



January 2, 2022

The Second Sunday of Christmas

8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, service, and program life of First Pres!

Please visit the church website: www.firstpresevansville.com to stay up-to-date on our ministry and service opportunities.

Please visit our Facebook page - [First Presbyterian Church - Evansville, Indiana](#). We hope you'll "like" us!

Please note that this service is being livestreamed on our website and Facebook page, and the recording will be posted to our [YouTube](#) channel.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE NEW LIFE

**Let those who are able stand at this sign.*

THE MUSIC FOR GATHERING

8:30 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

arr. Leavitt

10:30 "Vom Himmel hoch da kommich her" (*From Heaven to Earth I Come*)

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Praise the Lord!

All Praise God from the heavens.

One Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**All Let us praise the name of the Lord,
whose name alone is exalted above earth and heaven.**

Alleluia!

*THE OPENING CAROL . . . no. 123

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Carol/Richard Scott Willis

Edmund Hamilton Sears

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

***THE OPENING PRAYER**

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 146**

Tempus Adest Floridum/Piae Cantiones, 1582
Joseph Simpson Cook

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him;
heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God
The Concerns of the Church

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

THE LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
 and her salvation like a burning torch.
 The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
 and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the LORD will give.
 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

THE PSALM FOR THE DAY

Psalm 148

One Hallelujah!
 Praise the LORD from the heavens;
 praise the LORD in the heights.
**All Praise the LORD, all you holy angels;
 praise the LORD, all heavenly host.**
 One Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
 praise the LORD, all you shining stars.
**All Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
 and you waters above the heavens.**
 One Let them praise the name of the LORD,
 who commanded, and they were created.
**All The LORD made them stand fast forever and ever
 and gave them a law which shall not pass away.**
 One Praise the LORD from the earth,
 you sea-monsters and all deeps;
 fire and hail, snow and fog,
 tempestuous wind, obeying God's will;
**All mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars;
 wild beasts and all cattle,
 creeping things and winged birds;**
 One kings of the earth and all peoples,
 rulers and all judges of the world;
 young men and women,
 old and young together.
**All Let them praise the name of the LORD,
 for the name of the LORD only is exalted,
 and the splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.**
 One The LORD has raised up strength for the chosen people
 and praise for all loyal servants,
 the children of Israel, a people who are near to the LORD.
All Hallelujah!

THE CAROL . . . no. 144

*Cranham/Gustav Holst
 Christina Rossetti*

"In the Bleak Mid-Winter"

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
 earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
 snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**
**Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
 heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
 in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.**

Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

THE SERMON

Kevin Scott Fleming

"Perfect Timing"

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

***THE HYMN . . . no. 148**

Evening Hymn/David Haas

“Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple”

Andrew Pratt

Mary and Joseph came to the temple brought the boy Jesus, offered him there.
People were waiting wanting to greet him; long had they sought him, solace for care.

Anna had prayed there, widowed, long waiting, worshiping God by day and by night.
Now she is praising, filled with elation: here is God's promise, Christ is her light.

Simeon sings now: God proffers blessing, brilliantly gilding dawn of his day.
Light in the darkness, never extinguished, Light of all nations, light up our way.

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***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*in unison*)

We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead,

vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

- from *A Brief Statement of Faith*, Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE MORNING OFFERING

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

You may send a check to the church office, or give online at <http://firstpresevansville.com/giving/>

The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings . . . no. 606

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

Old Hundredth

Thomas Ken

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Words of Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**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.**

The Words of the Institution of the Supper of our Lord.

The Communion of the People of God

The Prayer After Communion (*in unison*)

God of grace and peace,
as you have shared your life with us through this child in a manger,
and in this simple meal together,
let us share your life with others as the body of Christ in the world;
through Jesus Christ, bread of heaven. Amen.

WE DISPERSE TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

*THE CLOSING HYMN . . . no. 143

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Regent Square/Henry Thomas Smart
James Montgomery/Salisbury Hymn Book

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE

8:30 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"
10:30 "Noël Suisse" (Grand Jeu et Duo)

arr. Smith
Louis-Claude Daquin

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor	Rev. Kevin Scott Fleming
Liturgist	Roger Colman, 8:30; Tracy Shaw, 10:30
Guest Musician	Terry Becker, 8:30; Neal Biggers, 10:30

The flowers today are given by Barb Witte to the glory of God and in memory of her grandmother, Emma L. Bootz, born on December 29, 1894.

We welcome and thank Terry Becker and Neal Biggers for leading our music today. Director of Music Robert Nicholls is on vacation and will return to the office Thursday.

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

First Pres is grateful to be able to continue **in-person worship**. If you're joining us in-person, please wear a mask, use sanitizer, and maintain social distancing. We ask everyone to wear masks so that those who are unable to be vaccinated are protected while we are together.

As we settle into 2022, **regular schedules resume**: the office returns to regular hours (Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) tomorrow and choir rehearsals resume on Thursday. On Sunday, January 9, Sunday School for children and adults returns at 9:30 a.m., and First Light invites all Junior- and High- School to Game Night at 6:30 p.m.

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Mark Fox

Sunday, January 2

Daily Reading: Psalm 29

8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship

10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Monday, January 3

Daily Reading: John 10:7-17

Tuesday, January 4

Daily Reading: John 14:6-14

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 5

Daily Reading: John 15:1-16

Thursday, January 6

Daily Reading: Matthew 12:14-21

4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners

4:45 p.m. Choister Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 7

Daily Reading: John 2:1-11

Saturday, January 8

Daily Reading: John 4:46-54



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First Presbyterian Church
is a partner congregation with
the Covenant Network
of Presbyterians.

