

Our Mission

To Know Christ and To Make Him Known

WORSHIP NOTES

Welcome to today's worship service. We are delighted that you are here. If you are visiting, we invite you to join by profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, by reaffirmation of faith, or by transfer. Please speak to the pastor after the service.

SERVING TODAY

Jackson Weller	Minister of Discipleship
Ashley Stanley-Robey	Music Director
Patricia Taylor	Organist
Sam Meadema	Sound
Kathy Dolianitis	Liturgist
David Parris	Security, side door and offering
David Swann	Greeter

First Presbyterian Church

December 31, 2023

11 a.m.



937 Main Street

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www.fpcdanville.com

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to Noon

A Service for the Worship of God

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

As you enter the sanctuary please end your conversations and respect those worshippers who seek quiet time for prayer and meditation. Please silence all electronic devices. If you need a hearing assistance device, please request one from the usher. Remaining seated is as worshipful a posture as standing. Please worship in a way that is comfortable for you.

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"* J.C. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Every year we celebrate Christmas.

Every month we break bread.

Every week we gather for worship.

Every day we count our blessings.

Every minute God is near.

Yes, every minute God is near.

These are the rituals of our faith.

Let us worship Holy God.

INVOCATION:

HYMN *"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"* **GTG#143**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 2 **Handbell Choir** at 5:00 p.m.

Property Committee at 6:00 p.m.

January 4 **Choir Rehearsal** at 4:30 p.m.

List of Session members by Class

Class of 2024: Kathy Dolianitis, Brenna Takata*, Barbara Wilkins*, David Swann

Class of 2025: David Clark, Sam Meadema*, Eddie Blount*, Jackie Rochford*

Class of 2026: Randy Brooks, Barry Cutright, Gail Jones, Kim Meadows

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Broschart

*Denotes Steering Committee Members

*The Flowers that enhance our worship are given
To the Glory of God
and in loving memory of our parents,
Mr. and Mrs. Owen Blount
and Mr. and Mrs. George Brannon,
by the Blount Family*

“Boy-Child of Mary”

African carol from Malawi | English text by Thomas S. Colvin (b. 1925)

Arranged by Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010)

Refrain: Boy-child of Mary, born in a stable,
A manger His cradle, in Bethlehem.

What shall we call Him, Savior of all men?
What name is given, in Bethlehem? **Refrain**

His name is Jesus, God ever with us,
God-given for us, in Bethlehem. **Refrain**

How can He save us? How can He help us?
Born here among us, in Bethlehem. **Refrain**

Gift of the Father, to human mother,
Makes Him our brother, of Bethlehem. **Refrain**

One with the Father, He is our Savior,
Heavenly brother, of Bethlehem. **Refrain**

Gladly we praise Him, Love and adore Him,
Give ourselves to Him, of Bethlehem. **Refrain.**

About the Anthem:

This carol is beloved in the African country of Malawi, where our pastor has served. A Scottish missionary, Thomas Colvin, created an English text in 1967 for a Christmas service at St. Michael’s Cathedral in Blantyre, Malawi. In Africa, a child’s name expresses future hopes for the child’s life as well as a description of the events surrounding their birth. Colvin’s English words show how Scripture followed that tradition through the significance of Jesus’ name.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Church family, our faith is decorated with rituals and rhythms that help tie us to God. Confession is one of those rituals. Every week we gather in this space and tell the truth about our lives. And every week God hears our prayers and offers us grace. This holy dance of confession and mercy is one of the many rituals I could not live without. So let us embrace this holy tradition together. Let us pray

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of rhythms, we confess: our faith would not be what it is without rituals. Unlike you, we depend on bread and water. We have to return to this space again and again to hear old, familiar stories. For if we stopped, we know it would not take long before we lost our way. Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto. With grateful and humble hearts we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, it is not enough to hear once a month or once a year that you are forgiven. We need to hear it every single week. Every single week we need to be reminded that we are held in God’s loving embrace. So hear this good news: no matter where you are on your journey of life, love, or faith, and no matter what you have done or left undone, you belong to God. You are claimed. You are known. You are forgiven. This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God! Amen

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us, the children of God, stand and greet each other with cupped hands filled with God’s blessings and remain standing for the “Gloria Patri”.

RESPONSE

“Gloria Patri”

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Unifying Spirit, In this act of giving, may we find unity. As contributors, we join hands in collective dedication.

May our combined efforts amplify the impact of our offerings, creating a tapestry of compassion and change. Amen.

OFFERTORY

“Echo Noel”

D’Aquin/Bish

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM

“Boy-Child of Mary” Malawian carol, arr. Lovelace
Tyrel Smith, Percussionist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, When our world turns upside down or when the road ahead is unclear, we return to ritual. We come to the sanctuary. We break bread at table. We pour water. We greet one another as family. And we listen to your Word. Today we pray—meet us in this moment. Meet us in these rituals that anchor us and speak a word of hope. We are listening. We are drawing near. We are seeking you. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:21-38

SERMON

“We Root Ourselves in Ritual”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that faith is a journey marked by rituals and rhythms. We come to worship. We confess our sins. We pass the peace. We offer grace. We hear the Word. We baptize children. We break the bread. And we tell the story of a loving God. And through these sacred rituals, we are reminded: we are not alone. God is near, and we have work to do. May this belief shape the rhythm of our lives. Amen.

HYMN

“Go, Tell It On The Mountain”

GTG#136

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare on Adeste Fideles”

Gordon Young

BENEDICTION

Family of faith, as you leave this place, you go into a weary world—

So speak tenderly.

Do the good that is yours to do.

Choose connection.

Hold onto hope.

And remember that Christ took on flesh for you.

You are God’s beloved. So go rejoicing.

Amen.