

December 31, 2023

The First Sunday after Christmas

10:30 a.m.



CHRIST



First Presbyterian Church

609 South East Second Street

Evansville, Indiana 47713

(812)423-6297

www.fpcevv.com

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.fpcevv.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 WORSHIP GOD

**You may rise in Body or Spirit.*

THE PRELUDE

"May you be praised, Jesus Christ, that you were born" (BWV 604)

"This is the day that is so joyous" (BWV 605) Johann Sebastian Bach

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Praise the Lord!

All Praise God from the heavens.

One Young men and women alike,

All old and young together!

One Let us praise the name of the Lord,

All whose name alone is exalted above earth and heaven. Alleluia!

*THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 143

Regent Square; Henry Thomas Smart

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

James Montgomery

**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 CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory.

Forgive us, Merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

***THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 145**

*Greensleeves; 16thC English Ballad
William Chatterton Dix*

"What Child Is This"

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**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 PSALM

Psalm 148

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

THE CAROL . . . no. 141

Personent Hodie; Piae Cantiones
tr. Jane Marion Joseph

"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"

**On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us.
Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth
Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him from the cold would hide him.
Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three to him led;
kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him, praise him and adore him.
Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us;
peace and love he gave us. Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!**

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.

The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.

You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

One The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Following the Children's Moment, children may return to their seats. Activity pages are available near the Sanctuary entrances.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

One The Gospel of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

Anna von Winckler

“After Christmas”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

*THE HYMN . . . no. 132

In dulci jubilo; 14thC German melody

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

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 AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*in unison*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

- The Apostles' Creed

THE MORNING OFFERING

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

You may give online at firstpresevansville.com/giving or by sending a check to the church.

"In Dulci Jubilo" (BWV 608)

Johann Sebastian Bach

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

Old Hundredth

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Thomas Ken

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

*The Prayer of Dedication

THE PRAYERS

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Prayers of the People

One Loving God,
All hear our prayer.

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. 136**

Go Tell It

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

African American Spiritual

Refrain **Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.** *Refrain*

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.** *Refrain*

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.** *Refrain*

***THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo" (BWV 729)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor	Anna von Winckler
Liturgist	Sue Schriber
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

The **Bible Bunch** Sunday school class is taking a few days off for the holiday season! The group **will not meet** today, returning to its regular schedule at 9:30 on Sunday, January 7.

The **church office will be closed tomorrow** for the New Year holiday. Regular office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) will resume on Tuesday, January 2.

All are welcome to add to the beauty of our Sunday worship by **providing flowers** to be displayed at that day's service. They may be fresh flowers or silk/faux arrangements, and can be ordered by the donor or the church office. To see a list of available dates and choose one to provide flowers for, use the QR code on the right or call the church office. Thank you!



The **annual meeting of the congregation** is scheduled for **Sunday, January 14, following the 10:30 service**. Please plan to attend in-person for the election of new officers, the review of the Pastor's compensation, and reception of the annual report.

Are you making a new year resolution to **become more involved** at church? Many First Pres committees are looking for helping hands. Read the current edition of *First Reports* to find opportunities to "do" more stewardship! (If you're missing your paper copy, a [digital copy](#) is available on the church website.)

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Gary Morris

Sunday, December 31 *New Year's Eve*
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 5
Church Office Closed

Monday, January 1 *New Year's Day*
Church Office Closed

Saturday, January 6

Tuesday, January 2
11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Sunday, January 7
7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Choir Rehearsal
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Children's Sunday School
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

Wednesday, January 3

Thursday, January 4
4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners
4:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
5:00 p.m. PNC