

# First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 507-282-1618

## A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols December 17, 2023 ♦ 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent

**Prelude**

Advent Antiphons

Aaron David Miller

incorporating NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

(8:30 a.m.) Stone-Wright Family – Jake, Susanna, Teddy & Charlie

(11:00 a.m.) Boswell Family – Chris, Ariel, Savannah & Noah

Come, Lord Je - sus, we are wait - ing, Be our Guest this  
Ad - vent day. Long - ing hearts watch ea - ger - ly  
for Je - sus, who comes in joy.

*Let us pray. Dear God, we have joy from you and we share joy because of you.*

**We magnify you, O God, and give thanks that your invitation includes all who will accept it. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. With the angels, encourage us to spread these good tidings of great joy. Help us, by your Spirit, to share the Light of Christ and the new life which springs up at Christmas, even as we await your coming. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer

(BCW p. 184-185)

Beloved in Christ, it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger. Therefore, let us hear again from the holy scriptures the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise. But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build; And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who do not know the Lord Jesus, or do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### Carol

Savior of the Nations Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, arr. Joshua Kramer

### First Lesson Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of

you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

◆ Hymn

Savior of the Nations Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's  
 2. From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to  
 3. Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows  
 4. Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish  
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this  
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.  
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.  
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

◆ Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit

## **Second Lesson** Isaiah 9:2-7a

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

### **Carol**

Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, arr. Cathy Moglebust

## **Third Lesson** Isaiah 60:1-3, 20-21

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Your sun shall no more go down or your moon withdraw itself, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended. Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever. They are the shoot that I planted, the work of my hands, so that I might be glorified.

### **Carol**

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light,”

from *Weihnachtsoratorium*, BWV 248, Johann Sebastian Bach

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning;  
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning.  
This Child, now weak in infancy, Our confidence and joy shall be,  
The power of Satan breaking, Our peace eternal making.

Text: Johann Rist (1641)

## **Fourth Lesson** Mark 1:2-8

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,’” so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

◆ Hymn

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW, organ settings by Bruce Neswick; arr. John Stender

1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
 2. Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make  
 3. We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our  
 4. Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

**Fifth Lesson** Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival." I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

**Offertory**

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

16th c. French Carol, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

**Sixth Lesson** Jeremiah 23:1-8

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David

a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.” Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when it shall no longer be said, “As the Lord lives who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of Egypt,” but “As the Lord lives who brought out and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the land of the north and out of all the lands where he had driven them.” Then they shall live in their own land.

**Carol**

**Keep Your Lamps**

Spiritual, arr. André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.  
Children don't get weary 'til your work is done.  
Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

**Seventh Lesson** Luke 2:8-16

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

**Carol**

I. “Run, Ye Shepherds, to the Light,”

from *Christmas Cantata*, Michael Haydn

Run, ye shepherds, to the light! For joyous news I carry.  
Joy fills all the starry night, come quickly, do not tarry!  
In lowly manger bare come see the Infant there, a Child, the King of Glory!  
With all your might, rush toward the light, the star of ancient story.

**Eighth Lesson** John 1:1-5, 14-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**Gloria, RV 589**

Antonio Vivaldi

- |       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| I.    | Gloria in excelsis Deo.   | Glory to God in the highest.  |
| II.   | Et in terra pax<br>hominibus bonae voluntatis.  | And on earth peace<br>to all those of good will   |
| III.  | Laudamus te.<br>Benedicimus te. Adoramus te.<br>Glorificamus te.                          | We praise thee.<br>We bless thee. We worship thee.<br>We glorify thee.  |
| IV.   | Gratias agimus tibi<br>propter magnam gloriam tuam.                                       | We give thanks to thee<br>According to thy great glory.   |
| V.    | Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,<br>Deus Pater omnipotens.                                     | Lord God, Heavenly King.<br>God the Father almighty.  |
| VI.   | Domine Fili unigenite,<br>Jesu Christe.   | The only begotten Son,<br>Lord Jesus Christ,  |
| VII.  | Domine Dues, Agnus Dei,<br>Filius Patris.<br>Qui tollis peccata mundi,<br>miserere nobis. | Lord God, Lamb of God<br>Son of the Father.<br>Thou who takest away the sins of the<br>world, have mercy upon us. |
| VIII. | Qui tollis peccata mundi,<br>suscipe deprecationem nostram.                               | Thou who takest away the sins of the<br>world, receive our prayer.  |
| IX.   | Qui sedes ad dexteram<br>Patris, miserere nobis.  | Thou who sittest at the right hand of the<br>Father, have mercy on us.  |
| X.    | Quoniam tu solus sanctus.<br>Tu solus Dominus. Tu solus<br>Altissimus, Jesu Christe.      | For Thou alone art holy.<br>Thou alone art the Lord. Thou alone<br>art the most high, Jesus Christ.               |
| XI.   | Cum Sancto Spiritu<br>in Gloria Dei Patris. Amen.   | With the Holy Spirit<br>in the glory of God the Father. Amen.   |

**Ninth Lesson** 1 Peter 1:3-9

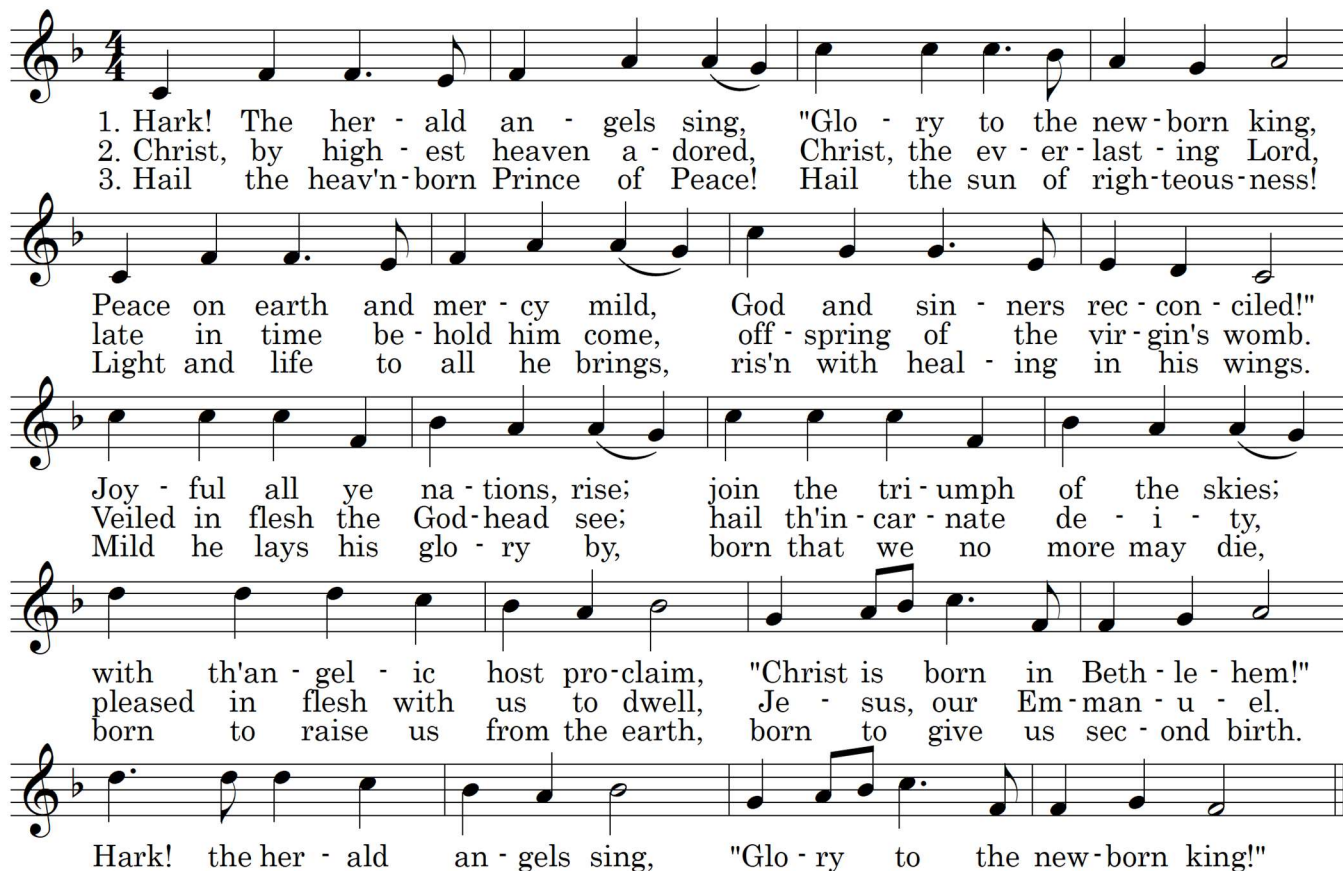
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

◆ Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

arr. Aaron David Miller, ed. by John Stender



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king,  
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - con - ciled!"  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

◆ Blessing and Charge

(BCW, p. 186, adpt.)

*May the song of the angels resonate within and about us today;  
 and may Jesus Christ, who, by his incarnation,  
 gathered into one, the things of heaven and earth,  
 fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill;  
 and the blessing of God Almighty,  
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
 be upon you and remain with you always.*

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Keep God's promise with your spirit.  
 Live always in God's promise,  
 and go forth with that gift in the spirit of hope.*

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Postlude

Postlude on MENDELSSOHN

David Willcocks

The flowers are given for the Glory of God in memory of  
 Barbara Marie Cain by Don Cain.



*For their vast investment of time, much work in preparation,  
many varied talents and ardent fellowship,  
we extend many thanks to all the musicians participating today  
and also those that support them.*

## **Musicians**

Edra Clements; oboe  
Ellis Workman; trumpet  
Joan Elkins, Maureen Howell, Amy Lindstrom, Tiffany Strade; violin  
Emily Blain, Sean Dostal, John Vettel, viola  
Dr. Thea Groth; bassoon  
Kacy Klopton, Kay Tate, cello  
Blake Bonde, bass  
Jeremy Braun, percussion  
Erin Montillet, Karen Sessler, Elizabeth Woolner, vocal soloists  
Sarah Stender, John Stender; harpsichord & organ, conductors

## **Note for Gloria, RV 589**

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) is probably best known for his concerto, “The Four Seasons.” However, he composed a total of 500 concertos, three major settings of the “Gloria” (RV 588, 589, 560), 100 sonatas, more than 21 operas, and at least 100 notable cantatas and other sacred vocal works. He became the most famous Italian composer of the early 18th century and was considered “one of the most original and prolific composers of his time, and his influence on later composers was profound.”<sup>1</sup>

Born the eldest of nine children, Vivaldi’s father was a permanent staff violinist at the Basilica di San Marco in Venice. This church can in many ways be considered the center of the musical universe from throughout the Renaissance and Baroque eras. The cavernous 11th century building, notable for its Byzantine style, was the home of numerous musical innovations encompassing musical style and even the (now commonplace) printing of dynamic markings in individual copies of musical scores. Young Antonio grew up in this dramatic cultural environment and received not only intense musical training but was also trained for the priesthood.

In 1703 Vivaldi was ordained and became known as ‘the red priest’ for his remarkable red hair. In the same year he became ‘master of the violin’ and was later elevated to the position of master of the concerts’ at the Pio Ospedale della Pietà. The Pietà was one of four “hospitals” in Venice—charitable social and cultural institutions for poor, orphaned, and illegitimate girls—essentially, boarding schools. Music was a major part of the children’s education and was regarded and practiced at an extraordinarily high level. For training, to meet expectations of public performance and fundraising benefits in addition to regular Mass and Vespers services, Vivaldi was required to compose new music at a prolific rate.

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<sup>1</sup>J. Peter Burkholder, Donald J. Grout, and Claude V. Palisca, *A History of Western Music, Eighth Edition* (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2010).

The **Gloria, RV 589** survives as one of the most often performed works from the entire Baroque era<sup>2</sup> due to its agreeable melodic, exciting rhythmic content, and its accessibility for relatively small school and church ensembles with varied skill such as ours. The work was likely composed between 1713 and 1717. Vivaldi presents the complete 4th century Gloria text from the Mass Ordinary (“Kyrie,” “Gloria,” “Credo,” “Sanctus et Benedictus,” “Agnus Dei”). Also known as a “canticle of praise,” the text begins with reference to the angel’s song to the shepherds in Luke 2:14.

The joyful and recognizable **opening** is followed by a much deeper, emotional movement as the choir sings “**Et in terra pax...**,” (“and on earth peace to all those of good will”). This b-minor meditation is filled with gripping chromaticism, harsh dissonance emphasized over and above resolution, long legato passages and expressive melismas for the choir contrasted with persistent agitated rhythms in ostinato for the strings. Perhaps the composer was commenting on the darkness of earth and the reality of Christ’s descent into a world unbecoming for the son of God. The “Et in terra” is followed by a bright and charming violin-like “**Laudamus te**” soprano duet acclaiming varied praises to God, suited beautifully for children’s voices.

This contrasting treatment of the text can be referred to as chiaroscuro. Paralleled in music, this Renaissance painting technique for the naturalistic treatment of light and shade was begun by Donatello and Giotto in the early 15th century but mastered over the following three centuries by Da Vinci, Caravaggio, and later Rembrandt.

The choir continues with an imitative setting of the “**propter magnam**” and follows the surpassingly beautiful “**Domine Deus, Rex coelestis**” (for continuo, oboe, and soprano) with a boisterous “**Domine Fili, unigenite**” in the style of a French overture, proclaiming Christ the only begotten son of the father. Next follows the inclusion of the New Testament reality of Christ’s sacrifice for the sins of the world, “**Domine Deus, Agnus Dei.**” It is set as a constantly descending, mournful alto solo accompanied by the choir’s onlooking doleful petitions for mercy. Vivaldi dispenses briefly with the continued choral request for attention and reception of prayer. The final solo movement, an understated, foreboding “**Qui sedes ad dexteram,**” reminds the listener that Christ will sit in judgment on the last day at the Father’s right hand. The mezzo seemingly toils, as if pleading in long phrases, for Christ’s mercy in judgment. Returning to praise and thanksgiving, the choir sings a reprise of the opening movement followed by a monumental fugue lauding the third person of the Trinity, “**Cum Sancto Spiritu.**” Long rhythmic choral passages of the text and countless vivacious repetitions of the doxology wit “Amen” are punctuated by brief instrumental serenades and solo blasts from the lofty trumpet.

~ John Stender

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<sup>2</sup> Vivaldi, Antonio. *Gloria, RV589* (Vocal Score). ed. Paul Everett. England: Oxford University Press, 1996

# Stained Glass Window

What is happening around FPC ...

## Lessons & Carols

Today we celebrate the tradition of Lessons and Carols. We hope you will find joy in this meaningful opportunity to ponder the history of salvation through one of FPC's favorite traditions. Help us as we prepare for Christmas Worship, sing beloved carols and hear our choirs and chamber orchestra perform **Vivaldi's Gloria!**

*Special thanks to the members of the Cherub Choir, Calvin Choir, Chancel Choir and Jubilate Deo Handbell Ensemble, along with our numerous readers for their investment of time, much work in preparation, and their many talents.*

### Guest Musicians

Edra Clements: oboe  
Ellis Workman: trumpet  
Joan Elkins, Maureen Howell, Amy Lindstrom,  
Tiffany Strade: violin  
Emily Blain, Sean Dostal, John Vettel: viola  
Dr. Thea Groth: bassoon

Kacy Klopton, Kay Tate: cello  
Blake Bonde: bass  
Jeremy Braun: percussion  
Erin Montillet, Karen Sessler, Elizabeth Woolner: vocal soloists  
Sarah Stender, John Stender: harpsichord & organ, conductors

### Today's Readers

Ariel Boswell  
Savannah Boswell  
Sandy Everett  
Judy Felten  
Sara Kluck

Cindy Kunzman  
Brett Lamberty  
Casey Lenn  
Cecelia Lenn  
Katie Lenn

Mark Mueller  
Jane Remfert  
Judy Smithson  
Tom Steen  
Daniel Stender

Peter Thedens  
Laura Weeheim  
Dan Wentz

Vivaldi, Antonio. *Gloria, RV589 (Vocal Score)*. ed. Paul Everett. England: Oxford University Press, 1996

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### Moving through Advent:

- ◆ **Service of Lessons & Carols**  
Sunday, December 17 @ 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
*Sanctuary*
- ◆ **FPC Meal/Christmas Pageant/  
Caroling and Cookies**  
Wednesday, December 20 @ 5:30 p.m.  
*Social Hall*
- ◆ **Advent Bible Study**  
Wednesday, December 20 @ 6:30 p.m.  
*Sheldon Jackson Lounge*
- ◆ **Christmas Day Service**  
Sunday, December 25 @ 11:00 a.m.  
*Sanctuary*
- ◆ **Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service**  
Saturday, December 24 @ 4:00 p.m.  
*Sanctuary*
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
Saturday, December 24 @ 11:00 p.m.  
*Sanctuary*
- ◆ **Worship—First Sunday of Christmas**  
Sunday, December 31 @ 10:00 A.m.  
*Sanctuary*

In this season, we have many things for which we give thanks, not the least of which is the generosity of our church family.

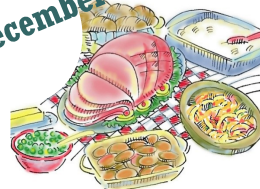
**Today we thank the following people for contributing to this year's Poinsettia Fund.** Each year at this time, the Deacons deliver these plants to our C.A.R.E. members.



Ken and Marylynn Aalderks  
Lee Afdahl and Van Jacobsen  
Jay and Carolyn Beck  
Richard and Jan Bennett  
Alan and Marcia Dollerschell  
Holly Ebel  
Char and Scott Ellefson  
Judy Felten  
Belinda Galeano  
C Michel and Mary Harper  
Cindy Kunzman

Brett and Joanne Lamberty  
Mark and Michelle Mueller  
Marion Pitts  
Olivia Reddick  
Roger and Denise Ring  
Margie Schaaf  
Larry and Wendy Shannon  
Sylvia Swede  
Tom and Marilyn Theismann  
Janine Yanisch

**Wednesday,  
December 20**



**5:30pm** - meal [ham, green bean casserole, potatoes, salad, rolls] **6 or 6:15pm** - Christmas Pageant  
**Following** the pageant - Christmas Carols with a cookie/festive dessert table, including Dan Wentz' famous Root Beer.

**Please bring a side dish to accompany the meal and holiday cookies or dessert to share.**

# Church



# Family



## Pledge Drive

### Stewardship 2024

**Campaign Goal:**  
**\$870,000**

Of our 315 giving units (individuals, couples and/or families), as of December 14 we have received 135 pledge cards totaling \$452,773. Thank you to everyone who has already pledged. Let's keep the momentum going! If you need a new form, they are available in the church office.

*Jeremy Braun, Stewardship Committee*



## CHRISTMAS JOY

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

During the Advent Season, we collect money to support the Christmas Joy Offering. Our gifts support leaders in our Church and world — past, present and future. Please indicate "Christmas Joy" in the memo line on your check or use one of the special envelopes in the pew rack.

## Deacons Funds Designated for the Coming Year



Each year on Christmas Eve, we collect an offering to support the work of our Board of Deacons. This year, the monies will remain in the Deacon's Fund to assist with our own local projects.

## Annual Reports to the Congregation

Each year our church activities are summarized in the *Annual Reports to the Congregation*. The compilation of these reports will be available on January 21. If you are responsible for writing a report on behalf of your committee or group, please e-mail it to [Cindy.Kunzman@fpcrochester.org](mailto:Cindy.Kunzman@fpcrochester.org) by January 15.

## Holiday Office & Building Hours

We will have flexible building hours between December 26 – 28. If you need access to the building during that time, please make prior arrangements.

## Celebrating ...

### Birthdays:

- 17** Martha Sessler
- 18** Abi Curtiss, Sandy Holloway & John Wade
- 19** Valerie Asleson & Donald Ottman
- 21** Lillian Boettcher, Jonas Braun, Lori Folkens & Collin Hoult
- 22** Becky Will
- 23** Louise Harper, Cheryl James & Allyson Maurer
- 24** Jean Nuszloch

### Anniversaries:

- 21** Paul & Belinda Brandon



### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Senior Pastor	Cindy Kunzman, Office Manager
John E. Stender, Director of Music and Organist	Sarah A. Stender, Music Associate
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music Emeritus	Janine M. Yanisch, First Players bands
Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager	Paul Herr, Security
Jesse Copley, Custodian	Margie Schaaf, Sunday Host
Than Boutelle, Custodian/Sunday Host	

Sunday worship in-person at 8:30 & 11am, and livestreamed on YouTube at 11am;  
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9am – 4pm

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(507) 282-1618; [web@fpcrochester.org](mailto:web@fpcrochester.org); [www.fpcrochester.org](http://www.fpcrochester.org)

*First Presbyterian Church is an  
inclusive community celebrating God with:*  
†Energy †Intelligence †Imagination †Love

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