

Music at the offertory

Good King Wenceslas
Joyous Praise Handbell Choir

arr. John Behnke

◆ **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 purposes and plans, bringing good news of great joy to all people through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

(Please be seated.)

Children's Christmas Pageant: The Christmas Miracle

*Pageant adapted from "The Christmas Miracle: A Christmas Worship,"
written by Michael Burkhardt and Richard & Karen Grice*

*Presented by the PreK-Senior High Sunday School Classes
and accompanied by youth musicians.*

*Congregation please join in singing the hymns.
Calvin and Cherub Choirs are directed by Katie Kuisle
and accompanied by Barbara Depman*

Carol 102 (stanzas 1 & 3)	Savior of the Nations, Come	ALL
Anthem	What You Gonna Call Your Pretty Little Baby?	Pageant Choir
Carol #121 (stanza 1)	O Little Town of Bethlehem	ALL
Anthem	Sing Lullaby	Pageant Choir
Anthem	Come Now All You Shepherds	Pageant Choir
Carol 113 (all stanzas)	Angels We Have Heard on High	ALL
Closing Song	Let There Be Peace on Earth	ALL

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 Creator, family all are we.
Let us walk with each other, 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

Adeste Fideles (O Come, All Ye Faithful)

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.

About Our Church

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Pastor	Susan K. Kruger, Office Administrator
Rev. Jay P. Rowland, Associate Pastor	Kathleen M. Kuisle, Calvin and Cherub Choirs
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music/Organist	Janine M. Yanisch, First Players bands
Susanna L. Stone, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education	Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager

Child Care staff: Esther Lebron, Margie Schaaf, Brenda Thorson

Security and custodial personnel:

Sally Evans, Vera Herr, Tami Rinn, Tyler Sczurek

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)

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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.)

For Your Information

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

Tuesday, 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.

Wednesday, December 26: The church will be closed. No Wednesday activities this week.

Sunday, December 30: Service of worship at 11 a.m. only. No Sunday school or choirs. Nursery care will be offered.

Offering envelopes for 2019 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 14. 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 2018 about January 9. To find out before then if you fulfilled your 2018 pledges, stop in or call the church office (282-1618). To be considered a charitable donation in 2018 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