

*First Presbyterian Church*

*Evening Worship- 11:00 PM*

*December 24, 2016, Christmas Eve*

*Please sign the Fellowship Pad and pass it to your neighbor.  
^-please stand; It is our custom to sing, "Amen," after hymns*

PRELUDE "Gesu Bambino" arr. Victor Labenske

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH The Birth of Christ  
*Jarrold and Lisa Brown, Trevor and Nathan*

On this Christmas Eve we recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

*First Candle:* We speak of hope because God keeps his promises to us.

*Second Candle:* We work for peace because Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace,' and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

*Third Candle:* We show love because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

*Fourth candle:* We share joy because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence of God.

*Christ Candle:* Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again, and with the shepherds we are filled with wonder and amazement.

Let Us Pray: ***Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will ever walk in light. Amen.***

^CAROL 40 "Joy to the World"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND SILENT CONFESSION

***Lord, make us instruments of your peace. We are guilty of serving ourselves and forgetting you, but we ask that you change our hearts. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. Lead us to love and provide for others as you love and provide for us, for it is in your gift of Jesus that we are born to eternal life. Hear our prayers as we continue in silence...***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Leader:** God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting.

**People:** ***Our sins can never exceed God's grace.***

**Leader:** Let us receive the forgiveness that is ours in Christ.

**People:** ***And be new beings, made in the image of our Lord.***

**Leader:** Friends, in Christ we are forgiven.

**People:** ***Thanks be to God!***

CAROL "Mary, Did You Know?" Suzanne Singer, solo

OFFERING  
Offertory Still, Still, Still arr. Marilyn Hamm

^CAROL 38 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

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OFFERTORY PRAYER AND 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.*

CAROL "Baby, What You Goin' To Be?" Jarrod Brown, solo

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Allen M. Thompson  
*Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in Your light we may see light, in Your truth find freedom, and in Your will discover Your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

LESSON Luke 2:1-20

CAROL "O Holy Night" arr. Jan Sanborn  
Heather Anderson

LESSON Titus 2:11-14

SERMON "Get Busy Waiting" Rev. Thompson

^CAROL 28 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

PASSING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

^HYMN 60 Silent Night

1. 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	2. Silent Night, Holy Night Shepherds quake at the sight Glories stream from heaven afar Heavenly Hosts sing, "Alleluia, Christ the Savior is born Christ the Savior is born"
3. 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	4. 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

POSTLUDE "Joy to the World!" arr. Lloyd Larson

*Our thanks and appreciation goes to Suzanne Singer and Jarrod Brown for their contribution to tonight's service.*

*Undesignated offerings at the Christmas Eve services will be divided between God's Storehouse and the Saturday Lunch Ministry.*



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