

The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24th, 2022 | 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.



The Mystical Nativity, 1500, Sandro Botticelli.

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

The Session and members of First Church extend a sincere welcome to all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.

Blessed Christmas to you and welcome to worship at The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York. We are glad you are here and pray that this worship service is a blessing for your and your family.

We are a church with 306 years of ministry, and a passion to serve God and neighbor in this great city. If this is your first time here, one of the pastors would love to greet you at the door at the end of the service and answer any questions you may have about the church.

If you would like to know more about our church's beliefs or scope of ministry, we invite you to join our Winter Inquirers class and lunch on Saturday, January 21st from 10:00 am to noon. Please call the church office at (212) 675-6150 to reserve your place.

May you experience the joy and blessing of Christmas today.

Greg Stovell
Senior Pastor

GET INVOLVED



GIVE



INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?



GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Grand Chœur: Sortie pour Noël” César Franck
“Greensleeves, adapted from an Old Air” Ralph Vaughan Williams
“Noel X: Grand Jeu et Duo” Louis-Claude Daquin
“I Wonder as I Wander” Robert Hebble, arr.
“From Heaven Above, BWV 606” J.S. Bach
“Berceuse paraphrase” George Baker

PEALING OF THE CHRISTMAS BELLS

WELCOME

INTROIT

Johann Schop; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach
Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning. You shepherds, shudder not with fright, 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.

–Johann Rist; trans. John Troutbeck

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Please stand in body or spirit.

With choirs of angels, and with all the heavenly host,
we sing: “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth, peace and goodwill to all.”

**The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen God's glory! Alleluia!**

CAROL: HYMN 133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER OF ADORATION

**Glory to you, almighty God,
for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life.**

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people.**

**Glory to you, Holy Spirit,
for you direct and rule our lives.**

**Glory to you, almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.**

RESPONSE: HYMN 113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

HEARING THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

pew Bible, New Testament page 58/large print, New Testament page 71

ANTHEM

Charles Wood, arr.

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*. E'en so here below, let steeple bells be swungen. And i-o, by priest and people be sungen. *Gloria...* Pray ye dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers. May ye beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers. *Gloria...*

-G.R. Woodward

SECOND LESSON

John 1:1-14

pew Bible, New Testament page 91/large print, New Testament page 111

SERMON

“And the Word Became...”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CAROL: HYMN 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

Please stand in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY

John Gardner

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day; I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance; *Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love, this have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance thus was I knit to man's nature to call my true love to my dance. *Sing, oh! my love....*

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was so very poor, this was my chance betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass to call my true love to my dance. *Sing, oh! my love....*

Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance, my Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love to my dance. *Sing, oh! my love....*

-English traditional, from *Sandys Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern*, 1833

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

CHORAL MEDITATION

David Willcocks, arr.

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

-stanzas 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*; stanza 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*

PASSING OF THE LIGHT

The congregation is asked to remain seated. Please light your candle carefully, tilting the unlit candle toward the lighted candle, then passing the light to the next person. The candles remain lit for the singing of “Silent Night, Holy Night,” the Blessing, and “Joy to the World.” Following the final carol, please extinguish your candle and place in a receptacle at the door when leaving.

CAROL

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

STILLE NACHT

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight,
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heaven - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, — sleep — in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ, the Sav - ior, is born; — Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, — Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; — Christ the Sav - ior is born.

SENDING

BLESSING

CAROL: HYMN 134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

Please stand in body or spirit.

POSTLUDE

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella!”

Keith Chapman, arr.

*We wish to express our gratitude to the following for their gifts
as we recall those in whose names the gifts are given.*

The Bowe Family *in memory of Thomas and Mary Board; John and Katherine Bowe*

The Buice Family *in memory of Stuart Upchurch Buice*

Chance Carpenter *in memory of Bernice W. Holeman, Helen and Thurman Lloyd,
Juanita L. Moser, Fernando Cadena and Jeffrey Simpson*

Sally Collins and Faye Timmer *in loving memory of parents Rev. Ray and Willie Mae
Collins and sister Dawn Timmer Sterken.*

Barbara Davis *in memory of her father and brothers, Robert Livingston Davis, Robert
Livingston Davis Jr., and David E. Davis*

Mark and Carol Drummond *in memory of our parents*

LouAnne Gilleland *in celebration of Xavier Michael William, and in memory of Debra
Garry, and Jean and Alvah C. Gilleland*

Anonymously given *in memory of the Gilman Family*

Anne Gray and Steven White *in memory of Lydia White and other loved ones of the
Gray/White Family who have passed on*

Lesley B. Hoopes *in memory of George and Georgina Bissell, Robert Dieman, Susan
Gullia, Joseph and Elizabeth Hoopes, Susanne Notman, Michael and Beverly Sullivan,
Patricia R. Vanderwarker*

Irenka Jakubiak *in memory of Thadeuz and Rozalia Jakubiak*

Betty C. Jones *in memory of family members and friends, Pat McNamara
and Myra Tobin*

Aurora Jones-Owens *in memory of Wayne, Betty and Albert Jones*

Kathryn Ketcham *in memory of the Rev. Dr. John B. Ketcham and John R. West, M.D.*

Richard and Susan Korchak *to the family we miss: John and Elaine Korchak, James
and Lillian Vichiconti, Sue Miller*

Douglas Krehbiel *in memory of the Rev. David Krehbiel, the Rev. Jeffrey Krehbiel and
Samir Shenouda*

Lisa Kyle *in memory of Harvey R. Kyle*

Ian C. Laing *in memory of Virginia Thoren...Hallelujah*

Bradley McCormick and Marion Katz *in memory of Sue McCormick*

Allison Morrow *in loving memory of my sister, Seth Jane Morrow*

Joan Reutershan and Meg Harper *in memory of Virginia Baron, Earl Brown, Jr.
and George Andrew Harper*

Audrey and Jay Reynolds *in memory of Jay's mother, Susan Reynolds*

Michael Shake *in honor of the ministry of the First Church Choir*

Barbara Swanson Sherman *in loving memory of Arlo Sinclair Pratt*

Nadine Stewart and David Zydallis *in memory of Bruce K. Stewart, our beloved brother*

Charlotte Walker-Said *in honor of Monique Briend-Walker*

John Wilmot and Nicole Francis *in memory of Ronald Francis, and Carter
and Genevieve Wilmot*

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor*

Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*

The First Church Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

Jonathan Metzler and Sam Snoddy (5 p.m.)

Louis and Lars Mullarkey (11 p.m.)

Acolytes

*The First Presbyterian Church
in the City of New York*

CHRISTMAS DAY

Worship Service

Sunday, December 25 at 11:00 a.m.

This Christmas, let's experience the abundant peace, hope, and joy of Jesus together.



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