

✚ **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*)

✚ **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**

See insert for **ANNOUNCEMENTS**.

If you are **visiting** today, we thank you for coming and hope you return soon.

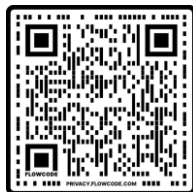
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Please email FPCofPataskala@gmail.com to request access to live
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First Presbyterian Church

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December 24, 2023

FOR PASTORAL CARE, PLEASE CALL:

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



Today’s Worship Leaders:

Musician: Marcia Brannon

Coordinator of Vocal Leaders: Kathy Wallace

Advent Candles: GNC Etna Group Leaders

Linda Glenn & Emily Holland

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2023

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: **green (Celebration)** & **red (The Hymnbook)**

Gathering of God's People

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

3 RINGS OF THE STEEPLE BELL & CHIMES

WELCOME by Pastor Janet

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES & CALL TO WORSHIP

The Christmas season culminates by again lighting the candles of hope, peace, joy, & love. Tonight the Christ candle is also lit to commemorate the birth of Jesus, God Incarnate, the Living Son of God Most High born in Bethlehem. As written in Micah 5:2, "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

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.

✠ stand as able

✠ 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: Gospel **Luke 2:1-4a** N.T. pg.1459

Song of Preparation #250 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

SCRIPTURE: Gospel **Luke 2:4** N.T. pg.1459

Song of Preparation #286 "Once in Royal David's City"

SCRIPTURE: Gospel **Luke 2:5** N.T. pg.1459

Song of Preparation #281 "What Child is This?"

SCRIPTURE: Gospel **Luke 2:6-7** N.T. pg.1459

Song of Preparation #262 "Away in a Manger"

SERMON Takeaway: "Jesus is in the House"
by the Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford.

Response to God's Word

✠ **Song of Response #249** "O Come All Ye Faithful"