

Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Prelude

*Call to Worship Isaiah 9:2, 4, 6, 7

L: 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.

P: For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian.

L: 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.

P: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and His kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

*Carol 41 (blue), *please stand* *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (all verses)

Call to Confession / Prayer of Confession

Lord of Light and Hope, our minutes and hours have been swallowed up in preparation for this night and for the coming day. We have been so caught up in the preparations for gatherings and gifting that we have pushed aside the wonder of what You have done for all Creation. Forgive us when we so easily get entangled in our own plans and forget to pay attention to the true event. Help us to relax and listen, instead of rush and shout. May the songs of the angels, the surprise of the shepherds, and the joy of the Holy Family become part of our preparations and our lives. Open our ears, our eyes, our hearts, and our spirits to again hear the old, old story, spoken by new voices in new ways. Remind us again of Your never-changing love for us. Prepare us to serve You by serving others. This night we offer this prayer of our hearts to You, gracious God. Amen. *Silent Confession*

Assurance of Pardon

L: The true light that enlightens all has come into the world. That light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness will never put it out. This is the good news: God has heard our confession. God has forgiven our sin.

P: Thanks be to God!

*Congregational Response *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (verse 3)

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Prayer for Illumination

God, source of all light, by Your Word You give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened. Amen.

First Lesson: The Birth of Jesus Foretold ~ Luke 1:26-35, 38

Beverly Crouse

Anthem

A Tiny Child Will Come

Second Lesson: The Birth of Jesus ~ Luke 2:1, 3-7

Emma Humann

Lighting of the Candle of Hope

Kason Jurczyk

Carol 25 (blue), *remain seated Away in a Manger* (verses 1 and 3)

Third Lesson: Angels and Shepherds ~ Luke 2:8-14

Michael Jurczyk

Lighting of the Candle of Peace

Kason Jurczyk

Carol 23 (blue), *remain seated* *Angels We Have Heard on High* (all verses)

Fourth Lesson: The Shepherds Go to the Manger ~ Luke 2:15-20

Mary McDonald

Lighting of the Candle of Joy

Kason Jurczyk

*Carol 40 (blue), *please stand* *Joy to the World!* (all verses)

Fifth Lesson: Wise Men Come from the East ~ Matthew 2:1-6

Neal Watkins

Lighting of the Candle of Love

Kason Jurczyk

Carol 44 (blue), *remain seated O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verses 1 and 3)

Sixth Lesson: The Wise Men Visit the Christ Child ~ Matthew 2:7-12

Gene McLaurin

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Ken Bostick

Carol 63 (blue), *remain seated As with Gladness Men of Old* (verse 1 and 3)

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Words of Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: We give our thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thank and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

Sanctus

Words of Institution

Distribution of Elements

Communion Prayer

*Seventh Lesson: The Word Became Flesh ~ John 1:1, 3-5, 14, 16, *please stand* Dr. David Cagle

*The Collect for Christmas

*Carol 60 (blue), *please stand Silent Night, Holy Night!* (all verses)

*Lighting of the candles across the congregation during the singing of the hymn.

*The Blessing

*Postlude

*Please stand, as able



MISSION STATEMENT: *The First Presbyterian Church believes its mission is to be a family under the Lordship of Jesus Christ for the sake of loving relationships and mutual support and to show Christ's healing love beyond our family through words and deeds, to the glory of God.*

First Presbyterian Church

Rockingham, North Carolina

Founded 1870