



December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

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](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchEvansville). 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 WORSHIP GOD

**You may rise in Body or Spirit.*

THE MUSIC FOR GATHERING

"Pastorale"

Domenico Zipoli

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

All **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Let the seas roar and the mountains quake.**

One Everything came into being through the Word.
What came into being was life, and the life was the light for all people.

All **Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things.**

One The Word became flesh and blood,
and lived among us to bring all people to the light.

All **Let heaven and earth break forth into joyous song,
singing praises to our God.**

One The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

All **Christ, our light, shines forth in glory!
Christ, our life, brings grace and truth!
Let us worship God! Alleluia!**

***THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 113**
"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Gloria
French Carol

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!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*in unison*)

Holy Incarnate God, by the light of your goodness and mercy,
our failing to see your true light is clear:
we have not loved you,
we have not loved our neighbor,
we have not loved ourselves.

Our feet have not brought good news to the poor
nor have our voices defended the Earth and its creatures and plants.

Forgive us, blind us with our holy honesty,
so that we may more clearly see your will,
and walk with sure steps into your way of wholeness, light, and peace. Amen.

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One Hear the promise of the Lord:
See, your salvation has come!
You are a holy people, redeemed by God; sought out and not forsaken.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All Let us forgive one another! Amen!

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 145, verse 3**

"What Child is This?"

Greensleeves; 16thC English Ballad
William Chatterton Dix

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God
The Announcements

WE HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 98

One Sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done marvelous things.
All The right hand and the holy arm of the Lord have secured the victory.
One The Lord has made known this victory
and has openly showed righteousness in the sight of the nations.
**All The Lord remembers mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**
One Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
All Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.
One With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the Sovereign, the Lord.
**All Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.**
One Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
who is coming to judge the earth.
**All In righteousness shall the Lord
judge the world and the peoples with equity.**

THE LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they shout for joy,
for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth; shout together for joy, you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
One The Word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

THE HYMN . . . no. 134

Antioch; attr. George Frederick Handel
Isaac Watts

"Joy to the World"

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**
**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**
**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 of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

One The Gospel of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

THE MEDITATION

Rev. Wendy VanderZee

"A Miracle of Peace"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

*THE HYMN . . . no. 116

Venite Adoremus; Italian Folk Melody
Anglo-Irish carol

"The Snow Lay on the Ground"

**The snow lay on the ground; the stars shone bright,
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.**

**'Twas gentle Mary maid, so young and strong,
who welcomed here the Christ-child with a song.
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem; the ass and oxen shared the roof with them.
Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.**

**Saint Joseph too was by to tend the child,
to guard him, and protect his mother mild.
The angels hovered round and sang this song: Venite adoremus Dominum.
Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.**

**And thus that manger poor became a throne;
for he whom Mary bore was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join the heavenly host to praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.**

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

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers - all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. - Colossians 1:15-20

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/>

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

*The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings . . . no. 607

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Wilbur Held
Old Hundredth
Neil Weatherhogg

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*The Prayer of Dedication

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

One All these we lift to the Lord;

All Lord, hear our prayer.

The Spoken Prayers

One Hear us, O God:

All Your mercy is great.

The Silent Prayers

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.**

WE DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

***THE CLOSING HYMN . . . no. 132**

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

In Dulci Jubilo; German folk melody

Medieval Latin

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo"

Johann Sebastian Bach

Leading worship this morning:

Bridge Co-Pastors Wendy and John VanderZee
Guest Organist Neal Biggers

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

The First Pres Session continues to monitor local pandemic conditions and modify our **COVID safety protocols** as conditions warrant. **The current CDC Level is Yellow/Medium**; please continue to practice good public health.

On **New Year's Day**, next, Sunday, we will gather in **one service of worship at 10:30 a.m.** Bring your family downtown as we continue the celebration of Christmas.

The **church office will be closed** this week **between Christmas Day and New Year's day**. The staff will monitor email and telephone messages remotely during that time.

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Bonnie Rinks

Sunday, December 25 *Christmas Day*

10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

11:15 a.m. Fellowship Time

Monday, December 26

Church Office Closed until Monday, January 2

Sunday, January 1 *New Year's Day*

10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

11:15 a.m. Fellowship Time



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

