



First Presbyterian Church

Rochester, Minnesota

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2016 at 11:00 p.m.

Prelude (10:30 p.m.)

Once in Royal David's City
Greensleeves
Dong, Dong! Merrily on High
Now We Sing
Torches
Sons of Eve, Reward My Tidings
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Fum, Fum, Fum
We Shepherds Sing
Away in a Manger
What Is This Lovely Fragrance?
O Holy Night

Lee Afdahl
Searle Wright
Charles Wood
Michael Praetorius
John Joubert
ed. by Noah Greenberg
David Willcocks
Shaw, Parker
Thomas Weelkes
David Willcocks
Kristina Langlois
Adam, Lau

Musicians: Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir, the Madrigal Singers; Lee 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

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Liturgy by Judith Smithson

Lee Afdahl, Van Jacobsen, Evan Jacobsen, and Natalie Jacobsen

Advent Candle Song 92 (stanza 1) While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING (CASON)

Call to Worship

Do not be afraid, for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy:

To us is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you; you will find the child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

◆ **Carol 133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Christmas Eve Invocation (in unison)

Living God, on this holy night we gather – to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

Anthem There Is Faint Music Dan Forrest
Chancel Choir

There is faint music in the night, and pale wings fanned by silver flight;
A frosty hill with tender glow of countless stars that shine on snow.
A shelter from the winter storm, a straw-lined manger safe and warm,
And Mary singing lullabies, to hush her baby's sleeping sighs.
Her eyes are fixed upon His face, unheeded here is time and space,
Her heart is filled with blinding joy, for God's own Son, her baby boy!
©2009 Hal Leonard. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net A-718669

An Angel Visits Joseph Matthew 1:18-24b

Carol 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

The Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1-7

Anthem In the Bleak Midwinter Harold Darke
Chancel Choir; Elizabeth Woolner and Michael Cutrer, soloists

In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan. Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone. Snow had
fallen snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter long ago.
Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him, Nor earth sustain Heav'n and earth shall flee away, When He comes to
reign. In the bleak midwinter, A stable place suffic'd The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.
Enough for Him, whom cherubim, Worship night and day, A breast full of milk, And a manger full of hay.
Enough for Him, whom angels, Fall down before, The ox and ass and camel, Which adore.
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. Give, give my heart.
©1911 Stainer & Bell Ltd. All rights reserved. Published under CCLI #2720777

Carol 128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

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

Carol 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO

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 All Is Well Smith, Raney
Jubilate Deo 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 A Story from Evergreen County Rev. T. J. Parlette

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

◆ **Tolling of the Hour**

◆ **Carol 134**

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

◆ **Christmas Eve Benediction**

Go forth to sing and bless God's name.

Glory to God in the Highest!

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Alleluia! Praise the Lord.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace at the birth of the Savior.

Amen.

Postlude

Adeste Fideles

Marcel Dupré

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.

Saturday, December 24: Candlelight worship at 11 p.m. with pre-service music at 10:30 p.m. Child care will be offered at the 4 p.m. service only.

Sunday, December 25: Merry Christmas! Service of worship at 11 a.m. only. No Sunday school or nursery care will be available.

Monday, December 26: The church will be closed.

Sunday, January 1: Service of worship at 11 a.m. only. No Sunday school. Nursery care and Children's Activities will be available.

Offering envelopes for 2017 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 16. 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 2016 about January 6. To find out before then if you fulfilled your 2016 pledges, stop in or call the church office (282-1618). To be considered a charitable donation in 2016 we either need to receive your donation by December 31 or your envelope needs to be postmarked by December 31.

As you consider your **year-end financial donations**, please make your church a high priority. Gifts can be given to your General Budget, Outreach, or Capital Campaign pledges for either this year or next year, as an "over and above" donation, designated for the Endowment Fund, or designated for special programs within the church. Talk to Carol Evans if you have any questions.

Dakota Access Pipeline Protest. The Synod of Lakes and Prairies publicly supports the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and the water protectors who have been protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline for several months. At our December meeting the Mission Committee of FPC approved a donation of \$500 to support the Standing Rock Sioux people in their protest. Money will be used for a legal defense fund as further action continues in 2017. Some FPC members have indicated an interest in supporting this cause. Any donations may be given to Carol Evans to forward to the Synod. (Mission Committee)

About Our Church

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Pastor	Kathleen M. Kruger, Music Assistant
Rev. Jay P. Rowland, Associate Pastor	Susan K. Kruger, Office Administrator
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music/Organist	Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager
Rick L. Morris, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education	Vera B. Herr, Custodian
Child Care staff: Kelly Bock, Woo-Jung Ra, Margie Schaaf	
Security and custodial personnel: Steven Aug, Sally Evans, Sue Kruger, Tami Rinn, Eric Schwartzbauer	

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.*

Member: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



First Presbyterian Church

Rochester, Minnesota

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Prelude

Ukrainian Bell Carol
News! News!
Alleluia Ringers

Dennis Robert
Jill Fedon

*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

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Liturgy by Judith Smithson
Bradley, Sara, Jason, and Thomas Kluck

Advent Candle Song 92 (stanza 1) While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING (CASON)

Call to Worship

Do not be afraid, for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy:

To us is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you; you will find the child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

◆ Carol 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Christmas Eve Invocation (in unison)

Living God, on this holy night we gather – to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

Anthem

I Would Have Been Surprised Too Don Schlosser
Cherub Choir; Katie Kruger, director; Barbara Depman, accompanist

I would have been surprised too.
If I were a shepherd late at night and I saw an angel shining bright,
I would have been surprised too.
I would have looked for him too.
If somebody said a baby lay asleep in a barn on a bed of hay,
I would have looked for him too

©2010 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net A-718669.

An Angel Visits Joseph

Matthew 1:18-24b

Carol 114

Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG

◆ Please stand if you are able.

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 eve'time song, ye singers.
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

©2003 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net A-718669.

Angels Visit the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-14

Carol 119

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

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

Danish Star Carol

Lee Afdahl

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

A Story from Evergreen County

Rev. T. J. Parlette

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**

Go forth to sing and bless God's name.

Glory to God in the Highest!

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Alleluia! Praise the Lord.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace at the birth of the Savior.

Amen.

Postlude

Adeste Fideles

Marcel Dupré

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.

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

Sunday, December 25: Service of worship at 11 a.m. only. No Sunday school or nursery care will be available.

Monday, December 26: The church will be closed.

Sunday, January 1: Service of worship at 11 a.m. only. No Sunday school. Nursery care and Children's Activities will be available.

Offering envelopes for 2017 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 16. 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 2016 about January 6. To find out before then if you fulfilled your 2016 pledges, stop in or call the church office (282-1618). To be considered a charitable donation in 2016 we either need to receive your donation by December 31 or your envelope needs to be postmarked by December 31.

As you consider your **year-end financial donations**, please make your church a high priority. Gifts can be given to your General Budget, Outreach, or Capital Campaign pledges for either this year or next year, as an "over and above" donation, designated for the Endowment Fund, or designated for special programs within the church. Talk to Carol Evans if you have any questions.

Dakota Access Pipeline Protest. The Synod of Lakes and Prairies publicly supports the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and the water protectors who have been protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline for several months. At our December meeting the Mission Committee of FPC approved a donation of \$500 to support the Standing Rock Sioux people in their protest. Money will be used for a legal defense fund as further action continues in 2017. Some FPC members have indicated an interest in supporting this cause. Any donations may be given to Carol Evans to forward to the Synod. (Mission Committee)

Statement of Mission
First Presbyterian Church
Rochester, Minnesota

- The mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Rochester is to reflect God's love for all people by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To accomplish this, our church shall work toward the following goals:
- To nurture the members of the church with a strong worship experience and compassionate pastoral leadership
- To encourage active participation in worship by individuals and families
- To strengthen faith and commitment by promoting vital Christian education, music, and fellowship programs for all ages
- To be a caring church community that ministers to individual needs
- To recognize our unique opportunity to minister to the spiritual needs of visitors to the medical center
- To share our faith through mission and social concern outreach in both the local and world community
- To maintain strong ties with Presbytery, Synod and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and to fulfill our responsibilities toward these bodies

About Our Church

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Pastor	Kathleen M. Kruger, Music Assistant
Rev. Jay P. Rowland, Associate Pastor	Susan K. Kruger, Office Administrator
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music/Organist	Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager
Rick L. Morris, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education	Vera B. Herr, Custodian
Child Care staff: Kelly Bock, Woo-Jung Ra, Margie Schaaf	
Security and custodial personnel: Steven Aug, Sally Evans, Sue Kruger, Tami Rinn, Eric Schwartzbauer	
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.

Member: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)