

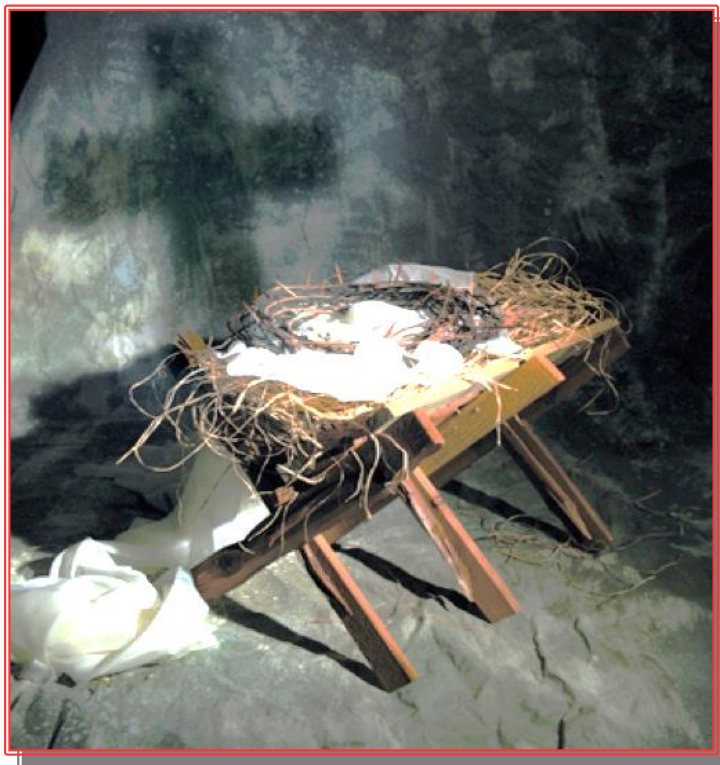


Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2023

11 pm

First Presbyterian Church



***The One who came, in a manger laid,
came for us the way to pave
that we'd be born again by grace
and one day see Him face to face.***

Mary Kay Glunt 2015

***O Come Let Us Adore Him
Christ the Lord!***

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carols

Bold items signify congregational participation
Readings from the New International Readers Version (NIRV)

❖ Please stand if you are able

Prelude

Welcome

Pastor

Minute for Mission

Christmas Joy

Sharon Zunic

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP—*Love's Pure Light*

Bonari Family

Leader: For those walking in darkness, a new light has dawned.

People: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting hope.

Leader: For those living in fear and dread, a new light has dawned.

People: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting peace.

Leader: For those living in hopelessness and despair, a new light has dawned.

People: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting joy.

Leader: For those living in loneliness, a new light has dawned.

People: Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Tonight, we light all the candles as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The candles of hope, peace, love, and joy all remind us that Christ is our light and the source of eternal hope, ever-lasting peace, boundless love, and endless joy. The Christ candle reminds us that God's

perfect gift was sent to us that we might have life abundant and everlasting. Joy to the world and peace on earth. Let us worship Christ, the newborn King.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, tonight as we gather to conclude our Advent journey, we celebrate that a new light has dawned. A child is born, and that child is our light and the source of our joy. He brings hope into the world, and the promise of peace on earth. He is love incarnate, love divine, and we thank you dear Lord for this, the most perfect gift imaginable. Joy to the world! Christ is born! Amen.

- ❖ **Hymn:** **O Come, All Ye Faithful (vv. 1, 2)** **Blue 41**
- Lesson 1** *The Prophecy of the Messiah* Sharon Zunic
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; John 1:1-2, 4-5
- Hymn** **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 1)** **Blue 9**
- Lesson 2** *Luke 1:26-38* Jessica Phillabaum
Jesus' Coming Announced to Mary
- Lesson 3** *Matthew 1:18-25* Fred Exley
Jesus' Coming Announced to Joseph
- Hymn** **To a Maid Engaged to Joseph (vv. 1,4,6)** **Blue 19**
- Lesson 4** *Luke 2:1-5* Jane Bonari
Preparations for the Birth of Jesus
- Hymn** **O Little Town of Bethlehem (vv 1, 4)** **Blue 44**
- Lesson 5** *Luke 2:6-7* Jane Bonari
Jesus is Born

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

The true light that enlightens all has come into the world. That light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out. This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin.

People: Thanks be to God!

FEASTING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor: On this silent night, God is with you!

People: God is also with you.

Pastor: On this holy night, God's Grace comes to us.

People: Our hearts rejoice in his becoming one of us, that we might become one with God.

Pastor: On this night of nights, the shadows of the world melt away before God's Light.

People: We join the choirs of angels in singing to the universe the good news of the birth of Jesus.

Pastor: This is the night . . . the good news which is ours:

***ALL: Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis deo!
Creation joins in the angelic chorus of joy.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One born for us this night.
Hosanna in the highest!***

Pastor: Holiness is who you are, God of Christmas, . . . mystery we call faith:

ALL: *Born in the shadows of night, Christ is our light;
dying on a rough cross, Christ is our life;
rising from a cold tomb, Christ is our hope;
returning to us once more, Christ is your promise.*

Pastor: *Pour out your Spirit upon us, . . . our blessed Savior.
Amen.*

Words of Institution

Sharing the Feast

♪ Every time we eat this bread, every time we drink this cup, we proclaim the death of the Lord, until He comes, until He comes. ♪

Prayer after Communion

Pastor

Litany of the Light

Response: Let there be light.

Passing of the Light

(Hold unlit candle at angle to lit candle to eliminate drips)

(Please stand after receiving the light)

❖ Hymn **Silent Night (All four verses)** **60**

❖ Benediction *Pastor*

❖ Response:*We depart with the shepherds and wise men, pledging to carry forth the light of Christ and praising God, rejoicing as we share the joy of Christ with the world.*

❖ Chorus: ***“Go Tell It on the Mountain”***

As you go, please deposit your communion cups in the can at the door and your candles in the basket provided.

***Thank you for joining us.
May your heart be always filled
with the joy of Christmas!***

Service liturgy © 2009 Kathie Wilkinson.
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PO Box 340003; Nashville TN 37203-0003
Great Thanksgiving by Thom M. Shuman,
LectionaryLiturgies.blogspot.com

In addition to your regular or onetime support of the church, we will receive your Christmas Joy Offering. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which assists retired and serving ministers in need, and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Tonight, we will receive your offerings for this cherished, long-time ministry of the Presbyterian Church USA. Please mark your envelopes "Christmas Joy."

Thank you for joining us today as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We wish you a very merry Christmas and a new year filled with the knowledge of the Lord! Join us each Sunday at 9:55 am as we worship our Lord!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONLINE GIVING CHURCH: You may make online donations with the GivePlus website and mobile app. Go to our website www.fpresbv.org and check it out!

OFFERINGS: The offering plates are located at the front on the windowsills. Thank you for your continued support of our ministries and the outreach of FPC.

CHICKEN PIES: We will make chicken pies on January 12th. Place your orders today and join us on Thursday to cut chicken and on Friday to make the pies.

OFFICE CLOSING: The church office will be closed Monday the 25th through Thursday the 28th. If you have an emergency, pastor can be reached on her cell phone.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Belle Vernon

501 Fayette Avenue, Rostraver Twp., PA 15012

Church Offices: 511 Fayette Avenue

Office Hours: M - F: 9:00 to 1:00

Church Phone: 724- 929-7616

Fax and Fellowship Hall Phone: 724-929-0209

Pastor's Cell Phone: 724-243-2871

Web: www.fpresbv.org **e-mail:** office@fpresbv.org

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, service, and witness.

As a Christ-centered church empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek God's plan for each of us and all of us. We welcome everyone to journey with us as we strive to grow in love, faith, trust, and discipleship.

(Adopted October 10, 1998; revised February 2, 2013)