



*indicates standing, if able.
This service is being recorded by video and audio means.

~ **We Gather** ~

Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Prelude

What Child is This
Music Ensemble

Todd Fields

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Voices of Advent

The Christ Candle
Read by LisaKay Matchen

Voices of Advent by Jeri L. Shumate. Produced by special arrangement with Contemporary Drama Service

*Call to Worship

Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked to fill in the blank for the statement: "My story is. . ." From the voices of different generations, these are their answers:

Amazing!

Just beginning.

A wee bit messy, with lots of love.

Privileged.

Hopeful.

Full of silliness.

Still unfolding.

Long, but good.

One of resilience.

Incomplete, thank goodness.

Multilingual.

A work in progress.

My story is not just mine, it's tied to yours.

Tonight, we tell the story that we tell every year—the story of Christ's birth, the story of love made flesh. It's a story that weaves through every generation. It's a story that picks up the bits and pieces of our narrative and braids us together.

Let us hear the story again and worship.



Text: John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743) Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841. Music: John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743), Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906. *The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs* © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. All Rights reserved. Used by permission.

*Song

Love Has Come

Bring A Torch

Capo 3: (D) (Bm7) (Em7) (A)
 F Dm7 Gm7 C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C Bb F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 Bb C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C Bb C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

We admit—we don't fully understand the Christmas story.

We are not familiar with angel choruses.

We have not walked many miles to be counted in a census,

and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams.

We don't fully understand this story, so we admit, sometimes we hesitate to tell it. Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we could imagine,

we whisper this good news.

Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,

we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out.

Instead of telling the next generation why this night matters so much,

we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.

Forgive us for our silence.

Forgive us for our hesitation.

Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news.

Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation.

(please continue in silent prayer)

*Declaration of Forgiveness

*The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

~We Proclaim~

A Word with the Children

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-20

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“We Tell This Story”

Rev. Matt Nieman

~The Response~

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that for generations people have gathered together on this holy night, because there is something about this story that speaks to the deepest parts of us.

We believe in bundling up this hope, this good news, and passing it on—to our children, to our neighbors, to the world around us.

I believe my voice can make a difference, just like I believe this story can make a difference, so I will not stay quiet.

I will tell this story—of a love that makes room for all.

I will sing this story—of a love that knows our name.

I will live this story—because love has come again.

I believe that words have power.

I will not stay quiet.



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A Call to Give

~We Remember~

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.**

Words of Institution

The Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion

~We Go Out Into the World~

Lighting of Candles

*Hymn #60

Silent Night, Holy Night

Stille Nacht

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1818, Trans. John Freeman Young, 1863. Music: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818.
The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. All Rights reserved. Used by permission.

*Hymn #29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It

Text: Stanzas, John W. Work II (1872-1925). Music: African-American spiritual, Arr. John W. Work III, 1940, Harm. and adapt. Melva Wilson Costen © 1989.
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*Charge and Benediction



Special thanks to our Music Ensemble:
Dr. Khyle Wooten, piano ~ Tim Mashue, bass guitar



If you would like the church office to record your attendance today, you can:

- Scan this QR code and click on the generated google doc link, or
- Go to <https://tinyurl.com/record-FPC-attendance>, or
- Email the office at office@fpctn.org



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

EVERY YEAR

My heart and I have an agreement.
Every year we show up here—here in the sanctuary,
here with the candles and the tall ceilings,
here with the creaky church pews and the songs of silent nights.
My heart and I have an agreement.
Every year we show up here—at the end of the year,
after another 12 months of humanity, of me trying to keep it all together,
trying to keep my head above water, trying to keep up appearances.
Every year we show up here.
We drop it all. We leave it at the door.
We come into this space and I could swear it feels different.
Maybe it's God.
Maybe it's hope.
Maybe it's love.
But whatever it is, I need it every year,
so we show up here.
Tell us again the story of tonight.
My heart needs it.

FROM generation to generation - We tell this story - Poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed



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Joy
to the world

THE LORD HAS COME

Join us tomorrow morning as we celebrate
the birth of Christ and worship on

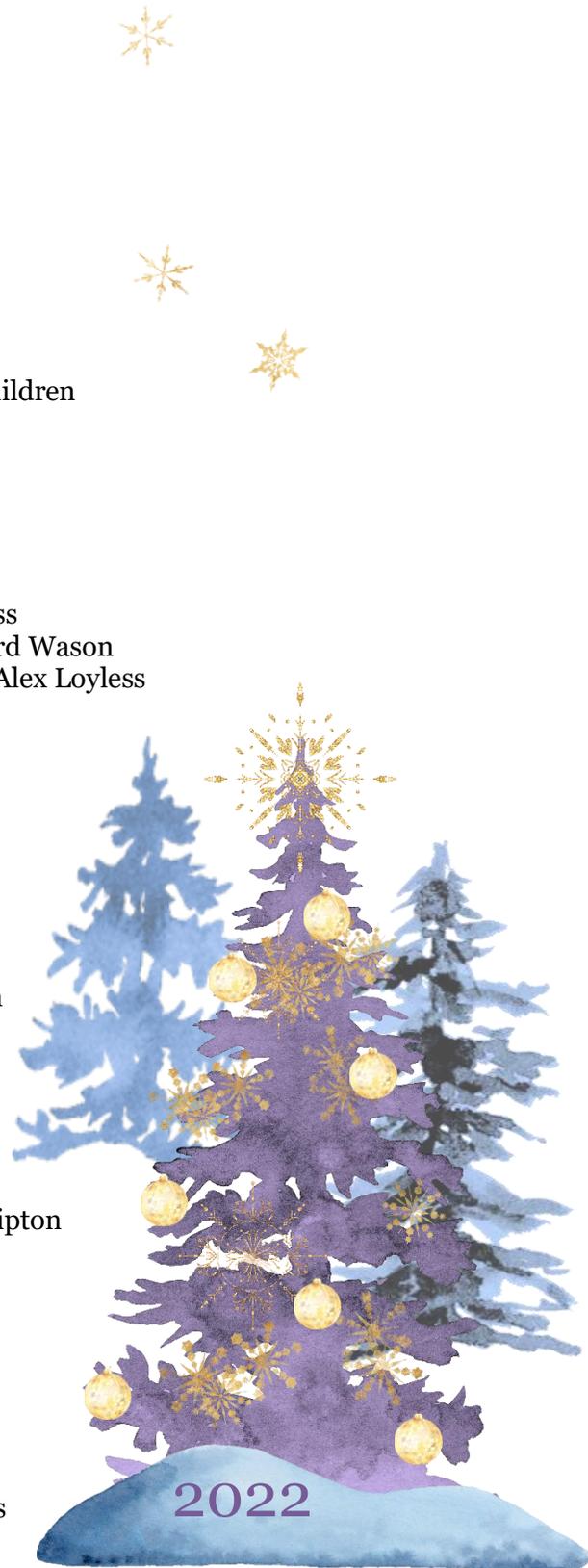
**Christmas Day,
Sunday December 25 at 10am**



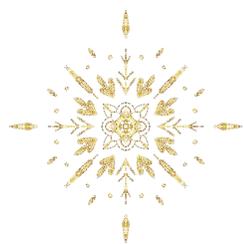
We would like to convey our sincere appreciation to the following families who contributed towards poinsettias and other sanctuary decorations that add to the beauty and meaning of worship during the Advent & Christmas seasons.

Poinsettias and Decorations Donated By:

Karen & Paul Johnson in honor of their children and grandchildren:
Kevin, Dave, Suzi, Juliana, Theodore, Alexandra and Nicholas
David & Jane Bolus in memory of Diane Morgan
Debbie Schwartz in memory of John Schwartz
Ann McAnally in memory of Sara Clapp
Wayne & MaryAnne Walls in memory of their parents
Wayne & MaryAnne Walls in honor of their children & grandchildren
Greg & Sandi Keagy in memory of Marvin & Lois Keagy
Greg & Sandi Keagy in honor of Elam & Doris Snavely
Nathan & Byrd Mathis in memory of Doris & Earl Mathis
Nathan & Byrd Mathis in memory of Joseph & Margaret Campbell
John & Jeannie Tabor in honor of their beautiful and healthy grandchildren
Kent & Joyce Williams in memory of George & Helen Soules
Beth & Jerry Martin in honor of Harper Judd Hensley
Beth & Jerry Martin in honor of Hadley Day Collins
Beth & Jerry Martin in memory of Mike W. Martin
Beth & Jerry Martin in memory of Robert & Aileen McQuilkin
Beth & Jerry Martin in memory of Maurice & Elizabeth Martin
Jimmy & Beth Loyless in memory of Rev. James W. & Lucile E. Loyless
Jimmy & Beth Loyless in memory of Robert Alexander & Gloria Gifford Wason
Jimmy & Beth Loyless in honor of Emily Norris, Edward Norris, and Alex Loyless
Jean & Fred Peretz in honor of Annie Peretz
Annie, Fred & Jean Peretz in memory of Ray & Ruth Peretz
Annie, Fred & Jean Peretz in memory of Luke and Charlsie Hays
Jerry & Jan Seiler in memory of Frank & Thelma Seiler and
Harry & Martha Moody
Steve & Janet Tinder in memory of Sarah and Chris
John & Becky Thomason in honor of Khyle, Tim, Jacob & Joey
Becky Dangel in honor of Boomer Dangel
Becky Dangel in memory of Norman Garrett, Jr.
Becky Dangel in honor of the Music Ministry at Farragut Presbyterian
The Preston family in memory of John Preston
Kathy Emmerson in memory of Kris Grice
Kathy Emmerson in memory of Verna York
Kathy Emmerson in memory of Helen Geist
Rick & Kris VanAllen family in memory of John & Elizabeth VanAllen
Rick & Kris VanAllen family in memory of John & Frances Petersen
Dan & Shirley Greaser in memory of their parents: Glenn & Maude Tipton
and Charles & Margaret Greaser
Dan & Shirley Greaser in memory of Corey Hayslip, Mark Sterling,
Terry Tipton and Vic Dilling
Irene & Dave Rice in memory of Boyd & Nealy Huckaby
Irene & Dave Rice in memory of George & Ruth Rice
Irene & Dave Rice in memory of Alenda Burdette
Chris & Lori Patterson in honor of Andrew & Anna, Thomas & Claire,
Bryan & Anna
Chris & Lori Patterson in memory of Gene, Ginny, and Wendy Rhodes
Chris & Lori Patterson in honor of their Patterson parents
Chris & Lori Patterson in memory of their grandparents
Chris & Lori Patterson in honor of Rev. Matt Nieman and the FPC staff



Greg & Carol Kraft in honor of family past and present
Janet & Mike Murphy in honor of their children: Emily, Charlotte, Pete & Matt
Nancy & Ralph Upchurch in memory of their daughter, Kimberly Upchurch
Gayle Pardue Williams in memory of Dr. Mark Williams
Gayle Pardue Williams in memory of JC and Demaris Pardue
Gayle Pardue Williams in memory of Marshall & Polly Williams
Gayle Pardue Williams in honor of Dr. Janis Pardue Hill
Catherine & David Manning in honor of their son, Deacon Manning
Catherine & David Manning in honor of their daughter & son-in-law, Meredith & Tucker Fritz
Catherine & David Manning in honor of their FPC family
Mark & Joanie Scheuer in memory of Dan & Jean Scheuer
Mark & Joanie Scheuer in memory of Tom Kivlin
Mark & Joanie Scheuer in memory of Robert Kivlin
Mark & Joanie Scheuer in honor of Barbara Kivlin
Mark & Joanie Scheuer in honor of their children and grandchildren
The Zilles family in honor of parents, Dan & Shirley Greaser
The Zilles family in memory of parents, Helen & Paul Zilles and son, Corey
The Zilles family in honor of their children and grandchildren
Helen Nalley & Bill Nelson in memory of Lavell Nalley III
Helen Nalley & Bill Nelson in memory of Katherine & Howard Nelson, Sr.
Helen Nalley & Bill Nelson in honor of Joan Nalley Buchanan
Mark & Beth Allen in honor of Wells & Walker Kennedy
Mark & Beth Allen in honor of Billy & Charie Allen
Mark & Beth Allen in memory of Robbie Leffew
Mark & Beth Allen in memory of George & Mavis Allen
Mark & Beth Allen in honor of Patrick & Christine Allen and Sarah & Matt Kennedy
Eric & Betty Nicholls in memory of Eric & Antonia Nicholls
Eric & Betty Nicholls in memory of Herbert & Evelyn Mueller
George & Beth White in memory of Ivan Henry & Ruby Jo White
George & Beth White in memory of Noel & Mary Lib Flickinger



This Week at FPC

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| Sun, Dec 25 | 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Sunday Worship | | |
| Mon, Dec 26 | ***** | ***** | CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED |
| Thur, Dec 29 | 7:00 | p.m. | Thursday Night Bible Study/Zoom |
| Fri, Dec 30 | 10:00 | a.m. | Chair Yoga/Narthex |

Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (No Class on 12/25)

| Class | Room | Topic |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Adult Bible Study | Outside or in the Parlor in bad weather | This class discusses the Lectionary text from the sermon, and still meets under the trees in good weather and in the parlor in bad weather. |
| Monday Connection | Zoom and Room A | Starting TODAY, this group will discuss the book <i>Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved</i> , an autobiography by Kate Bowler who is facing cancer and the prospect of her own mortality. |
| Intergenerational Advent Study for Adults and Youth | Library | Thru Sunday 12/18 youth and adults are invited to join together to study "The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of <i>The Grinch</i> ." Contact Mason Warren for more information at masonwarren@fpcn.org . |



Farragut Presbyterian Church

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