



First Presbyterian

— R O M E —



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24, 2021

6:00PM Sanctuary

God's People Gather for Worship

By God's grace alone and to his glory alone, we exist to worship God in his greatness and his holiness with Gospel-driven passion and integrity..." (excerpted from FPC Rome Mission Statement)

Prelude

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

Emma Lou Diemer

Ms. Faye Kesler

Welcome and Gathering Prayer

Corporate Prayer

All: O God, on this night of expectant wonder, we again walk the path to Bethlehem and to the child whose birth was heralded by prophets, proclaimed by angels, and welcomed by shepherds. Open our eyes this night to see in that infant your loving purposes, and stir within us adoring praise. Amen.

Call to Worship

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Todd and Cathy Gartman

John 1:1-14

All the candles represent Jesus who is the light of the world, but each has a more specific meaning. We began the Advent season by lighting the "Prophecy Candle" (Candle of Hope) to remind us of the promises and prophecies found in Scripture which God kept and fulfilled when he sent his Son Jesus into the world; followed by the "Bethlehem Candle" (Candle of Faith) to remind us of the place and circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth; followed by a lighting of the "Shepherds Candle" (Candle of Joy) to remind us that the message of Jesus' birth was first announced to "common" men who showed themselves ready to respond to the message of joy; on the final Sunday of Advent, we lit the "Angels Candle" (Candle of Peace) to remind us that the message of Jesus' birth was proclaimed from heaven and that what seemed to be a simple birth of a child has an eternal purpose: to call men and women into a relationship of forgiveness and peace with God. Finally, tonight, we light the "Christ Candle" to remember the birth of God's Son Jesus the Christ, who brings light and hope to a dark world through forgiveness of sins and the healing of our souls.

Hymn of Praise No. 270

"Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

Confessing Our Sins and Embracing Our Forgiveness

Corporate Confession

Leader: O God, we need Christ to renew our commitment.

All: We confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful.

Leader: May your angels sing again to us of peace for body and soul.

All: We acknowledge that we have foolishly let our desires lead us astray.

Leader: May your star once more set our course firmly in your direction.

All: We have turned our faith into a lifeless ritual.

Leader: May your manger call us again to expressions of love and devotion.

All: We have carefully kept our gifts and have not freely given our goods and our hearts to you.

Leader: May the Magi show us the spirit of giving.

All: Lord, may your Spirit linger in our hearts and bring renewal in our lives. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hymn of Reflection No. 262

"Away in a Manger"

MUELLER

The Christmas Story

Luke 2:1-20

Special Music

"O Holy Night"

Dr. Timothy Renner

Message

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 55:1-3 ESV

Sermon

"A Greater Satisfaction"

Reverend Bill Pardue

The Candle Lighting Service

Leader: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World!

All: Whoever follows him will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

"Silent Night"

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, Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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!

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.

Sending Prayer and Benediction

Prayer

All: Dear Lord, on a wondrous night you sent your Son to take on frail human flesh in order that all who believe in him might be saved. You sent angels to herald his birth in Bethlehem and a star to proclaim it to the ends of the earth. Send us now as messengers of your good news and proclaimers of your peace. In that Savior's name we pray. Amen.

Postlude

God Rest You Merry

Wilbur Held

Ms. Faye Kesler

Today's Scripture

Isaiah 55:1-3 ESV

¹ "Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;

and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

God's People Scatter to Live as Faithful, Fruitful Followers of Jesus Christ





are given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory

Frances Davis, *given by Rob Davis*
Bill Davis, *given by Rob Davis*
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Brewster, Sr., *given by The Brewster Family*
Anne Brewster Somerville, *given by The Brewster Family*
Jeff Cavaness, *given by Jane Cavaness*
Mary Lee Roberts, *given by The Tim Morgan Family*
David Morgan, *given by The Tim Morgan Family*
Ryan Davis Godfrey, *given by Tracy Dupree and Family*
Mike Easley, *given by John and Peggy Cowan*
Kaitlyn Cowan, *given by John and Peggy Cowan*
Charles and Bernice Cowan, *given by John and Peggy Cowan*
Robert Easley, *given by John and Peggy Cowan*
Dr. Tom, Mama Ann, Dick, and Bill Young, *given by Rebecca Stegall*
Dr. George R. Lee, Jr., *given by Barbara Anita Lee*
Barbara Bess Lee, *given by Barbara Anita Lee*
Nancy Elliot Lee, *given by Barbara Anita Lee*
Susan Thomas, *given by Frances and Rob Edwards and Family*
Anne Somerville, *given by Frances and Rob Edwards and Family*
Jeanne Wright, *given by The Andrew Heaner Family*
Gardner Wright, *given by The Andrew Heaner Family*
Rebecca Musser Hosea, *given by The Hosea Family*
Our Parents, *given by Tom and Betty Carver*

John and Jane Gates, *given by Russ and Pam Gates*
Ed and Janette Duke, *given by Russ and Pam Gates*
Charles and Rachel Bargainnier, *given by Bill and Charla Brewster*
Louise and Paul Steinhauer, *given by William and Virginia Steinhauer*
Helen and Wilford Morgan, *given by William and Virginia Steinhauer*
Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Berry, *given by Anita Berry Lowden*
James Enfield Berry, *given by Anita Berry Lowden*
William Daryl Dalton, *given by Emery and Emily Katherine Johnson*
Linda Hine, *given by Sarah and Ben McElrath*
Mr. and Mrs. James Herald Stanley (Pop and Deano), *given by Abby and Bobby Holcombe and girls*
Betty Jo Holcombe (Mama), *given by Abby and Bobby Holcombe and girls*
Gerald Pyatte, *given by Ashley and Dustin Banks*
Amanda Campbell, *given by Ashley and Dustin Banks*
Lemuel Waters, *given by Ashley and Dustin Banks*
Jimmy Banks, *given by Ashley and Dustin Banks*
John Linn, *given by Eleanor Linn*
Emily Mayfield, *given by Jane Storms*
Martha Mayfield, *given by Jane Storms*
Patsy Mayfield, *given by Jane Storms*
Jeanne Lebkicher, *given by Jane Storms*

are given to the Glory of God and in Honor

Aaron and Lane Rice, *given by John and Peggy Cowan*
Tha Berry, *given by Tom and Betty Carver*
Libby Battles, *given by Tom and Betty Carver*
Martin Foster, *given by Eleanor Linn*
Carole Lawton, *given by Eleanor Linn*
Our Pastors & Staff, *given by Anonymous*

