

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 24, 2023 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Order of Worship

Sacred music to prepare our hearts to Worship God

String Quartet

We welcome Simon Lapointe, Heejin Weisbrod, Satoko Rickenbacker, and Carter Melin.

Call to Worship

“Where the Promise Shines”

Dunstan/Moore

Where the Promise Shines

Words by SYLVIA G. DUNSTAN
Music by BOB MOORE

Congregation:

Lead us on, lead us on to a morn - ing where the
prom - ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on
to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (F major). The lyrics are written below the notes. The second and third staves continue the melody and lyrics.

Advent lighting done by Simpson Family

(Please join choir on **refrain** and **Call to Worship**)

Advent is a time for God’s people to reawaken their longings.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to worship the newborn King.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to hear the good news proclaimed by the angels.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to receive the promise foretold.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

*Hymn 133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Anthem

“Before the Marvel of This Night”

Rutter

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.

*Hymn 134

“Joy to the World”

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. 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 greatness of his government and peace there 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.

Special Music

"Christmas Lullaby"

Rutter

Hymn 115

"Away in a Manger"

Second Lesson

Luke 2: 1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

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 that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths 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 heaven, and on earth peace to those 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 heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Sermon

"Another Christmas Story"

Rev. Dr. Steve Frazier

Special Music

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”
Michael Broadhurst, Soloist

Robert MacGimsey

The Light Shines in the Darkness

Passing of Light

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

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 a far, 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.

