

# FIRST



# PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LEBANON



December 31, 2023

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 31, 2023 *First Sunday After Christmas*

11:00 A.M.

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## THE GATHERING

*To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever*

PRELUDE *Joy to the World* George F. Handel

CHIMING THE HOUR

CHORAL INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 90*

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Leader: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

People: so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Leader: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands —

People: O prosper the work of our hands! Let us worship God!

\*HYMN NO. 29 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of Love, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory. We missed opportunities to share your love; we stayed silent when we should have spoken up; we lacked gratitude for the grace by which you save us. Lord, forgive us.

As we look ahead to a new year, free us from thinking we can save ourselves. Help us to follow where you lead, and show us how to be your people. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God!

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\* Those who are able are invited to stand.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

\*THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Almighty God, as we hear your Word read and proclaimed,  
may it not return to you empty. May it accomplish that which  
you purpose. May it succeed in the thing for which you sent it.  
Open our ears and hearts to your Word that we may live as  
your children and heirs. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-20

*Do not be afraid; for see—  
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:  
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,  
who is the Messiah, the Lord.  
This will be a sign for you:  
you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.*  
The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

*I Saw Three Ships*

Andy Beck

*I saw three ships come sailing in On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day.  
I saw three ships come sailing in On Christmas Day in the morning.  
And what was in those ships all three On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?  
And what was in those ships all three On Christmas Day in the morning?  
Our Savior Christ and his lady, On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
Our Savior Christ and his lady, On Christmas day in the morning.  
And all the bells on earth shall ring, On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
And all the bells on earth shall ring, On Christmas day in the morning.*

TIME FOR THE YOUNGER DISCIPLES

SERMON

Rev. Sherard Edington

*Christmas Through the Eyes of Mary: Adored*

## RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

\*HYMN NO. 22 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

REGENT SQUARE

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A DECLARATION OF FAITH

Jesus, the long-expected Savior,  
came into the world as a child,  
descended from David,  
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin.  
He lived as a Jew among Jews.  
He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of  
justice and peace on earth.  
We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child,  
yet born of God's power as was no other child.  
In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life  
are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated.  
The coming of Jesus was itself  
the coming of God's promised rule.  
Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,  
he brings about the relationship between God and humanity  
that God always intended.

Jesus is Lord!

He has been Lord from the beginning.

He will be Lord at the end.

Even now he is Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* Johann Schop

\*DOXOLOGY

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Traditional) Hymnal Page 16

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

## SENDING FORTH

\*HYMN NO. 59 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

CHRISTMAS

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE *Christmas Postlude on "in Dulci Jubilo"* Gilbert M. Martin

## WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to all who worship with us this morning. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to become a member of First Presbyterian Church. For more information, please speak to the pastor at the close of the service.

📶 For WiFi access go to FPC\_CONNECT and enter password 6154441360.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be no **WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP DINNER** on January 3. We will resume regular meals on January 10.

**POINSETTIAS** – Please take a poinsettia for yourself or to share.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to all who worked so faithfully to bring us our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and for the generous donations of delicious cookies.

**THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY** of the congregation are extended to the family of Carolyn Beard on her death on December 21. Carolyn was a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church.

## YOUTH

**YOUTH GROUP** (5<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade) will meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Sherard is teaching the Youth Sunday School Class.

## THIS WEEK AT FPC

<b>Today</b>		<b>Wednesday</b>	
9:00 a.m.	NCC Worship	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
10:00 a.m.	Church School	<b>Thursday</b>	
11:00 a.m.	Worship	9:00 a.m.	Preschool
<b>Monday</b>		6:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts
	Office Closed	<b>Friday</b>	
6:00 p.m.	New Day AA Group	<b>Saturday</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>			
4:00 p.m.	Prayer Group		

**SESSION**

Class of 2023  
Max Carter  
Frank Reeves  
David Foutch

Class of 2024  
Nancy Gebhardt  
Mickey Stueck  
Allen Vance

Class of 2025  
W.P. Bone  
Jack Emmert

**DIACONATE**

Class of 2023  
Margaret Carroll  
Mark Fain  
Carol Benson  
Pat Hatcher

Class of 2024  
Jonathan Bouton  
Carol Turner  
Van Turner  
Sandra Weatherford

Class of 2025  
Rachel Low  
Anne Donnell  
Jim Stueck

**CHURCH COMMITTEES**

Clerk of Session – Barbara Howell  
Treasurer – Jim Stueck  
Budget & Finance – Frank Reeves  
Buildings and Grounds – Allen Vance  
Christian Education – Max Carter  
Congregational Care – Mickey Stueck  
Outreach – Nancy Gebhardt  
Personnel –  
Worship –

**STAFF**

Ministers – All Members of the Congregation  
Pastor – Sherard Edington  
Organist/Director of Music – Darryl Nettles  
Office Administrator – Kristy Vincent  
NCC Worship Leader – Natalie Loader  
Preschool Director – Angela Hankins  
Nursery – Sara Chaney  
Custodians – Stratus Cleaning Service

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**

**Children**  
Nursery  
Elementary Class and  
Middle- High School Class

**Adult**  
Crossroads Class  
Faith Builders Class  
Westminster Class

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CCLI# 2226825

FINANCIAL UPDATE		
	Expenses	Income
November	\$23,760.56	\$16,232.19
YTD	\$293,969.90	\$289,096.62