

Christmas 1C 2024
December 29, 2024



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PERRY, FL

GATHERING

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

PRAYER (PRAYED SILENTLY UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY)

We pray: O God, into a realm of clerics and kings you sent your child to teach the wise and show the world what power there is in love. Keep us vigilant to hear the voices of those who speak your truth. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*” Arr. by Carol Tornquist

INTROIT “*Manger Lullabies*” Arr. by Don Wyrzten

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PASSING OF FRIENDSHIP PADS/SESSION SHARING

We stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L Come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before our Lord’s presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to our Lord with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all Gods.

In the Lord’s hand are all the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are the Lord’s also.

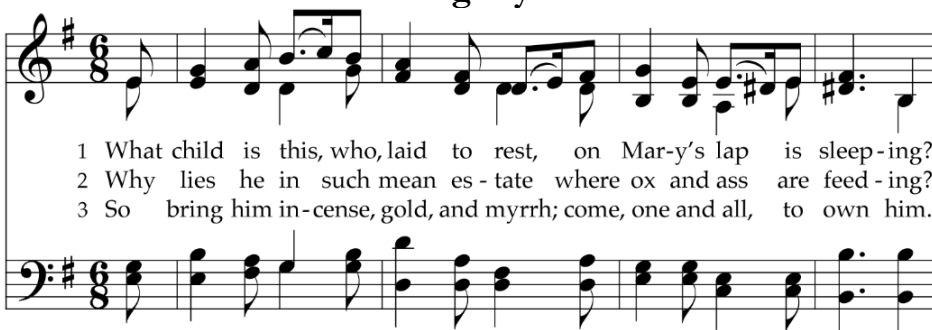
The sea is the Lord’s, for the Lord made it; the Lord’s hands molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our maker.

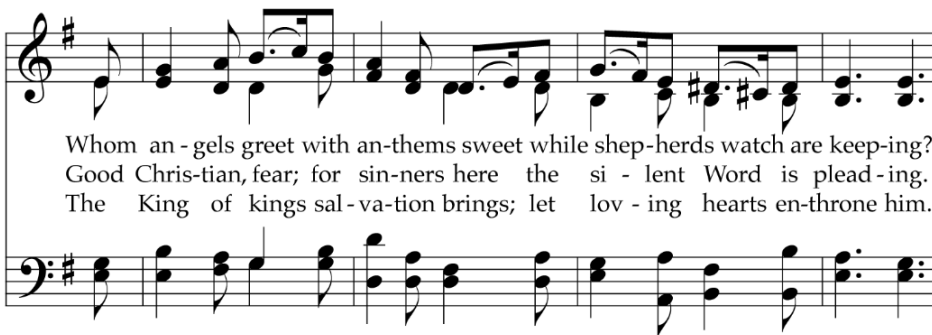
For the Lord is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today we would hearken to our Lord’s voice.

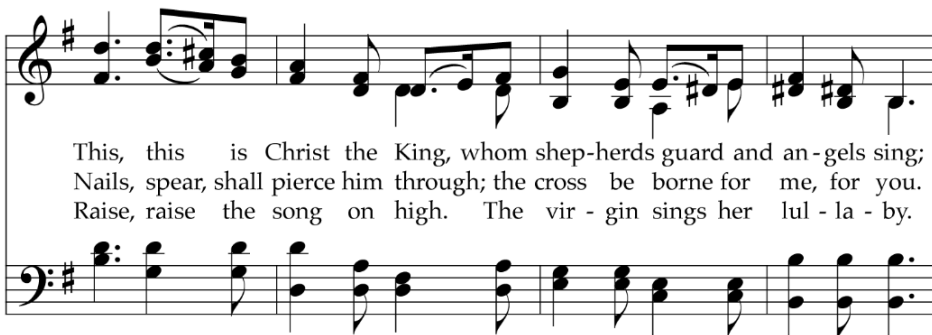
GATHERING HYMN Gathering Hymn What Child is This GTG 145



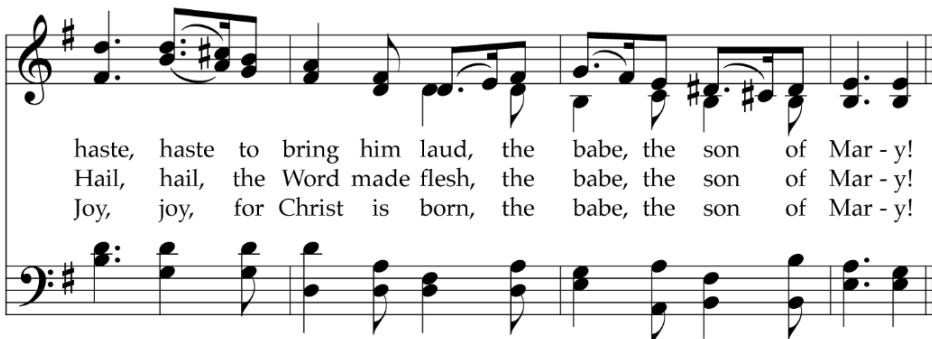
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

CALL TO CONFESSION

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(silence for reflection)*

P God-with-us,
we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

GLORIA PATRI

Glo-ry be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly

6 Ghost; As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er

10 shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P We pray: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

L We pray: **Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.**

We sit.

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

L 18 Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod.
19 His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.
20 Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord”; and then they would return to their home.
26 Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

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

PSALM

Psalm 148 *(we say responsively by whole verse)*

L ¹ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

² **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded, and they were created.

⁶ He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.*

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together!

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

SECOND READING Colossians 3:12-17

L ¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts

sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

We stand.

GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

P The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke the 2nd chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

41 Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44 Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." 49 He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he said to them. 51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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

We sit.

SERMON

“The Wisdom of Children”

Rev. Pr. Ruth Elswood

We stand.

SERMON HYMN

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

GTG 128

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.

Swift are wing-ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring-ing, ti-dings bring-ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor-row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

L Let us profess the faith, saying: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

We sit or stand.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

L (brief silence) Jesus Christ, born in a stable, be with the poor and homeless this Christmas time. **As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

Jesus Christ, born of Mary, be with young mothers across the world this Christmas time. **As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

Jesus Christ, visited by Shepherds, be with all who must work this Christmas season, and with all who long to work. **As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

Jesus Christ, who became a refugee, be with those who fear for their lives, and those who have left homes and families this Christmas. **As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace, in this Christmas season, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, from fear to trust this Christmas time. **As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

Jesus Christ, our Wonderful Counselor, in this Christmas season, lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.**

P Abide with us, Desire of Nations, Ancient of Days, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. **Amen**

THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

We sit.

OFFERTORY

L Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”*

DOXOLOGY

(Red Hymnal)

#624



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures
here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

(SUNG TO THE MALOTTE TUNE)

P As Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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 light of Christ. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*” Arr. by Carol Tornquist

Leading Worship: Rev. Pr. J. David Bryant, Minister; Susan Lincoln, Liturgist; Leah Metzger, Accompanist & Director

Notes & Announcements



The Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by JoAnn Knowles, honoring the memory of Glenn Knowles.

- **Church Office closed** January 1st
- **No Fellowship supper** January 1st
- **Ushers** for January 5th: Warren Gregory, Polly Kincaid, Zack Wiggins, Paul Wiggins
- **Liturgist** for January 5th: Jamie Poppell
- **FPC website** www.firstpresperry.org
- Send **prayer requests** to prayer@firstpresperry.org or contact Jeanne Hilgendorf

Session Committee leaders

Administration-Bobby Harper, Michael McMillan

Christian Education-Martha Davis

Clerk-Cindy Brown

Congregational Care-Nancy Bell

Finance-Cindy Brown

Mission/Outreach-Jamie Poppell

Worship/Music-Marilyn Culpepper, Zachary Wiggins

FPC PRAYER LIST

TOGETHER, WE PRAY FOR:

DIANNA SANDONATO'S SON JR

CHUCK ECKEL

MARNE AND BOB HELBERG'S SON AND SON IN LAW

TEACHERS

FAMILY OF LINDA ROMIS

PRAYERS FOR BETTY MALDIN, HEALTH

LYNN ABERJERIS PASSED, FAMILY GRIEVING AT CHRISTMAS

FAMILY OF SHIRLEY ERWIN (MARGIE RAWLS)

BLUE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

OUR SOUP MINISTRY

SUPPER TEAMS

PASTOR & HARRIET BRYANT

ALL GOING THRU HEALTH & EMOTIONAL ISSUES

ALL WHO LOST HOMES

TIRELESS VOLUNTEERS

TRAVELERS TO AND FROM FL

MARNE HELBERG'S SISTER

BETTY JEAN

FAMILY OF JIM CULBREATH

CHERYL RICKETSON, RECOVERY

FLETCHER'S FRIEND'S GRANDSON, CAMDEN MOSLEY

HILGENDORFS, DR APPTS AND TESTS, WARREN, LILY

MIKE LOCKHART

RITA BENOIT

RON POPPELL

ALL AWAITING TEST RESULTS

AND, ALL UNNAMED NEEDS IN OUR HEARTS. LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER. AMEN