



Christmas Eve

Minister: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

ALL: Amen.

THE GLORIA PATRI

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”

THE INCARNATION FORETOLD - Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace here will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

THE CAROL - *"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"*

***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 th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."***

***Christ, by highest heaven adored: Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come to the earth from heaven's home;
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with him to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,"***

***Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the Sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,"***

THE ANGELIC ANNUNCIATION TO MARY - Luke 1:26-35

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at His words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

The Lord God will give Him the throne of his father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His Kingdom will never end."

"How can this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you so the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

THE MAGNIFICAT - Luke 1:46-55

Minister: And Mary said, "My soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior

People: *For He has been mindful of the humble estate of His servant.*

Minister: From now on all generations will call me blessed for the Mighty One has done great things for me - Holy is His name.

People: *His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation.*

Minister: He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

People: *He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.*

Minister: He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

People: *He has helped His servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.*

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and the Holy Spirit;

People: *As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

THE BIRTH OF JESUS - Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

THE CAROL - "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

***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 men 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. Amen.***

THE ANGELIC ANNUNCIATION TO THE SHEPHERDS- Luke 2:8-20

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, to men on whom His favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her mind. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

THE CAROL - "Angels We Have Heard on High"

**Angels we have heard on high, Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, Why this Jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**See Him in a manger laid, Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend you aid, While we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

ANTHEM

"Gesù Bambino"

Juanita Ratliff

Leah Metzger, Pianist/Choral Director

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison): **Give us, O God such love and wonder that with shepherds and magi, and pilgrims unknown, we may come to adore the holy child, the promised King; and with our gifts worship him, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Minister: Father, it is our duty and our salvation.....

.....And so we join the angels and the saints in proclaiming your glory as we say:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Minister: Through Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

ALL: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Minister: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

ALL: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE - John 1:9-12

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

CAROL - "Silent Night" (Seated)

**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 the 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.*

THE LIGHT CHRISTMAS BRINGS TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES

You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

*CAROL - "Joy to the World"

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the World! the Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains.
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.*

THE BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Minister: May almighty God bless you, the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: *Amen.*

Minister: Go in peace.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

MAY YOU HAVE A JOY FILLED CHRISTMAS

AND

A BLESSED NEW YEAR!



*The Poinsettias are given
to the Glory of God by:*

Kim Torres in honor of my family who I am forever grateful for.

Jeanne Raulerson in memory of Harold Raulerson.

Bob & Christine Lutz in memory of Christine's parents, Richard & Marjorie Hamilton and Bob's parents, Ralph & Florence Lutz.

Juanita Ratliff in honor of my children, Mitchell and Emaley, with love and prayers for a happy and blessed 2023.

Juanita Ratliff in memory of my mother, Paula Faye Cosson, whose favorite season was Christmas.

Melissa Lockhart in honor of Daniel and Allison Everett.

Melissa Lockhart in honor of Jim and Margie Rawls.

Melissa Lockhart in memory of Suzan Miller.

Melissa Lockhart in memory of Perry Lockhart Jr.

Bob & Marne Helberg in honor of Carrie Albritton who is always very helpful.

Bob & Marne Helberg in honor of Leah Metzger for all her hard work with our music programs.

Nancy & Bob Bell in honor of Pastor Don McGarity and Bonnie.

Nancy & Bob Bell in memory of Malcom Page, our brother-in-love.

Betty Culbreath in memory of Eric Culbreath, Betty's husband.

Betty Culbreath in memory of Ashley Smith, Betty's grandson.

Steve & Cindy Brown in honor of our visiting pastors and current session leadership.

Steve & Cindy Brown in memory of our parents, Keith & Malzie Brown and Bill & Doris Meadows.

Tom & Marcy Fletcher in memory of Tom's parents, Fred and Beatrice Fletcher.

Tom & Marcy Fletcher in memory of Marcy's parents, Buster and Betty Valentine.

Tom & Marcy Fletcher in memory of Don Lincoln.

Tom & Marcy Fletcher in memory of Chuck Davis.

Tuti & Poppie in honor of Bailey Fletcher.

Tuti & Poppie in honor of Abbott Grace Fletcher.

Polly Kincaid in loving memory of her grandson, Billy Thompson Jr.

Polly Kincaid in memory of her loving husband, Chuck Kincaid.

Polly Kincaid in loving memory of her sister, Ellen Scott.

Polly Kincaid in loving memory of her son-in-law, Glenn Ratliff.

Patricia Lindsey in honor of First Presbyterian Congregation for notes, cards, prayers and love for me and my family.

First Presbyterian Church family in honor of Pastor Don McGarity.

First Presbyterian Church family in honor of Pastor Larry Green.

First Presbyterian Church family in honor of Pastor Sid Leak.

First Presbyterian Church family in honor of Pastor Harry Horne.

First Presbyterian Church family in honor of Pastor Bob Lutz.

First Presbyterian Church family in honor of Mark Coffey.



POINSETTIAS may be taken home after the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Worship Service.