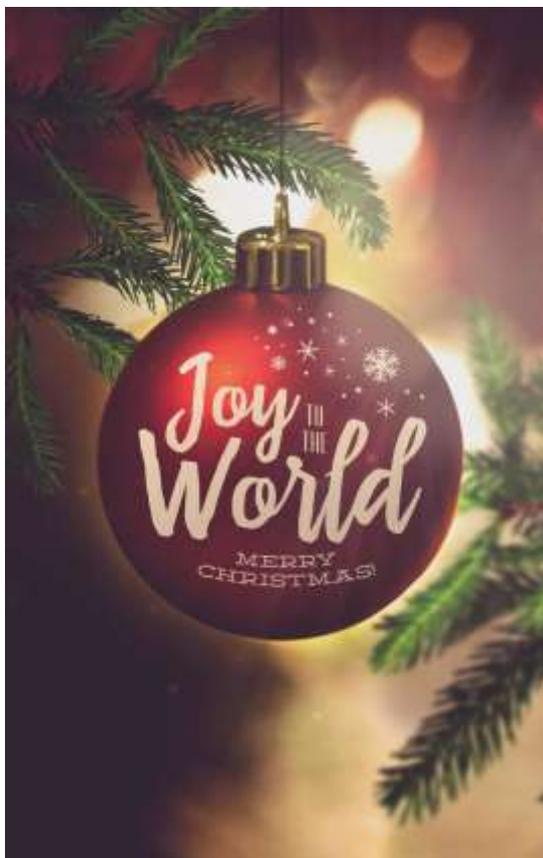


Welcome to  
First Presbyterian Church  
December 24, 2021



***Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  
with Communion***

## Preparation

Prelude

Choral Introit

## Adoration

Call to Worship

Leader: Come away, come away, come today to Bethlehem.

People: Come adore on bended knee,  
one whose birth the angels sing.

Leader: Come away, come away, from your noisy celebration,  
to a place of quietness and peace.

People: Come with wonder, come with awe.  
Take your place among the sheep and cattle.

Unison: Sing with joy, praise God, for the time of promise has  
come. Sing the good news of Emmanuel: God with us!  
The Christ has come!

Leader: Come away, come away, come today to Bethlehem.

\*Carol #41

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!  
Refrain:  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!
2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)

\*Bidding Prayer

## **\*The Lord's Prayer**

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.

\*Carol #23

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Reading

Matthew 1:18-23

Carol #9

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!
2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!
3. O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Reading

Luke 2:1-7

\*Carol #38

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King":  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
4. For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Reading

Matthew 2:1-11

Carol #66

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

1. We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
Refrain:  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!
5. Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)

Reading

Luke 2:8-16

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Collect for Christmas Eve

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Thy only Son, Jesus Christ: grant that as we joyfully receive Him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him, when He shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:  
Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Sacrament of Baptism

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Christmas Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Christmas Reading

Matthew 2:1-12 (RSV)

Christmas Meditation

Rev. Dr. David H. Green

A Christmas Carol: Christmas Joy

*“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly  
with great joy....”* (Matthew 2:10)

Anthem

*Oh Holy Night*

*Adam*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

*Jay and Kristie Swoboda (7:00)*

*Shirley Dukes and Leigh Green (11:00)*

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lighting of the Candles

\*Carol #60

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.
4. Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Please stand if able.

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# WELCOME

## Staff

Rev. Dr. David H. Green, Senior Pastor  
Dena Sowden, Director of Christian Education  
Stephanie Cooke, Interim Music Director  
Shirley Dukes, Parish Nurse  
Sharon VanSchuyver, Church Administrator  
Yvonne Rose, Office Assistant



First Presbyterian Church  
2727 N. Loop 336 W., Conroe, TX 77304  
Church Office (936) 756-8884 Fax (936) 756-8842  
Website: [www.fpcconroe.org](http://www.fpcconroe.org)