

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
Let all creation rejoice before the Lord,
for he comes, he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the people in his faithfulness.

Response **HoF #124**: "Angels from the Realm of Glory" *Meghan organ*

Response to God's Word

✚ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**: "The Apostles' Creed" (*unison*)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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!

Go Out as God's People in the World

✚ **Closing** **HoF #122**: "Silent Night! Holy Night!" (*by candlelight*)
Meghan on organ

✚ **BLESSING & CHARGE / VISION & MISSION** (*responsively*):

To walk in the light of God;

making JESUS known is FIRST at First!

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

✚ **POSTLUDE** *Meghan on organ*

See insert for **ANNOUNCEMENTS**.

Thank you for your **OFFERINGS**. Please deposit them at the exits.
If you are **visiting** today, we thank you for coming and hope you return soon.

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Come and See What Good God is Doing at FPC!



See the FPC website for a recording of a sermon or the worship service:
www.FPCpataskala.com

Please email FPCofPataskala@gmail.com to request access to live streaming.

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December 24, 2022

FOR PASTORAL CARE, PLEASE CALL:

The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford at 412-877-9310



Today's Worship Leaders:

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Janet A. Hufford

Musicians: Kathy Wallace & Meghan Lance

Advent Candles: Nate, Meghan & Grace Lance

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2021

Worship, 7pm

Assisted Listening Devices are available in the Sanctuary during Worship.

If you need instructions, please see the Greeter.

(Those not wanting to be seen on the **video recording**, please sit under the balcony.)

Hymnals: HB is "The Hymnbook" (burgundy) & HoF is "Hymns of Faith" (scarlet)

Gathering of God's People

After the chimes, please be in quiet reverence & silence cell phones.

3 RINGS OF THE STEEPLE BELLS & CHIMES

Kathy on organ

WELCOME by Pastor Janet

PRELUDE

Kathy on piano

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES & CALL TO WORSHIP

The Christmas season begins by again lighting the candles of hope, peace, joy, & love, but also tonight the Christ candle, when his disciples commemorate the birth of the God Incarnate, the Living Son of God Most High. As Isaiah wrote, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2)

✚ stand as able

✚ **Opening Hymn HoF #128** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" *Kathy piano*

✚ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION through the LORD'S PRAYER** (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.

✚ **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:** (responsively)

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

✚ **GLORIA PATRI / RESPONSE:** (unison) Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen, Amen. *Meghan on organ*

Proclamation of God's Word

✚ **CALL TO GOD'S WORD:** John 10:35 & Romans 4:3 (unison)

"Scripture cannot be set aside... What does Scripture say?"

✚ **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** (unison)

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-14 (Gospel reading) N.T. pg.1459

SERMON Response: "Glory to God in the Highest"

by the Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford.

Continued Proclamation by Psalm 96 and Hymns

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 96 (Psalm reading in unison)

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name;

proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

he is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are idols,

but the Lord made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him;

strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Response HoF #136: "Angels We Have Heard on High" *Meghan organ*

Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

bring an offering and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;

tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."

The world is firmly established.

It cannot be moved; he will judge the people with equity.

Response HoF #125: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" *Meghan on organ*