• The cover for the Christmas Eve bulletin was drawn by Maddie Hollis, a member of the Colossians (3rd grade) and Norah Weeks, a member of the Philippians (3rd grade) Sunday School groups.
• Prayers were written by the members of the 5th grade Sunday School group and read by members of the 4th grade Sunday School group.
• Nursery care is available for children ages three and under.
An angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah, the priest when he was serving in the temple. “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.” (Luke 1:13-15a)

At the time of John’s birth, Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has looked favorably on His people and redeemed them. And you, child will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break up on us, to give light to those who sit in darkness.” (Luke 1:67-68;76-79)

Let us praise the God who brings joy and light to all. Come, let us worship the Lord, our God.

INTROIT

Arr. John L. Bell

Cloth for the Cradle

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

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, wonders of His love.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Craig Phillips

Toccata on “Joy to the World”

* Those who are able, please stand. † Latecomers may be seated.

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, Pastor
Adam DeVries, Pastor, Scripture Reader
Josh Rodriguez, Pastor, Scripture Reader
Deb O'Brien, Director of Children's Ministry, Scripture Reader
Mickey Fitts, Elder and Scripture Reader
Rhonda Swanson, Assistant Organist and Accompanist
Sarah Bird, Pastor & Song Leader; Bill Caruso, Song Leader
Introit: Brianna Meler, Kelly Posey and Jerry Monds
Intros: Bekah Caruso and Don Fisher, Handbells
Kendall Posey, Soprano; Peggy Naifeh, Flute
Campbell Grace Ward, Bongos
Mary Austin McMullen, Violin
Christ Light Leaders: Josh Rodriguez and Adam DeVries
Prayer Readers: Attie Stanley, Lock Ross, Eleanor Yarbrough, Liam Burton, Laura Thompson, Bennett Conyers, Kaiser Martin, and Johnny Corn
Zechariah Matt Pearson
Elizabeth Amy Pearson
John the Baptist Stuart Campbell
Angel Gabriel Lauren Hancock
Mary Molly Downing
Joseph Andrew Downing Jr.
Baby Jesus James Downing III
Christ Candle Bearer Matt Hancock
Angels & Shepherds Campbell Pearson, Ella Hancock, Sims Hancock, Mattie Grace Pearson, and Bailey Pearson
Hosanna Choir, Kelly Posey, Director
Doxology Choir, Brianna Meler, Director
Wise Men (in order) Jackson Stone, Grafton Brittle and Elisha McFarlin
Light Bearers Members of the Confirmation Class: Kennedy Conyers, Evelyn & Will Watlington, and Porter Weeks

The Mission of First Presbyterian Church
To know Christ, to make Him known, and to exhibit His love through worship, education, and service.
Hungry and poor, the sick and the unsure,
wealthy whose needs are stranger,
weave into one a welcome for the Son,
leave excess and want beneath that manger.

Cloth for the cradle...

Claimant and queen, wage earners in between,
trader and traveling preacher,
weave into one a welcome for the Son,
whose word brings new life to every creature.

Cloth for the cradle...

Wrinkled or fair, carefree or full of care,
searchers of all the ages,
weave into one a welcome for the Son,
the Savior of shepherds and of sages.

Cloth for the cradle...

*†OPENING HYMN 133                     A DESTE FIDELES

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

HYMN 151                                         KINGS OF ORIENT

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Kings: Stanzas 2, 3 and 4

Congregation: We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

Refrain

PRAYER                                    Johnny Corn

WE SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST               Josh Rodriguez and
                                          Adam DeVries

When prompted, please bend and snap your candle along entire
length, then shake to start the glow. Full glow can take a few minutes.
Please take your candle with you as you depart. Glow candles will give
light for 6 to 8 hours. Not suitable for children under three years.

May you be light bearers spreading the hope, peace, joy and love of
Jesus Christ throughout the coming year.

HYMN 122                                         STILLE NACHT

Silent 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!
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.

Benediction                          Ryan Moore

HYMN 122                                         STILLE NACHT

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Silent night, holy night!
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Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born.

Benediction                          Ryan Moore

HYMN 88                                         VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to Thee, O Israel.
The shepherds ran to where the baby was born.
The shepherds ran to where the baby was born,
the shepherds ran to where the baby was born,
and they worshiped the Savior Jesus.

Sing “Alleluia, allelu,” and they said that His name was Jesus.

PRAYER                                           Laura Thompson

ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 2:8–14             Mickey Fitts

HYMN 113                                    G LORIA

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER                                          Bennett Conyers

THE SHEPHERDS FIND JESUS


ANTHEM Charlotte Algozin

Shepherd Boy

Shepherd boy, shepherd boy look up at the star.
Shepherd boy, shepherd boy it guides from afar.
It's radiant beams shine down through the night.
Shepherd boy, shepherd boy, follow its light.

Leave your hillside, now, don’t delay.
Find his manger bed of hay.
Play your pipe and dance with joy,
Welcome Mary's newborn boy.

PRAYER                                           Kaiser Martin

WISE MEN COME TO WORSHIP THE NEWBORN KING

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 2:1–11        Josh Rodriguez

PRAYER                                    Lock Ross

AN ANGEL TALKS TO MARY

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 1:26–38  Adam DeVries

Hymn 83                                        Stuttgart

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in Thee.

Born Thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

PRAYER                                          Eleanor Yarbrough

MARY AND JOSEPH GO TO BETHLEHEM


Hymn 121                                        St. Louis

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.

PRAYER                                          Liam Burton

JESUS IS BORN: THE LIGHT COMES INTO THE WORLD


ANTHEM Traditional West Indian Carol
arr. Hal H. Hopson

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they said that his name was Jesus.

He come from the glory, He come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, He come from the glorious kingdom.

The angels sang when the baby was born.
The angels sang when the baby was born,
the angels sang when the baby was born,
and proclaimed him the Savior Jesus.