



CHRISTMAS

EVE SERVICE

24
DEC



9:00
PM

2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF PORTLAND



PRELUDE

WELCOME

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Great God, as you came at night when all was still,
so enter our lives this night.
Shine through the darkness of these days
with the light of Christ's presence
that we may take hope and heart,
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN #140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

(the congregation is invited to join in singing stanzas 3 and 4)

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Unison*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Lauren Deming

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

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!**

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Steve Chown

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

ANTHEM

There Is No Rose

Philip W.J. Stopford

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu:
Alleluia! [*Praise the Lord*]
For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space:
Res miranda! [*Wondrous thing*]
By that rose we may well see there be One God in Persons three:
Pares forma! [*Of the same form*]
The angels sungen the shepherds to: Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gaudeamus! [*Let us rejoice*]
Leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth:
Transeamus! [*Let us go*]

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

HYMN #160

A Stable Lamp Is Lighted

ANDUJAR

*(This beautiful carol was first published in 1985, and has been included in most hymnals published since.
The text was written by a US Poet Laureate, and the music by one of the foremost church musicians of our age.
You are invited to join in singing the gentle lullaby-like tune.)*

**A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky;
the stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, and straw like gold shall shine;
a barn shall harbor heaven, a stall become a shrine.**

**This child through David's city shall ride in triumph by;
the palm shall strew its branches, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, though heavy, dull, and dumb,
and lie within the roadway to pave his kingdom come.**

**Yet he shall be forsaken, and yielded up to die;
the sky shall groan and darken, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, for hearts made hard by sin:
God's blood upon the spearhead, God's love refused again.**

**But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high;
the stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, in praises of the child
by whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled.**

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Paul Butler

The shepherds go to the manger.

ANTHEM

Wexford Carol

Trad. Irish (arr. John Rutter)

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind
what our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day;
in Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.

The night before that happy tide the noble Virgin and her guide
were long time seeking up and down to find a lodging in the town.
But mark how all things came to pass: from every door repelled, alas!
As long foretold, their refuge all was but an humble oxen stall.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
to whom God's angels did appear which put the shepherds in great fear.
'Prepare and go', the angels said, 'to Bethlehem, be not afraid;
for there you'll find, this happy morn, a princely babe, sweet Jesus born.'

With thankful heart and joyful mind the shepherds went the babe to find,
and as God's angel had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold.
Within a manger he was laid, and by his side the virgin maid,
Attending on the Lord of life, who came on earth to end all strife.

MEDITATION

Rev. Brenna Dykman

***HYMN #132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

FIFTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

Rev. David Dornack

The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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



OFFERTORY

Before the Marvel of This Night

Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow;
then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:
sing peace; sing peace; sing gift of peace; sing peace; sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song: this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:
sing bliss; sing bliss; sing endless bliss; sing bliss; sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:
sing love; sing love; sing God is love; sing love; sing God is love!

— Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1979

SIXTH LESSON

John 1:1-5, 9-14

Rev. Brenna Dykman

John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

HYMN #122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

The Christ candle is lit.

**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.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

God of love,
you make this holy night radiant
with the splendor of Jesus Christ our light.
We welcome him as Lord, true light of the world.
Make us people of this light,
that we may bring your life to the waiting world.
Bring us to eternal joy in heaven
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, forever and ever. Alleluia! Amen.

***HYMN #133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

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!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created! [Refrain]

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

***PRAYER**

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

...be upon you and remain with you always.
Alleluia!
Go forth in peace and joy.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

Fantasia on *In dulci jubilo*, BWV 729 Johann Sebastian Bach

Participating in the Service:

Rev. Brenna Dykman, Associate Pastor
Rev. David Dornack, Parish Associate
Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries
First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir
Ann van Bever, Oboe and English horn
Esther Shim, Violin
Betsy Goy, Cello
David Leatherwood and Marilyn Howe, Audio and Video
Icenogle, Halsey, and Hoem Families, Candlelighters

Christmas Eve Special Offering

First Presbyterian Church is grateful for your support, which has helped the church love our neighbors in downtown Portland for over 165 years. In response to the needs in our city, tonight's offerings, not otherwise designated, will be shared equally between the church and the Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP). NEFP serves 10,000 individuals in 3,000 households every month. In addition to providing food, NEFP develops community solutions to secure access to adequate, affordable, healthy food. We ground our work in the belief that nutritious food is a basic human need and a building block for a healthy life of possibility.

We warmly invite you to join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30 AM.



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF PORTLAND

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