

Everybody's Church



First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

Vision Statement

As Everybody's Church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community.

December 24, 2019, 11pm
Christmas Eve

PRELUDE

Congregational Carol Singing

CAROL 132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"
CAROL 113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"
CAROL 123 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"
CAROL 140 "Once in Royal David's City"

WELCOME

Rev. Joanne Blair

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary and Ed Aho

One: Like the shepherds, we come to the stable, uncertain of what we have heard and seen.
All: Longing to hear a word of peace and joy.
One: Like the wise ones, we have journeys to make, gifts to offer, and hope in our hearts.
All: That this world can change for the better.
One: Here, in the stillness of a winter's night, we gather to share the light of Christ; a light that shines in the nightfall.
All: We gather in the wonder of this night to be part of God's story of love. Let us worship God.

†CAROL 133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: The Lord be with you.
Many: And also with you.
All: Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Guide us with your word, and illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may hear and understand your word of joy and peace. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

Cindy Merten

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.

ANTHEM

"Cradle Hymn"
Chancel Choir Ensemble

Halley

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Kay and Al Huberty

†When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or in spirit.

Turn to First Things at the back of this bulletin for more information on the life of this church.

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

We are an intentionally inclusive congregation and value the richness of worshiping with all God's people. There are times in the sanctuary when shouts or other loud noises may occur. We accept these without judgment, unless they are signs of distress in need of attention.

Hymntune: ADESTE FIDELES

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: The world has been changed...

All: Because the savior has come!

One: The nations are learning how to live into God's love...

All: Because the messiah is in our midst!

One: War is no longer the last word...

All: Because the Prince of Peace is born on this day!

Unison Prayer: God of the new and unexpected, we praise you this night for the gift of your Son, who arrived in a manger and walked among us, bringing light into the darkness. Allow us to feel his presence as we retell the amazing story of the Messiah's birth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

†OUR RESPONSE 110 vs. 1 "Love Has Come"

**Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it.
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!**

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16 Rev. Joanne Blair
Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.

ANTHEM "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Paulus
Chancel Choir Ensemble

SIXTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11
Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.

MEDITATION Rev. Joanne Blair

†CAROL 119 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

OFFERING INFORMATION Dr. John Judson
*Members and guests, please sign the Fellowship Pads
to let us know of your presence with us.*

OFFERING Christmas Offering

MUSICAL OFFERING "In the Bleak Midwinter" Darke
Chancel Choir Ensemble

†THE DOXOLOGY "What Child Is This"

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER Dr. John Judson
SEVENTH LESSON John 1:1-14 Rev. Bethany Peerbolte

Hymntune: VENI EMMANUEL

If you wish to designate your gift tonight to the Christmas Joy Offering, please use the envelopes provided in the pews or use the memo line of your check. All undesignated gifts will be shared equally between the Christmas Joy Offering and the Alcott Shop N Drop ministry.

The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.

†CANDLELIGHTING

Please tip the candle that isn't lit toward the candle that is lit to prevent hot wax dripping. Before leaving the sanctuary, please extinguish your candle and place it in the receptacle at the exit. Thank you.

†CAROL 122

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

Hymntune: STILLE NACHT

**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.**

**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!”**

**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.**

**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.**

†BLESSING

†CAROL 134

“Joy to the World”

Hymntune: ANTIOCH

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

POSTLUDE

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

Bach

Andrew Herbruck, Director of Music Ministries, is playing the service this evening.

Ushers are Steven Coddington, Peter Miller and Terry Palleschi, Leader.

*We invite you to worship with us
Sunday, December 29 at 10am (no 8:30am service)*

Welcome in Christ’s name to First Presbyterian Church! You are welcome here just as you are at whatever place in your spiritual journey you find yourself. If you have any questions about who we are, what we believe or what we do please ask one of our elders or pastors. They will be pleased to visit with you.