to the story of God's loving purposes in the world.**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
[*Refrain*] O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [*Refrain*]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

O God, you search us out and know us,
even when we fail to follow your ways:
when we make no room for Christ,
and overlook his presence in our lives;
when we ignore the poor and displaced,
and turn our backs on those you would have us love.
Forgive us.
Guide us and strengthen our faith,
and in your mercy, hear our prayers...

Prayers of confession continue in silence.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The good news of Jesus' coming is great joy for all people:
for unto us a savior has been born, a son has been given.
Trust, believe, and live the good news of the Gospel:
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you!

Please take a moment to greet those around you with God's peace.

CHILDREN'S LESSON A Retelling of the Very First Christmas

*All children are invited forward to learn about the “Pop-Up Christmas Pageant”
that will take place later in the service.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

SOLO The Little Road to Bethlehem Michael Head

As I walked down the road at set of sun, the lambs were coming homewards, one by one,
I heard a sheep-bell softly calling them along the little road to Bethlehem.

Beside an open door, as I drew nigh, I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby.
She sang about the lambs at close of day and rocked her tiny King among the hay.

Across the air the silver sheep-bell rang, “The lambs are coming home,” sweet Mary sang,
“Your Star of gold, your Star of gold is shining in the sky, so sleep, my little King, go lullaby.”

As I walked down the road at set of sun, the lambs were coming homewards, one by one,
I heard a sheep-bell softly calling them along the little road to Bethlehem.

A POP-UP CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Luke 2:1-20

HYMN #115 Away in a Manger MUELLER

**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.**

**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.**

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION “For Unto Us A Child Is Born”

***HYMN #121**

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.**

**For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

AN INVITATION TO GIVE

*Contributions may be made by leaving your gifts in the offering plates,
mailing a check to the church office, scanning the QR code below,
or giving online at www.firstpresportland.org.*



**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.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

God, our Savior,
you came to us in Christ to bring peace upon the earth,
to lift up the lowly, and to heal the brokenhearted.
And yet, this world in which we live is full of trouble.
There are many who are weary, sick, cold, and hungry;
many who are sad and lonely;
and many who struggle to find purpose and joy in their daily lives.
Draw near, Loving God, to every person across the globe
and especially to all who are in need of your help.
Where there is violence, we pray for your peace.
Where there is pain and grief, we pray for your comfort.
Help us to honor the things you honor; and love the things you love.
And help us to see and experience and trust in your love.
As we rejoice in your Son this Christmas Eve,
we know that there are many who rejoice with us,
but upon another shore and in a greater light,
a multitude which no one can number,
whose hope was in the Word made flesh,
and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.
With gratitude and hope, we pray these things in the name of Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**[Refrain] Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

arr. Mary Beth Bennett

Participating in the Service:

Rev. Carmen Goetschius, Associate Pastor
Rev. Heidi Bolt, Interim Pastor
Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries
Madeline Ross, Soloist
The Scalera Family, Advent Wreath Lighters
The Wrights, as the Holy Family

*We are grateful for your presence this evening and the opportunity to worship together.
We warmly invite you to return tonight at 9:00 pm for our
Lessons and Carols with Candlelight Christmas Eve service.*

Merry Christmas!

We are so glad you joined us for Christmas Eve
Worship, and we hope you will come again.

Church services are held at 10:30 am every
Sunday, followed by coffee and fellowship. There
are many ways to grow in faith, serve, and share
your gifts at this church. For more information,
visit www.firstpresportland.org.



KIDS MINISTRY

First Presbyterian Portland has a vibrant ministry to
children and families. To learn more about Sunday
School, playgroups, and ways to get involved,
please contact Pastor Carmen at
cgoetschiuse@firstpresportland.org.



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF PORTLAND

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