



# FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

695 E. Calvin Street, Fayetteville, AR 72703 • (479) 442-4411 • www.fupcfay.org

December 24, 2024—5:30 p.m.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Stewart Smith

GATHERING MUSIC

Xiao Yang, organ  
Isaac Thomas, piano

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Tonight our hopes and dreams are realized in a perfect way. The promise is fulfilled.

**People: Hope gives way to joy, prayer gives way to proclamation.**

Leader: Our candles illuminate our story. Dawn invades midnight. The light of the world has come!

**People: And this light is a light for all; igniting a flame within the soul, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God-come-alive in human flesh within us and among us, now and forever.**

Leader: Tonight we have come to be with God because God has come to be with us.

**People: Tonight we come to worship Jesus Christ – joining with the heavenly host: “Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth and goodwill to all people.”**

**Unison: Come, all that are faithful and all that are seeking faith and let us celebrate the birth of our Lord!**

**\*CAROL 133** (verses 1, 3, 4)

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Glory to God

Words and Music by John Francis Wade, c. 1743

**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!**

**O come, let us adore Him, o come, let us adore Him,**

**O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing all ye citizens of heaven above!**

**Glorify to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore Him; O come let us adore Him;**

**O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;**

**Word of the Father! Now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;**

**O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**\*CAROL 113**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Glory to God

Words and Music: French Carol

**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!**

**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!**

**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!**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Lupe Gonzalez and Family

Leader: Tonight, the season of Advent comes to an end.

**People: The light of the world has come. Christ the Lord is born!**

Leader: This is the night for which we have been anticipating and waiting. On this Holy Night, we light all four candles and the center candle, the Christ candle. The candle reminds us that Jesus Christ is the center of our lives.

**People: God's promise to send a Savior is fulfilled.**

Leader: The Son of God humbled Himself to be born among us. The newborn Savior was wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger in Bethlehem. The infant king was worshipped by shepherds and praised by angels.

**People: Tonight, we join them in praising our Lord and King.**

Leader: Let us pray,

Unison: Loving God, who comes to us in Jesus, on this night as we celebrate our Savior's birth, let the love of Christ come into our hearts that we might find peace with Your forever! Amen.

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Light a Candle Bright and Tall*  
Words by David Wood; Music by Conrad Kocher



Light a can - dle bright and tall, for the Christ we greet to - day.  
Christ has - come, our all in all. With the an - gels, let us say:  
Shine with - in our hearts to-day; come, O Christ, to us, we pray.

## CHILDREN'S SONG

*O Come, Little Children*  
Words and Music by Adolphe Charles Adam

**O come, little children, O come, one and all.  
O come, to the manger in Bethlehem's stall.  
Sing glory to God in the heavens above,  
and thank Him for Jesus, the proof of God's love.**

## TIME FOR CHILDREN

Kristi Button

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-16

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!' <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

## SERMON

*A Very Humble Entrance – Born in a Manger*

Rev. Stewart Smith

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Tonight's offering will go to the Individual Assistance Fund which helps church and community members in times of urgent need. If you have an offering to the church, please note that on your check.)

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*O Holy Night* (from *Carols of the Night*)  
Words by Cappeau de Roguemaure and Josphe Mohr;  
Music by Adolphe Adam and Franz Gruber; Setting by Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir  
Xiao Yang, piano

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the right of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O night, divine! O night, O night when Christ was born,  
O night, divine! O night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name, all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we, His power and glory evermore proclaim.  
Behold your King, before Him bend! O Holy night.

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE INVITATION

### COMMUNION 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.**

### THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND SHARING OF CUP

*You will be served in the pews. The bread is gluten free. Grape juice is in the cups. Please join in the carols before and after partaking of the elements.*

### HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*#115 Away in a Manger*  
Words from Little Children's Book for Schools and Families; Music by James R. Murray

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

*#128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
Words and Music: Polish Carol

**Infant holy, infant lowly for His bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the babe is Lord of all  
Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ, the babe is Lord of all!  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new. Saw the glory, heard the story  
Tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:  
Christ, the babe was born for you! Christ, the babe was born for you!**

*#146 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* (verses 1, 2)  
Words by Joseph S. Cook; Music from *Piae Cantiones*

**Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger;  
there He lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a Babe in such a place, can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found His favor.  
Angels sang about His birth; wise men sought and found Him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.**

*#124 Still, Still, Still* (verses 1, 2)  
Words and Music: Austrian Carol

**Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill! The virgin's tender arms enfolding,  
Warm and safe the child are holding. Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep. While angel hosts from heaven come winging,  
Sweetest songs of joy are singing. Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*CAROL #121 (verses 1, 4)

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
Words by Phillips Brooks; Music by Lewis H. Redner

Glory to God

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us our Lord Emmanuel**

## THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES

*A choir member will light the candle at the ends of each pew. Please turn and hold your candle upright so your neighbor's candle can be lit.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-9, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning.<sup>3</sup>Through him, all things were made; without him, nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone is coming into the world. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

\*CANDLELIGHT CAROL #122

*Silent Night, Holy Night*  
Words by Joseph Mohr, 1816; Music by Franz Xavier Gruber, 1818

Glory to God

**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.**

*(a cappella)*

**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.**

## \*BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #134 (verse 1)

*Joy to the World*  
Words by Isaac Watts; Music by George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)

Glory to God

**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!**

## CHRIST OUR SAVIOR IS BORN!

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

## Participants

Greeters - Elizabeth Houle and Dennis Nelson

Interim Senior Pastor - Rev. Stewart Smith

Minister of Music/Commissioned Ruling Elder - Isaac Thomas

Choral Interns - Cole Jackson, Jeffrey Kerst, Isabelle Pennick, Verna Labitad, and Will Trotter-Wright

Audio/Visual Team - Christopher Verdery, Connor Button, and Drew Parker

Worship Band: Rob Button, Dennis Brewer, Don Steinkraus, Jeffrey Kerst

Director of Christian Education - Kristi Button

Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministries - Amanda McDonald

Membership Coordinator - Amy McCann

Childcare Coordinator - Lee Pendley

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Scripture from NRSV