

First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 282-1618

Service for the Lord's Day
December 24, 2017
Fourth Sunday in Advent

11 a.m.

Welcome to worship this morning.

- First Presbyterian Church welcomes families with young children. Staffed nursery care is available during worship. Audio from the worship service can be heard in the library (adjacent to the sanctuary) and social hall.
- If you are visiting because of medical treatment at Mayo Clinic we offer our prayers for healing.
- Our activities and programs are open to all, member and friend alike.
- We invite you to join us for coffee and fellowship in the in the atrium following the service.

** As a courtesy to others, please silence cell phones. **

Gathering

Prelude

Go Tell It on the Mountain
Joyous Praise Handbell Choir

Andrew Duncan

*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

Please sign the Opportunity for Friendship Register and pass it to the person next to you.

Opening Prayer

Musical Reflection

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Tony and Judy Smithson

Advent Hymn 85 (stanza 4) Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

TIF IN VELDELE

Call to Worship

Mary Huie

We are waiting, God. We are still waiting. The everlasting light is creeping closer.

Hope is in the air. Peace is promised. Joy is on the tips of our tongues.

Love is coming. Love divine, all loves excelling.

We are waiting on love. And Love is waiting on us.

Let us worship God.

◆ **Hymn 97**

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTWYTH

Call to Reconciliation with God (please be seated)

The divine Love of Jesus Christ creates our fellowship. When Christ is our life, our fellowship takes on the nature of Christ, creating a community of love and humility toward one another. Confident of this great love for us, let us confess our sin.

Silent Confession

Kyrie, hymn 96 (stanza 2) On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

Text in Public Domain.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy Lord, you enter our lives to bring your unconditional love. You call us to love you, to love our neighbors, to love even our enemies. We confess that love is often not in our hearts. Most of the time, we lack courage to show love in our actions. We wait and watch and yearn and ache for signs of your coming. We need your mercy; we long for the coming of your Light into the world; into our lives. We wait, but we also pray: come quickly, Lord. Amen.

Words of Life

Hear the water splashing: this is what forgiveness sounds like. Look at the candle-light shining: this is what hope looks like. Take one another's hand: this is what incarnation feels like. Share a sign of peace: this is what the world is waiting for.

God is coming to us! We are not alone. In Christ, we are accepted. We are set free of the past. We are given to the future. Alleluia. Amen.

◆ Gloria Patri

REGENT SQUARE

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, expected King!

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◆ Passing of the Peace

Due to health concerns in this cold and flu season, please refrain from shaking hands and greet each other with a word of peace or a wave of the hand.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share a sign of the peace of Christ with one another.

The Word

Prayer for Illumination 458 (refrain) Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet

THY WORD

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

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Reading from the Old Testament

2 Samuel 7:4-16

Anthem

Magnificat (Song of Mary)
Chancel Choir

Robert J. Powell

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and the meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers Abraham and his seed forever. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen, Amen, Amen.

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Time for All Our Young Worshippers

Hymn 487 (stanza 1)

These Treasured Children

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

These treasured children present now are bound to us by sacred vow:
with love, we make a heartfelt claim to welcome them in Jesus' name.

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Pass Prayer Cards to the aisle. An usher will collect them.

Children through third grade may go to room E206 for Kids' Zone or are welcome to stay with their parents in worship. Children above third grade should stay in worship.

Reading from the Gospels

Luke 1:26-38

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word, hymn 92 (stanza 1) *While We Are Waiting, Come* WAITING (CASON)
While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
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Message *God's Home* Rev. Jay P. Rowland
A moment for reflection – may God continue to speak to us in the silence.

Our Response

◆ **Hymn 129** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ES IST EIN ROS
◆ **Affirmation of Faith** Steve Garnaas-Holmes

**We believe in God, maker of all things,
provider of all things, who loves all people.
We follow Jesus, in whom salvation has come to us:
he sees us for who we are,
heals the wounds of our hearts, and makes us new.**

**In his death and resurrection we see the deepest truth of life.
We live by the power of the Holy Spirit,
which empowers us for self-giving love.
We give thanks for the church, the Body of Christ,
and for the gift of forgiveness,
the power of resurrection
and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer (using 'debts' and 'debtors')

Offertory
At the offertory Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Michael Burkhardt

◆ **Offertory Response, hymn 145** (stanza 3) *What Child Is This?* GREENSLEEVES
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!
Text is in Public Domain.

◆ **Unison Prayer of Dedication**
**Thank you, God, for your generosity that enables us to share. We are rich in
many things. Help us to empty ourselves of pretense, even as we pour out gifts
of gratitude. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to shaping the community
you intend, in the name and spirit of Christ. Amen.**

Sending

◆ **Hymn 105** People, Look East BESANÇON
◆ **Benediction**

◆ **Benediction Response, hymn 106** (refrain) BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Postlude People, Look East Wayne Wold
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 *Call to Worship* and *Words of Life* were composed by Rev. Jenny McDevitt,
Bayside Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, VA, 2011]

Calendar for the week of December 24 – December 31 (and beyond)

SUNDAY – December 24 (Advent 4)

We thank all who are sharing their ministries in worship today.

The **chancel flowers** are given for the Glory of God by The Groover Family in memory of beloved family and friends.

A **nursery** for infants through 3-year-olds is staffed throughout the morning. We also offer a space for nursing mothers. An usher will be happy to direct you if you don't know where the nursery is located.

SUNDAY – December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Christmas Eve Services at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. Child care will be provided at the 4 p.m. service only.

- 3:00 Cherub and Calvin Choirs and Alleluia Ringers warm up.
- 4:00 **Service of worship and Children's Pageant** with Calvin and Cherub Choirs, Alleluia Ringers, and Sunday school children.
- 10:00 Chancel Choir and Jubilate Deo handbell choir warm up.
- 10:30 Prelude with organ, handbells, and choir.
- 11:00 **Candlelight service** with Chancel Choir and Jubilate Deo.

The offering we receive on Christmas Eve supports the work of the Deacons in the coming year including flowers for members in the hospital, rides and van service to worship and other activities at FPC, parking passes for Mayo parking lots for people visiting members in the hospital, HomeTouch subscription for homebound members, funeral coffees, and gas vouchers for assistance requests.

MONDAY – December 25

Merry Christmas!

No services will be held at the church.
The church will be closed.

TUESDAY – December 26

The church will be closed.

WEDNESDAY – December 27

NO Wednesday activities this week.

SUNDAY – December 31

One service of worship at 11 a.m. No Sunday school or choir rehearsals. The nursery will be open.

For Your Information

The **Christmas Joy offering** was dedicated last Sunday, although your contribution will be gratefully accepted any time in December. Please note "Joy Offering" on the memo line of your check or use an envelope from the pew rack. The Offering distributes gifts 50/50 to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please give generously.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in working **security on Wednesday and Friday evenings** from about 6:30-9:30 p.m. and occasionally on Sunday mornings, please contact the church office.

Offering envelopes for 2018 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. We also have boxes of envelopes for children and youth.

As you consider your year-end financial donations, please make your church a high priority. Gifts can be given to your General Budget or Outreach 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.

2018 budget update: In November we dedicated our pledges to help underwrite FPC's General Budget and Outreach Budget for 2018. Projected pledges and related income now total \$794,207, leaving a gap of about \$6,300 between income and committee requests. If you haven't returned a pledge card yet, please do it soon. Thank you!

Get connected at First Presbyterian Church. Text the word connect to 507-200-3175.

Session has called a **Meeting of the Congregation** on January 7 at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of electing two Deacons and a member of the Endowment Committee. The Committee will present the names of Laury Schalaus and Alex Kuisle for Deacons and Tim Smith for the Endowment Committee.

Among Our Church Family

Happy Birthday to Lynn Postier, who will celebrate her 91st birthday December 23.

We extend our condolences to Donald McIlrath on the death of his wife, Alice Hoffman McIlrath, December 11.

About Our Church

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

Kathleen M. Kruger, Music Assistant
Susan K. Kruger, Office Administrator
Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager
Brian D. Stevens, Custodian

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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, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Prelude

We Three Kings
Alleluia Ringers

Valerie Stephenson

*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

Musical Reflection

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Jay, Britta, and Valentina Youmans

Advent Candle Song Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



Light the Christ candle. Our ___ Messiah is born. The light has ban - ished dark - ness.



He has ar - rived. ___ Tell the glad ti - dings. Let your lights be shin - ing.

Call to Worship

There is good news of great joy!

The people who walked in darkness now live in great light.

There is good news of great joy!

Oppression and war will not have the last word.

There is good news of great joy!

**A Savior is born, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace.**

Let us worship the Lord.

◆ Carol 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Christmas Eve Invocation (in unison)

Glorious God, on this Christmas Eve, we sing beloved carols of Bethlehem, of shepherds and angels, of Mary and Joseph, and the infant Jesus, our Savior. Be with us as we bless your name: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace! Amen.

An Angel Visits Joseph

Matthew 1:18-24b

Carol 114	Away in a Manger	CRADLE SONG
The Birth of Jesus		Luke 2:1-7
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, and special congregation needs.

Music at the offertory	O Holy Night	Robert Lau
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- ◆ **Offertory Response, hymn 145** (stanza 3) What Child Is This? GREENSLEEVES
 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
 The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!
Text is in Public Domain.

- ◆ **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.)

Children's Christmas Pageant

Presented by the PreK-Senior High Sunday School Classes

Congregation please join in singing the hymns.

Calvin and Cherub Choirs directed by Katie Kruger and accompanied by Barbara Depman

Carol #82	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus	ALL
Carol #119 (stanza 1)	Hark the Herald Angels Sing	ALL
Carol #121 (stanza 1)	O Little Town of Bethlehem	ALL
Carol #115 (stanza 1)	Away in a Manger	ALL
Anthem	Do You Hear What I Hear?	Calvin Choir
Carol #151 (stanza 1)	We Three Kings	ALL
Anthem	Lullaby, Holy One	Cherub Choir
Closing Song	Let There Be Peace on Earth	
	Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, arr. Hawley Ades	

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
 Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
 With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
 Let me walk with my brother, In perfect harmony.
 Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now;
 With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
 To take each moment and live each moment In peace eternally.
 Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

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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

Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol

Gerald Near

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.

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

For Your Information

Sunday, 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.

Monday, December 25: Merry Christmas! 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.

Tuesday, December 26: The church will be closed.

Wednesday, December 27: No Wednesday activities this week.

Sunday, December 31: Service of worship at 11 a.m. only. No Sunday school or choirs. Nursery care will be offered.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in working **security on Wednesday and Friday evenings** from about 6:30-9:30 p.m. and occasionally on Sunday mornings, we are looking for additional staff. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

Offering envelopes for 2018 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 15. 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 2017 about January 6. To find out before then if you fulfilled your 2017 pledges, stop in or call the church office (282-1618). To be considered a charitable donation in 2017 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.

Get connected at First Presbyterian Church. Text the word connect to 507-200-3175.

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



First Presbyterian Church

Rochester, Minnesota

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017 at 11:00 p.m.

Prelude (10:30 p.m.)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
 Fantasy on a Rose (Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming)
 A Spotless Rose
 Noel Vosgien
 The First Noel
 O Holy Night

Leo Sowerby
 Jackson Berkey
 Bryan Greer
 Jean Bouvard
 Cathy Moklebust
 Robert Lau

Musicians: Chancel Choir, Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir, and Lee Afdahl, organ

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.

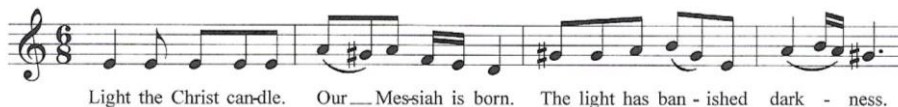
Greeting and Welcome

Musical Reflection

Lighting of the Advent Candles Dan Wentz, Yamei Wang, Michaela and Christina Wentz

Advent Candle Song Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

TIF IN VELDELE



Call to Worship

There is good news of great joy!

The people who walked in darkness now live in great light.

There is good news of great joy!

Oppression and war will not have the last word.

There is good news of great joy!

A Savior is born, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Let us worship the Lord.

◆ Carol 133 (stanzas 1-3)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Christmas Eve Invocation (in unison)

Glorious God, on this Christmas Eve, we sing beloved carols of Bethlehem, of shepherds and angels, of Mary and Joseph, and the infant Jesus, our Savior. Be with us as we bless your name: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace! Amen.

Anthem

There Is Faint Music
Chancel Choir

Dan Forrest

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!
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An Angel Visits Joseph

Matthew 1:18-24b

Carol 121 (stanzas 1,2,4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

Carol 128

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

Angels Visit the Shepherds

Luke 2:8-14

Carol 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

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, and requests for assistance.

Music at the offertory

In the Bleak Midwinter
Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir

Karen Buckwalter

◆ **Offertory Response, hymn 145** (stanza 3) What Child Is This?

GREENSLEEVES

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!
Text is in Public Domain.

◆ **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 Barefoot Angel
adapted from Jim Simons

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**

Postlude

Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol

Gerald Near

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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.)

For Your Information

Monday, December 25: Merry Christmas! 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.

Tuesday, December 26: The church will be closed.

Wednesday, December 27: No Wednesday activities this week.

Sunday, December 31: Service of worship at 11 a.m. only. No Sunday school or choir rehearsals. Child care will be provided.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in working **security on Wednesday and Friday evenings** from about 6:30-9:30 p.m. and occasionally on Sunday mornings, we are looking for additional staff. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

Offering envelopes for 2018 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 15. 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 2017 about January 6. To find out before then if you fulfilled your 2017 pledges, stop in or call the church office (282-1618). To be considered a charitable donation in 2017 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.

Get connected at First Presbyterian Church. Text the word connect to 507-200-3175.

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