

CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2024



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PERRY, FL

GATHERING

P-PASTOR, T-CANTOR, L-LITURGIST, **BOLD-ALL**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“Of The Father’s Love Begotten” Plainsong Arr. by Don Wyrzten

“This Child of Bethlehem” By Amanda Joy Powell Soloist: Sandi Hilgendorf

“What Child is This?” Old English Air Arr. by Don Wyrzten

“Breath of Heaven” Soloist: Juanita Ratliff Words and music by Chris Eaton and Amy Grant

“Manger Lullabies” Arr. by Don Wyrzten

We rise.

GATHERING SONG 'O Come, All Ye Faithful'

GTG 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
glo - ry in the high - est!
now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

LITANY OF CHRISTMAS

Cantor Juanita Ratliff

refrain



- T Blessed are you, Lord God, and Holy | is your name. **refrain**
You have sent your Son to be one of us, our brother. You chose Mary
the Virgin to | be his mother. **refrain**
You love your people with deepest love. You have sent your Son to
save us | from sin. **refrain**
Great is your mercy for your people. You fill your children with | joy
and peace. **refrain**
You call us to praise your name. Look with love upon your | holy
Church. **refrain**
Send the Spirit of your Son into our hearts. Let us bring glory and
praise | to your name. **refrain**
Through Jesus Christ your Son. And in the love of your | Holy Spirit.
refrain

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

- P In the beginning was the Word. **And the Word was with God and the Word was God.**
In him was light. **And the light was the life of all people.**
The light shines in the darkness. **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Christ candle is lit by the liturgist as we welcome the Christ.

We welcome you, O Christ, Light of the World. **Open our hearts and minds to worship you in spirit and in truth.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P We pray – Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L We pray: Dearest Jesus, as we listen to the familiar story of your coming among us as a child of flesh and blood, open our minds and hearts so that we may hear these wondrous events with new understanding, wisdom, and joy. **Amen.**

Be seated.

FIRST READING || Isaiah 9:2-7

L 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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY || Psalm 96

(we sing responsively by whole verse)



T Sing to the Lord | a new song; sing to the Lord, | all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.
As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.
Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.
Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.
Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord.
Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.
Tell it out among the nations: "The | Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will
judge the peo- | ples with equity."
Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- |
ing, O Lord, for you come to | judge the earth.
You will judge the | world with righteousness and the peoples | with
your truth.

SECOND READING || Titus 2:11-14

L The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

We rise.

GOSPEL READING || Luke 2:1-20

P The Gospel of our Lord according to St Luke the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of

David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Be seated.

SERMON || **“A Baby Changes Everything” John David Bryant, Pastor**

SERMON HYMN **‘Angels we have heard on high’** **GTG 113**

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

We rise.
CREED

L We profess our faith, saying – We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in

one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead (+), and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Let us pray to Jesus our Savior.

brief silence

L Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless. Jesus, Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep. Jesus, Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed. Jesus, Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern. Jesus, Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you. Jesus, Savior, **hear our prayer.**

P Jesus, Savior, child of Mary, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer. Glory to you forever. **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

We sit.

OFFERING

- L As we sing with the angels to celebrate the tremendous gift of Jesus, we rejoice with gladness and bring our offerings with joy and generosity.

We rise.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “*Still, Still, Still*” A. Carol Arr. by N. Luboff

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- L We pray – Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth: forgive our failure to receive him. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Savior, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger: forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of Love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call: forgive the hardness of our hearts. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

- P May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Savior (+) forgive you your sins and empower you to faithfully serve in God's world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Tonight, receive Jesus. As you take the bread and receive the cup, receive Jesus. As you tip your candle into the flame, receive Jesus. Even if you consider yourself a Christian, receive Jesus anew. If you are a skeptic, or maybe you're only here because your family *made* you come, receive the miracle of God with *you*.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Holy God, our Source and Ending, Alpha and Omega, You have called all creation into being, setting the earth on its foundations. You have spread out the heavens like a curtain, filling the earth with goodness.

As a mother gathers her children, so you gather your people, to teach us the way of compassion and love. You sent Christ your son to dwell among us, by the message of an angel, to be born of the Virgin Mary. You send your Holy Spirit to draw us into deeper faith, to inspire us to greater works, and to sustain us in our calling. Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim your glory, to sing your praise:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

In these latter days, God leaned toward the earth and spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the Beloved. Born of our sister Mary and the Holy Spirit, guarded by our brother Joseph with fatherly care, Jesus came among us as a baby, humbly born, cradled beside the beasts and warmed by their breath, human as we are, in need of human love. Yet kings bowed down before him, bringing gifts and emperors were troubled by his reign – this Child in whom all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. This Word of God made flesh and full of grace was sent to deliver us from our sin, from the power of evil and the fear of death. As a servant, Jesus emptied himself of might upon the cross, and as the risen Anointed One is enthroned at God’s right hand to bring mercy and justice to all the earth at the end of days. And so, we remember,

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

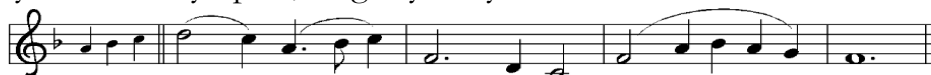
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of our faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

Almighty God, pour out your Holy Spirit, on us (+) gathered around this holy table, and on these gifts (+) of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and the blood of Christ, and that we, being nourished by them, may be for the world the body of Christ, made new and redeemed by his blood. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory are yours now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

As Christ has taught us so we boldly pray: **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

P [*Breaking of the bread.*] We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world. **Here in our midst, bringing us to light and life.**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

P Glory to God in the highest! **Come to the table of peace.**

We sit.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION “*Let Us Adore*” By Reuben Morgan

We rise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L We pray –God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING

As music is provided, candles are lit by ushers, once all are lit, we sing; candles are extinguished at the end of the hymn. Please make sure to tip the unlit candle toward the already lit candle for a safer experience.

HYMN

'Silent Night'

GTG 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

SENDING

BLESSING

- P May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *“The Messiah Medley”* G.F. Handel Arr. by Don Wyrzten



The Poinsettias are given

to the Glory of God by:

Bob & Marne Helberg in memory of Heather Kay Ruiz

Bob & Marne Helberg in memory of Tina Marie Helberg

Steve and Cindy Brown in honor of session class of 2025 through 2027

Steve and Cindy Brown in honor of Pastor and Harriet Bryant

Tutu and Poppie in honor of Bailey and Abbott Fletcher.

Tom and Marcy Fletcher in honor of Amalia Barrett.

Tom and Marcy Fletcher in honor of Margie Rawls.

Tom and Marcy Fletcher in honor of Polly Kincaid.

Tom and Marcy Fletcher in honor of Joann Knowles.

Juanita Ratliff in honor of her children, Mitchell and Emaley, with prayers and love for God's continued blessings.

Juanita Ratliff in memory of her mother, Paula Faye Cosson, remembering her at Christmas, her favorite season.

Cheryl Everett in memory of Kim Barbaro.

Cheryl Everett in memory of Lamar Dunkle.

Jo (Wilson) Kinsey in memory of my loving parents, James and Ruth Wilson.

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