



First Presbyterian Church

If you are curious, and have come to see –
If you are weary, and have come to rest –
If you are grateful, and have come to share –
If you are hurting, and have come for solace –
If you are listening, and have come to pray –
If you are seeking, and have come for answers...Welcome!

A Service for the Worship of God

Sunday, 11:00 A.M

First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021

"Bethlehem is not the end of our journey but only the beginning, - not home but the place through which we must pass if ever we are to reach home at last." Frederick Buechner

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*GATHERING SENTENCES:

Leader: Why have you come today?

People: I have come to give thanks to God.

Leader: Why have you come today?

People: I have come to lift my voice in praise.

Leader: Why have you come today?

People: I have come to worship and give glory to God.

*HYMN #271 (all verses).....*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*

*MORNING PRAYER

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us come to God with full assurance, for God is merciful and kind.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord God, you call us into communities of faith for your names' sake, not ours. You call us together for your glory, not ours. You call us together to form bonds of friendship, to strengthen one another. Not for our benefit alone, but for those who are yet to come, for those whom even now you are calling to join us. Forgive us when we forget that we are blessed to be a blessing. Amen

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The Word of God is clear, we are forgiven and set free in Christ Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI (#813)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

TIME WITH CHRIST'S KIDS

*HYMN #250 (*all verses*)..... *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (#633)

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him, and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Page 551 (in unison)..... Psalm 150

ANTHEM..... "*He Is Here!*"..... McGlohon, Heckler, and Sterling

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Page 43 (in unison)..... Mark 10: 17-21

SERMON "*An Immutable Law: the Law of Grasp*" Rev. Steven H. Rhodes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In life and death, we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in one triune God, whom alone we worship and serve. In sovereign love, God created the world good and makes everyone equal in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

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

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life and death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Please continue to place your offering in the plate in the front of the narthex)

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN #267 (*all verses*)..... *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE..... *He Is Here! (Reprise)*

*POSTLUDE

*Stand if you are able