

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 25, 2022 – 10:30 AM

## Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Away in a Manger

Call to Worship

Prayer of Confession-followed by a time for silent confession and prayer

**O Christ, reflection of God's glory, let this be a day that changes us.  
Let this be a day that challenges us to live as those you have blessed.  
Let this be a day that we find not only forgiveness, but a new way forward.  
Renew your call to us. Save us, forgive us, and inspire us to allow our lives  
to be imbued with your presence.**

Assurance of Pardon

We celebrate God's steadfast love this day. No matter what we do, no matter what we neglect to do, that love never changes, and we are forgiven!

**Thank God for peace! Thank God for good news! Thank God for redemption!**

Receiving God's Tithes and our Offering

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People – Followed by the Lord's Prayer

**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.**

### A Service Lessons and Carols

#### I. Isaiah IX

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined. For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. 88 verses 1,4,6,7,**

#### II. Isaiah IX

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his root. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom, and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

## **Lo, How a Rose. 129**

### **III. Luke I**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at his saying and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father, David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

**"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" - Gabrielle Goodrich, Soloist**  
**Congregation chorus: "Most highly favored lady, gloria"**

### **IV. Luke II**

And in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the Inn.

**The Little Road to Bethlehem - Nancy Mayo, Soloist**

### **V. Luke II**

And in that region, there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And the angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you; you will find the babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

**Away in a Manger. 115**

### **VI Luke II**

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying; "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men."

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

**Hark the Herald Angels Sing. 119**

### **VIII. John 1**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God, all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. He came to His own, and his own received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave the power to become children of God.

**Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism -** Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.

Obeying the word of our Lord Jesus, and sure of his presence with us, we baptize those whom he has called to be his own. In baptism God claims us and puts a sign on us to show that we belong to God.

God frees us from sin and death, uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection. By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice. Let us remember and rejoice in our own baptism, as we celebrate this sacrament.

Todd: On behalf of the session, I present Brian Christopher Freeman and Grady Christopher Freeman to receive the sacrament of baptism.

Brian, in baptism, you announce your faith in Jesus Christ. Will you to the best of your ability study and know Christ, love Christ and serve him as his chosen disciple. Will you?

Let us pray: God our Father: we thank you for your faithfulness, promised in this sacrament, and for the hope we have in your Son Jesus. As we baptize with water, baptize us with your Holy Spirit, so that what we say may be your word and what we do may be your work. By your power, may we be made one with Christ our Lord in common faith and purpose. AMEN!

**Baptism** – Brian Christopher Freeman, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Brian and Brittany, do you desire that Grady be baptized? Do you? And relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith and to teach that faith to your son? Do you?

Jerry Freeman and Michele Hews, you have accepted the privilege of being Grady's godparents. So, relying on God's grace, do you along with the church universal accept the special role of sharing God's love with Grady and supporting his parents in their sacred duty? Do you?

Todd: (The Congregation will stand.) "Our Lord Jesus Christ ordered us to teach those who are baptized. Do you, the people of the church, promise to tell these new disciples the good news of the gospel, to help them know all that Christ commands, and, by your fellowship strengthen their family ties to the household of God?" Do you?

**Baptism** - Grady Christopher Freeman, I baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Anointing with Oil** - Brian, Grady, you are forever as a child of the covenant, sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism, and with this oil of gladness you are marked as Christ's own forever. "See what love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God."

Let us pray....

**Joy to the World. 134**

Benediction

Postlude

**Go Tell it on the Mountain - Mike Broadhurst, Soloist**  
**Please join us in our courtyard narthex for cookies and Christmas cheer!**

**Church Staff**

**Dr. Steve Frazier, Pastor, Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music, Gabriella Goodrich – Secretary**

**Week of December 25- Prayers of the People**

- Mary Lemming
- Frances Hasty
- Paul and Alice Butler
- Lane Pittman
- Our homeless neighbors
- Becky Kuhlman
- Emily Bond
- Linda Thompson
- Monica Manley
- Those who have COVID