

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24th, 2022 | 12 p.m.



A Circle of Quiet © Jan L. Richardson

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“From Heaven Above, BWV 606”
“Berceuse paraphrase”
“Noel X: Grand Jeu et Duo”

J.S. Bach
George Baker
Louis-Claude Daquin

PEALING OF THE CHRISTMAS BELLS

WELCOME

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”
stanzas 1, 3, and 4

ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

**How amazing is your love, great God!
You are not distant from us in some faraway heaven;
you have come close to us in a child
born of simple parents and cradled in a borrowed bed of straw.**

**We come before you in awe, God,
freshly aware of your glory and love embodied in the midst of this world.
Here among the dirt and bands of cloth,
amid the noise of cattle and the labor of birth,
we perceive your work.**

**We dare to believe it is you, God,
coming to be among us in Jesus,
bringing light into the world,
and so we praise you tonight!
Glory be to you, God, now and forever. Amen**

SOLO

Morten Lauridsen

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in their Manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

-Responsory for Matins on Christmas Day; sung in Latin

HEARING THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:6-7

pew Bible, Old Testament page 638/large print, Old Testament page 781

CAROL: HYMN 123

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

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

SERMON

“Beholding”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CAROL: HYMN 121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

Please stand in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY

English carol; Mack Wilberg, arr.

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him praise, the babe, the son of Mary!

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! —William Chatterton Dix

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

SENDING

CAROL: HYMN 134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

Please stand in body or spirit.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella!”

Keith Chapman, arr.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Maher Walker-Said, Charlotte Walker-Said,
Dahlia Walker-Said, and Monique Briend-Walker

LEADING THIS AFTERNOON

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*

Margaret Tigue, *mezzo-soprano*
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

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 you 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?



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