Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

7:00 p.m.

##### PRELUDE "The Shepherds at the Manger" Liszt

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN** #*133* *“O Come, All Ye Faithful” v. 1,3,4*

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE** Kathy Skerbetz

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

**\*CAROL**  ***#****122**“Silent Night” v. 1,2,3*

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.

*Please extinguish your candles after the carol.*

# OPENING PRAYER & 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Amen.*

MUSICAL OFFERING “O Holy Night”

Shari Bethman-Bjellquist & Tom Bethman

**PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION**

God is the witness to our lives,

**The One who sees all we do and all we fail to do;**

**who hears what we say, and don't say.**

God is also the One who cleanses us,

**The One who makes us pure, who forgives us.**

Let’s pray: Lord Jesus, this most holy of nights brings us gladness, grief, and joy. It brings us gladness, because you left the splendor of Heaven’s glory to come to a dark and cold world;

**You came to bring the light and warmth of your Kingdom to a world in need of your love, your peace, your joy.**

This night brings us grief, because you came into the world, but the world did not receive you.

**You came to your own, and your own did not welcome you. Even today, people turn away from you. *We* turn away from you. Sin still scars your creation and the hearts of your own people.**

This night also brings us joy, because you offer perfect forgiveness to all who acknowledge their need of you.

**Cleanse our hearts tonight, Lord Jesus, so that we also are welcomed by You. Amen.**

Silence is kept

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

**\*CAROL #145** *“What Child Is This” v.1,2*

READING Matthew 1:18-25 Susan Fitchett

**A TIME FOR CHILDREN**

**READING** Luke 2:1-7 Glenn Horvath

**ANTHEM** "Arise and Shine, Your Light Has Come!" Larson

**READING**  Luke 2:8-20 Diane Reed

**CAROLS** *(please remain seated)*

#121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (v. 1, 3)

#119*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”* (v. 1, 3)

**READING** Matthew 2:1-12 Roy Bjellquist

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**OFFERTORY**

“Adeste Fideles: March of the Three Holy Kings" Liszt Hugh Sung & Madalina Dalina

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS** John 8:12, Revelation 22:1-5

**MEDITATION** Dr. Mueller-Bolton

**CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

Each petition ends: On earth peace…

**Response: Goodwill among people.**

**\*CAROL #**134*“Joy to the World” v. 1,2,4*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**\*RESPONSE** *refrain* #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**POSTLUDE**  “Old Christmas Song" Liszt

***\*Those who are able are asked to stand.***

**Offering**

This evening’s offering will be going to help support the Deacons Ministry and to the FPC Food Pantry.

**Church Office**

The Church office will be closed between Christmas and New Year.   
We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year!

**5th Saturday Event at FPC**

FPC 5th Saturday event will be a Coffee House and Open Mic night on December 30th from 7p-9:30pm. There will be scheduled performers as well as Open Mic time. Local art will also be on display. Admission is free with Pantry Donations encouraged. Light snacks, refreshments & dessert will be served. Baked good requested to share.

**End of the Year donations**

The end of the year is approaching quickly. Please make sure all donations intended for 2023 be received by December 31, 2023. All donations after that date will be credited to 2024 - No Exceptions. Please contact the church office at 908-996-2227 if you have any questions.