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First Presbyterian Church

Rochester, Minnesota

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## Christmas Eve

December 24, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Prelude	We Three Kings	Valerie Stephenson
	Alleluia Ringers	
	<i>Willie, Take Your Little Drum</i>	James Biery
	Organ Interlude	
	'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime	Cathy Moglebust
	Joyous Praise Handbell Choir	

*Our worship begins with the prelude. Let the power of the music speak to you of God's glory; let its quietness tell you of God's peace; let its beauty lift your hearts in prayer.*

### Greeting and Welcome

**Advent Candle Song** (Sing refrain, stanza 5, refrain. Please see back page)

**Lighting of the Advent Candles (Joy comes again.)** The Gregg and Rebecca Erickson Family

*Joy has come to the world in the baby Jesus. Joy came through Bethlehem, a little place, an ordinary place, to ordinary people who didn't think too highly of themselves.*

**That means joy can come also to us.**

*We light the Christ candle because of joy. Joy in clarity. Joy in our homes. Joy in quietness. Joy in the center of time and space, which is Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let thy gift to us be blessed.**

### Call to Worship

*Rejoice! I bring good news for all people.*

**Unto us a child is born. Alleluia!**

*Tonight the angels sing on earth.*

**Glory to God in the highest!**

◆ **Carol 133** O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES

**Christmas Eve Invocation** (in unison)

**God of us all, we come as your faithful to Bethlehem on this silent night. We come to gather around the manger and see for ourselves this wondrous thing of which we have heard. We come to worship the baby born to be king. Make us worthy to receive your gift of grace, O God. And let us go from this place renewed in our faith so we may give your gift of love and peace to each person we meet, as it was given to us so long ago. Come, let us worship the King! Amen.**

**The Announcement of Salvation** Isaiah 52:7-10

**Carol 119** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

**A Son Has Been Given** Isaiah 9:2b, 6-7

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◆ Please stand if you are able.

**Anthem** Ding, Dong! Michael Bradford  
Cherub Choir; Katie Kruger, director; Carol Shaffer, accompanist  
Hear the bells ring out their song!  
Listen to them as they say, "Jesus Christ is born today!"  
Joyfully the angel sing, making all the heavens ring;  
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
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**An Angel Visits Joseph** Matthew 1:18-24b

**Carol 115** Away in a Manger MUELLER

**The Birth of Jesus** Luke 2:1-7

**Anthem** Ding, Dong, Merrily on High arr. Ken Berg  
Calvin Choir; Katie Kruger, director; Barbara Depman, accompanist  
Ding dong merrily on high, in heav'n the bells are ringing:  
Ding dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.  
Gloria... Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria... Hosanna in excelsis!  
  
E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,  
And "Io, io, io!" by priest and people sungen.  
Gloria... Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria... Hosanna in excelsis!  
  
Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rhyme your evetime song, ye singers.  
Gloria... Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria... Hosanna in excelsis!  
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**Angels Visit the Shepherds** Luke 2:8-14

◆ **Carol 113** Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA

**The Shepherds Visit Jesus** Luke 2:15-20

**Offertory**

*Tonight's offering supports the work of our Board of Deacons, including transportation services, communion supplies, flowers for our hospitalized members, cassette tapes of worship services, and special congregation needs.*

**Music at the offertory** Gentle Mary Laid Her Child John Behnke  
Joyous Praise Handbell Choir

◆ **Offertory Response, hymn 144** (stanza 4) What Can I Give Him? CRANHAM  
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

◆ **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**God of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for your greatest gift, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. In this season when so many gifts are given and received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer now. Use them according to your will, bringing good news of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

**Message** Mary, Ponder This Rev. T. J. Parlette  
(a poetic reflection by William G Carter)

**A Christmas Prayer**

**Lighting of the Candles**

*(After the minister's introduction, lights are switched off. Candle lighters then take their light from the Christ candle and move to the aisle[s], lighting the candles at the end of each row; each person passes the light to his or her neighbor. Please light your candle, by tilting your UNLIT candle to the lighted candle. Keeping your lit candle upright will help keep wax from dripping.)*

**Carol 122**

**Silent Night**

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.

(Please extinguish your candles.)

- ◆ **The Grace of God Appears** Titus 3:4-7; 2:11
- ◆ **Carol 134** Joy to the World! ANTIOCH
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Benediction**

**Postlude** From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Walter Pelz

Those who wish may be seated for the postlude. Our music is offered to the glory of God; if you want to express your appreciation, a spoken "Amen" or "Praise God" is appropriate.

The staff of First Presbyterian Church wishes you the most blessed of holidays. May God be in your midst as you gather to share the joy of Christ's birth. May God's heart be in the gifts you share, and may God's protective hand of love go with you as you travel and gather with loved ones and friends.

**Thursday, December 24:** Candlelight worship at 11 p.m. with pre-service music at 10:30 p.m. Child care will not be offered for the 11 p.m. service.

**Friday, December 25:** Pause in the midst of your busy day to celebrate with family and friends the birth of our Lord and savior, for unto you was born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ your Lord. No services will be held at the church.

**Saturday, December 26:** The church will be closed.

**Sunday, December 27:** Service of worship at 11 a.m. only. No Sunday school. Nursery care and Children's Activities will be available.

**Offering envelopes** for 2016 are in the social hall. If there isn't a box with your name and you want to use envelopes, check in the church office.

**Special Offerings in December.** We are currently receiving special offerings for the Christmas Joy Offering and the Deacons Fund. You may contribute to either fund through January by noting the designation on your contribution. You are a generous congregation. Thanks for your support and for being stewards in both word and deed.

**Each year** our church activities are summarized in the "Annual Report to the Congregation." If you are responsible for writing a report, we need it in the church office by January 18. The best reports are those sent to Carol via e-mail or a Word attachment to an e-mail (evans.carol@FPCRochester.org).

**Pledge Statements.** We will mail final statements for 2015 about January 8. To find out before then if you fulfilled your 2015 pledges, stop in or call the church office (282-1618). To be considered a charitable donation in 2015 we either need to receive your donation by December 31 or your envelope needs to be postmarked by December 31.

# Advent Candle

Lee J. Afdahl ©1999



Ad - vent can - dle, Ad - vent can - dle, give us light a - long our



way. Guide us for - ward to the man - ger of our



Sav - ior Christ to - day. 1.Can - dle one re - minds us  
2.Can - dle two re - minds us  
3.Can - dle three re - minds us  
4.Can - dle four re - minds us  
5.Christ - mas Can - dle can re -



of the time when the pro - phets did fore - tell of the  
of the time John the Bap - tist did pro - claim, "Clear the  
of the time John re - vealed his pur - pose here, to pro -  
of the time when the an - gel Ga - bri - el came to  
mind - us of our Sav - ior Christ the Lord, of His



com - ing of the Son of God. Watch and pray; pre - pare you well.  
way, pre - pare the high - way, and the hills be - come a plain."  
claim the cap - tives' free - dom, and bap - tize with wat - ter."  
Mar - y, "Peace be with - you, for with God shall all be well."  
birth and our sal - va - tion, for 'tis He whom we a - dore.



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First Presbyterian Church

Rochester, Minnesota

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## Christmas Eve

December 24, 2015 at 11:00 p.m.

**Prelude** (10:30 p.m.)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming  
Willie, Take Your Little Drum  
Suo Gan - Welsh Folk Lullaby  
On This Day Earth Shall Ring  
Ding, Dong, Merrily on High  
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly  
Coventry Carol  
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear  
Away in a Manger  
O Holy Night

Richard Lind  
James Biery  
Jefferey Hall  
Robert Hobby  
Charles Wood  
David Willcocks  
Martin Shaw  
Arthur Sullivan  
David Willcocks  
Robert Lau

*Musicians: Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir, Madrigal Singers, Lee J. Afdahl (organist)*

*Our worship begins with the prelude. Let the power of the music speak to you of God's glory;  
let its quietness tell you of God's peace; let its beauty lift your hearts in prayer.*

### Greeting and Welcome

**Advent Candle Song** (Sing refrain, stanza 5, refrain. Please see back page)

**Lighting of the Advent Candles (Joy comes again.)** The Brent and Rachael Kaslow Family

*Joy has come to the world in the baby Jesus. Joy came through Bethlehem, a little place, an ordinary place, to ordinary people who didn't think too highly of themselves.*

**That means joy can come also to us.**

*We light the Christ candle because of joy. Joy in clarity. Joy in our homes. Joy in quietness. Joy in the center of time and space, which is Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. Let thy gift to us be blessed.**

### Call to Worship

*Rejoice! I bring good news for all people.*

**Unto us a child is born. Alleluia!**

*Tonight the angels sing on earth.*

**Glory to God in the highest!**

### ◆ Carol 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

**Christmas Eve Invocation** (in unison)

**God of us all, we come as your faithful to Bethlehem on this silent night. We come to gather around the manger and see for ourselves this wondrous thing of which we have heard. We come to worship the baby born to be king. Make us worthy to receive your gift of grace, O God. And let us go from this place renewed in our faith so we may give your gift of love and peace to each person we meet, as it was given to us so long ago. Come, let us worship the King! Amen.**

- ◆ Please stand if you are able.

**The Announcement of Salvation**

Isaiah 52:7-10

**Carol 119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

**A Son Has Been Given**

Isaiah 9:2b, 6-7

**Anthem**

Noel We Sing  
Chancel Choir

Louis Claude Daquin

Angels of the Lord they came from the heavens singing, called the shepherds forth by name while the bells were ringing. Told the shepherds where they lay, Jesus Christ was born today, Noel we sing. Christ is born a King.

Leave your ewes and leave your rams, leave the watch you're keeping. Leave your sheep and leave your lambs on the hillside sleeping. Rise up, shepherd, follow me to the manger lowly, Noel we sing.

To the manger, straight they came, there they knelt before Him, singing praises to His name, thus they did adore Him. Echoing their sweet amen, Christ is born in Bethlehem, amen.

Trumpets sound and angels sing, join in celebration, to us all good tidings bring of a new creation. For today a child is born, Jesus, son of Mary, Noel we sing.

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**An Angel Visits Joseph**

Matthew 1:18-24b

**Carol 121**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

**Anthem**

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt  
Chancel Choir

Carl Schalk

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word, I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred; but there is room and welcome there for me, but there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find him as they said: sweet, newborn babe, how frail, and in a manger bed: a still small voice to cry one day for me, a still small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare: a Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me; a Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I forget how love was born and burned its way into my heart: unasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me, to die, to live, and not alone for me.

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**The Birth of Jesus**

Luke 2:1-7

**Carol 115**

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

**The Visit from the Angels**

Luke 2:8-14

**Carol 113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

**The Shepherds Visit Jesus**

Luke 2:15-20

- ◆ **Carol 136**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

**Offertory**

*Tonight's offering supports the work of our Board of Deacons, including transportation services, communion supplies, flowers for our hospitalized members, and special congregation needs.*

**Music at the offertory**

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus  
Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir

Lee J. Afdahl

- ◆ **Offertory Response, hymn 144 (stanza 4)** What Can I Give Him?

CRANHAM

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

- ◆ **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**God of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for your greatest gift, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. In this season when so many gifts are given and received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer now. Use them according to your will, bringing good news of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

**Message**

Mary, Ponder This  
(a poetic reflection by William G Carter)

Rev. T. J. Parlette

## A Christmas Prayer

### Lighting of the Candles

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#### Carol 122

#### Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

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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.

(Please extinguish your candles.)

#### ◆ The Grace of God Appears

Titus 3:4-7; 211

#### ◆ Tolling of the Hour

#### ◆ Carol 134

#### Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

#### ◆ Christmas Eve Benediction

#### Postlude

#### From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Walter Pelz

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 4.Can - dle four re - minds us  
 5.Christ - mas Can - dle can re -



of the time when the pro - phets did fore - tell of the  
 of the time John the Bap - tist did pro - claim, "Clear the  
 of the time John re - vealed his pur - pose here, to pro -  
 of the time when the an - gel Ga - bri - el came to  
 mind - us of our Sav - ior Christ the Lord, of His



com - ing of the Son of God. Watch and pray; pre - pare you well.  
 way, pre - pare the high - way, and the hills be - come a plain."  
 claim the cap - tives' free - dom, and bap - tize with wat - ter."  
 Mar - y, "Peace be with - you, for with God shall all be well."  
 birth and our sal - va - tion, for 'tis He whom we a - dore.

### About Our Church

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Pastor  
 Rev. Jay P. Rowland, Associate Pastor  
 Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music/Organist

Susan K. Kruger, Office Administrator  
 Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager  
 Diane M. Johnston-Arthur, Custodian

### About Our Church

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Pastor  
 Rev. Jay P. Rowland, Associate Pastor  
 Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music/Organist  
 Rick L. Morris, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education

Susan K. Kruger, Office Administrator  
 Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager  
 Diane M. Johnston-Arthur, Custodian

Office hours: Monday-Thursday (7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.); Friday (7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.); Saturday (9:30 a.m.-noon)

First Presbyterian Church; 512 SW Third Street / Rochester, MN 55902; 507/282-1618  
 rochesterfpc@msn.com; www.fpcrochester.org

*The mission of First Presbyterian Church of Rochester  
 is to reflect God's love for all people by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*