

PRELUDE CONCERT

“The Friendly Beasts”
“Silent Night”
“In the Bleak Midwinter”
“Baby What You Goin’ to Be”
“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”
“Il est ne le Divin Enfant”
“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

**Indicates to please stand as you are able.*

Bold text is spoken or sung by everyone.

WELCOME The Rev. Dr. Laurie Brubaker Davis

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. To this peace we were called as members of a single body. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP *(Remain seated)*

With the prophet Isaiah, we proclaim the promise of God:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

Authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

INTROIT Chancel Choir

“It Won’t Be Long Now”

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY The Schilling Wray Family

A: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?

Where do we start? Let us begin with hope. Let us begin with peace.

B: Let us begin with joy. Let us begin with love.

A: Yes, let us begin with love, for surely love knows your name.

B: Tonight, in addition to the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, we will light the Christ Candle at the end of our service.

B: Surely God is in this place. Surely the Spirit is near.

A: May we rest in that good news. Unto us a child is born.

B: A light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL RESPONSE

Congregation & Choir sing together:

O come, O come, Immanuel; and ransom captive Israel.

That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

UNISON ADVENT OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for guiding us throughout this season of wonder. We stand amazed at the promise now fulfilled and awed by your humble birth. Help us receive again the joy and wonder of the greatest gift offered to the world. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN #133** “O Come All Ye Faithful” *(St. 1 & 4)* with Brass

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

INTRODUCTION

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We would make room for you this night of all nights, dear Lord: room in our minds and hearts; room also in our life together. So, as we prepare to hear this ancient story once again, we ask that you would awaken something new in us. Awaken deep inside of us your love, which is bigger than the sky, and as close as our very breath. We are listening. We give thanks. Amen.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Nick North

A great light in the darkness

String Trio “In the Moon of Wintertime”

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 Jake Schilling

A little child will lead them

Viola/Cello Duet “What Child Is This”

THIRD LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38 Madison Miller

An angel appears to Mary

Vocal Ensemble “Arise, Shine” by Marty Haugen

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7 Antonio Koehn

Mary gives birth in Bethlehem

***HYMN #121** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” *(St. 1 & 2)*

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8-20 Kate Schilling

The shepherds go to the manger

Flute Trio “While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks”

SIXTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11 Henry Johnson

Magi come from the East

***HYMN #119** “We Three Kings” *(St. 1 & 5)*

SEVENTH LESSON John 1:1-5, 10-14, 16

And the Word became flesh

Heavenly words for earthly people, **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Jesus, Prince of Peace” by Jay Rouse Chancel Choir

A TIME FOR GENEROSITY

Jesus Christ has shown us how to live: loving God and neighbor, sharing what we have, engaging in acts of mercy and justice. As we celebrate his birth, and wait in hope for his coming again, let us bring the offerings of our lives before him.

OFFERTORY “Angel Songs” Handbell Choir

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to Christ.

Let us give thanks to our Redeemer.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Glorious God, it is right indeed to give thanks and praise to your name. At the birth of our Savior, shepherds lifted their eyes to a vision of angels.

Eastern star-watchers saw a sign in the heavens. Two people raised their faces in praise for a child born in a stable. So now we lift our own eyes, our hearts and voices, in praise of your name. We join with the angels and archangels in the ancient hymn of praise, saying:

Holy, holy, holy one, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O God most high. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Savior, Hosanna in the highest!

Yes, blessed is he who was born among us incognito,

who grew up without privilege or status,

who walked the way to heaven through the back streets of this world,

who told the deepest truths in ordinary language,

who touched and healed, blessed and disturbed without fear or favor,

who showed inclusive love in all its unconditional glory;

who, for all this, was crucified, died and was buried,

who, for all this and for all of us rose again;

who though high in heaven,

is present with us here and now.

As we do what Jesus once did, let your Spirit move among us to settle on this bread and this wine that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ. And let that same Spirit stir our souls so that as we share this sacrament, we may recognize Christ’s holy presence in us and we in Christ, forever. With joy and hope, we weave our voices together to pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying:

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION ~ BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The bread of heaven. Amen. The cup of salvation. Amen.
Please come forward by the center of the aisle in which you are sitting and return to your pew by the side aisle of your section. All bread being served is gluten free.

COMMUNION MEDITATION MUSIC

Viola Solos

“Still, Still, Still”
“Oh Holy Night”

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God, sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again. We think the world is too far gone. We think we have made too many mistakes. But then we come to this Table and get a glimpse of your kingdom. We come to this Table, and all are welcomed; all are seen, all are fed. And just like that, we have hope. Thank you for the gift of this fresh start. Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones. Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us that it's never too late to build your kingdom of Love here. We are grateful. We are so grateful. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:5

Lighting of the Christ Candle ~ Spreading the Light

The pastor will light the Christ Candle and then light the choir acolytes' candles. The choir will light the candles of those sitting on the outside aisle of each pew. People in turn will light the candle of the worshipper next to them. To prevent hot wax from dripping, tilt only the unlit candle as you receive the flame. Raise your candle when the pastor does, at the end of each stanza. Please carefully watch children worshipping with you and assist them as needed. Glow sticks are available for young children.

*HYMN #122 “Silent Night, Holy Night” (St. 1, 3, 4)

POSTLUDE

When the postlude begins, extinguish your candles.

PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Laurie Brubaker Davis
Lector	Jan Clouse
Advent Candle	Dom, Kristina, Josette, Robert, Arissa and Jude Kaiser
Deacons	Sue Ferguson, Janet Singer, Judy Bentley Nancy Vance
Greeters	Dale & Kathy Kramer
Communion Assist	Darlene Berry, Dan Burk, Jan Clouse, Travis Cooper, Mike Eberl, Bruce Lautenschlager, Sue Nelson, Don Zais
Piano	Lisa Carroll, Dan Kayhart, Kristine Johaneck, Saydi Olson, Emma Kowalski, Lisa Kowalski
Organ	Dan Kayhart, Lisa Carroll
Vocal	Tracy Olson, Patty Faber, Josh Olson, Greg Reiersen
Flute	Elma Rol, Kristina Kaiser, Josette Kaiser
Clarinet	Beth Kayhart, Oliver Johnson
Trombone	David Carroll, Dan Kayhart, Zach Kayhart, Elliot Johnson, Robert Kaiser, Kathy Phillips
Trumpet	David Carroll, Kathy Phillips
Violin	Antonio Koehn, Elsa Kowalski
Viola Solo	Lara Prebble
Cello	Laurie Brubaker Davis
Guitar	Patty Faber
Percussion	Josh Olson, Leo Olson
Handbell Choir	Kathy Phillips (Director), Stephanie Garbisch, Jade Hubbell, Kristy Johaneck, Josette Kaiser, Kristina Kaiser, Beth Kayhart, Zach Kayhart, Tracy Olson, Morgan Schmidlkofer, Nici Luchterhand, Oliver Johnson, Roxie Wetterau
Audio/Visual Team	Tech Lead: Dominic Kaiser Tech Team: Feyre Hiserman, Aaron Schmidlkofer, Ruth Walsh and Sean Walsh

WE CHOOSE WELCOME: We at FPC have embraced the "We Choose Welcome" awareness campaign of the PC(USA) which expresses our personal and church-wide commitment to welcome refugees and immigrants into our communities. The phrase comes from Gradye Parsons, former Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in which he urged us to "Choose Welcome, Not Fear." In the midst of: fear of terrorism and radicalism; hate speeches and hate crimes, anxiety about our own economic prosperity, and political debates which seek to divide us between those who were born here and those who were not-we choose welcome for all children of God, proclaiming one household.



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24, 2024 Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion

*In spite of war and terror, Mary gives birth to the Prince of Peace.
In spite of hunger, Mary gives birth to the Bread of Life.
In spite of lost sheep, Mary gives birth to the Good Shepherd.
In spite of hearts pregnant with hatred, Mary gives birth to LOVE.
--Ann Weems*

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER?

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering is encouraged to come to the Table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus. No one shall be excluded because of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, economic status, social class, handicapping condition, difference of culture or language, or any barrier created by human injustice. Coming to the Lord's Table, the faithful are to seek reconciliation in every instance of conflict or division between them and their neighbors.



HEARING & VISUAL ASSISTANCE Ask an Usher for help:
Switch hearing aid to T-Coil Loop Listeners. Magnifiers are available

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: First Presbyterian Church, Marshfield, Wisconsin seeks to welcome all to join us on our journey of faith, denying no one, based upon their particular human condition, participation in the life of the church. We want to be a safe place, a sanctuary where people are accepted, included, and cared for as they are. We will be agents of God's transforming power, aligning ourselves with the Holy Spirit as we pray, worship, learn, share fellowship and serve together. By attending to the love of Jesus Christ in our midst, we discover a deepening faith that makes a difference in our lives. As a community based on God's love, we strive to be of service to our neighbors and to the world.

I was hungry and you gave me food. (Matthew 25:35) Help our SOS (Soup or Socks) food pantry this holiday season. The need has been especially high, and the pantry shelves are getting bare. The following items are needed: Pancake Mix, Crackers, Broth, Chili or Stew, Instant Potatoes, Noodle mixes, Pasta Sauce, Baked Beans, Coffee, Shampoo, Deodorant, Body Wash, Dish soap, Kids toothpaste. Drop your donations here in the Narthex bins while SOS is closed for two weeks.