SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD’S DAY

**11:00 a.m. FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 19, 2021**

*“Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.” Isaiah 60:3*

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** Kristin King, harpist

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF ADORATION**

**\*HYMN**  No. 104 *Tune:* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

Almighty God, who chose earth as your cradle and broke heaven in upon our drear captivity to sin and death: Discover in us whatever grieves for the world’s anguish and deepen our sorrow for the evil we have done to one another and for what we have neglected in the need of neighbor and stranger. Move us in this season to an honest repentance. Remove from within us the comfortable lies and the arrogance by which we have prevented the world’s peace and damaged goodwill among the nations. Then, set our hearts toward the stable in Bethlehem; for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

**\*GLORIA PATRI** No. 110

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.

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

(Please sign and pass the Friendship Registers at this time.)

**INVITATION TO THE CHILDREN**

**ANTHEM**  Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Andrew Risinger

Chancel Choir

**UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

As once more we take upon our lips the Christmas songs and upon our hearts the Christmas truth, let your Word be made flesh again in human life, and Love Incarnate walk the ways of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Micah 5:2-5 Page 865

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Luke 1:46-55 Page 57

**SERMON** “God is Turning the World Around” Dr. Williams

*“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior…” Luke 1:46-47*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *A Declaration of Faith,* 1977

Hope in God gives us courage for the struggle. The people of God have often misused God’s promises as excuses for doing nothing about present evils. But in Christ the new world has already broken in and the old can no longer be tolerated. We know our efforts cannot bring in God’s kingdom. But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil that are possible now in the world, the church, and our individual lives. Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition, however invincible it my seem, for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord. Amen.

**\*HYMN** No. 100 *Tune:* STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

My Soul Cries out with a Joyful Sound

stanza 1 – women, stanzas 2-4 - all

**THE PRAYERS CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts/debtors)**

**\*HYMN** No. 102 *Tune:* NUN KOMM, DER

Savior of the Nations, Come HEIDEN HEILAND

###### **\*BENEDICTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall,

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**\*POSTLUDE** Kristin King, harpist

**\***Congregation please stand.

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR** marks the beginning of the Lord’s Day service. The prelude is a time for quiet preparation and private prayer as the congregation prepares to worship God.

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES** are Jordan and Danny Chase, and their children Jackson, Turner, and Edie.

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** is provided by Kristin King, a concert harpist and co-owner of New Arts Ensembles in Savannah. She performs regularly with the Savannah Philharmonic. Deanie Strength is the accompanist for the Chancel Choir.

**GREETER:**  Ann Tatum…**USHERS:** Stephen McGehee, head usher; Howard Crawford, Matt Chase, and Colby Longley... **EXTENDED SESSION TEACHERS:** Whitney Peteranetz, Maggie McManus, Eric McManus, Jane Sparks, and William Sparks.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Sunday, December 19 9:20 a.m Adult Handbell Choir

9:30 a.m………………………………………………Sunday School

10:30 a.m…………………………………………. Coffee Fellowship

11:00 a.m……………………………………………..Worship Service

Wednesday, December 22 6:30 p.m……………………………………..Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 23 8:00 p.m………………………………………………….AA Meeting

Friday, December 24 Office Closed – Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m……………………………………..Chancel Choir rehearsal

5:30 p.m…………………………………………Music of the Season

6:00 p.m………………………….Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**JOY GIFT OFFERING** is a mission offering received by congregations of the PCUSA. It is divided equally for the support of racial ethnic schools and colleges with covenant ties to the Presbyterian Church and by the Board of Pensions to supplement the income of very low-income retired church workers. The offering will be received today.

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS EVE TABLEAU** Children 5 years old through 5th grade are invited to participate in the Christmas Eve Tableau. Rehearsal is today for all participants, after the worship service. Parents are also asked to help. Contact [allison@savannahfpc.org](mailto:allison@savannahfpc.org) to participate.

**ENJOY A BREAKFAST AND FELLOWSHIP!** Men of First and friendswill meeton Monday, December 20, 7:30 – 8:15 a.m., at the Holland House, 601 East 68th Street. Bill Ricks will lead the study, “Origins of Some Christian Traditions.”

**RESPONSE TO TORNADOES** Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is in touch with the affected Presbyteries to coordinate assistance. To express interest in volunteering for rebuilding efforts contact Linda Wittish, chair of the Social Concerns Committee at [rwittish@bellsouth.net](mailto:rwittish@bellsouth.net). Donations to PDA tornado relief can be made by checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with the notation #DR000015.