

## To Go Forth to Serve as God's People in the World

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Closing Response, Hymn 23, stanza 3

Angels We Have Heard on High

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Improvisation On Mendelssohn

Postlude

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### STAFF

**Dr. R. Shane Owens** - *Pastor*

**Sara B. Hancock, CPS** - *Administrative Assistant*

**Marlene Sperry** - *CDP Director*

**Jim Glass** - *Director of Music and Organist*

**W. T. Syfan** - *Treasurer*

**Rev. Samuel N. Thomas** - *Pastor Emeritus*

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Dr. R. Shane Owens, Moderator

Robert K. Folks, Clerk

### Class of 2011

J. Casey Ballard

Thomas F. Carothers Jr.

Kim M. Moredock

Philip W. Neely

### Class of 2012

Donna C. Connors

Vickie L. Jewell

### Class of 2013

Holly C. Furr

Carolyn C. Hardin

Robert F. Stephenson

William K. Williams

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J. Casey Ballard

#### Christian Formation

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### SUPPORT COMMITTEES

#### Property Management

Thomas F. Carothers Jr.

#### Stewardship & Operational

William K. Williams

# First Presbyterian Church

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*A Place to Belong, A Place to Serve*

*"Now you are the Body of Christ, and Individually members of it." I Corinthians 12:27*



### OUR VISION AND MISSION

We, the members  
of First Presbyterian Church,  
are disciples of the risen Christ  
and members of his universal Body,  
who are empowered by God's Spirit to  
WORSHIP God with joy and thanksgiving;  
PROCLAIM the Gospel through word and deed;  
TEACH the message of God's love in Christ;  
SHARE God's love for all people by reaching out  
in hospitality, ministry and mission;  
WORK together in harmonious unity  
as a loving and caring people;  
and to SERVE one another and  
others beyond our fellowship  
in the name of Jesus Christ.

### OUR VALUES

The values we cherish to enable us to accomplish our vision and mission are the fruit of God's Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

## A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lessons and Carols

December 18, 2011 - 11:00 AM

\*All who are able are invited to stand

Chiming of the Trinity

The three bells rung at the beginning of the service represent the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

As the bells ring, let us gather quietly, prayerfully reflecting on the majesty of God in our lives.

Prelude Pat-A-Pan Morris/Glass

Welcome and Announcements

### ***To Praise the Living God***

Introit Psalm 24 John Ferguson

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle Barbara McKinnon and Amy Saylor

An Advent Carol\_ (sung by congregation to the tune of “Away in a Manger”)

***A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
A candle to point us to heaven above;  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
For Jesus is bringing God’s love to our earth.***

\*Call to Worship from Isaiah 61 and Psalm 126

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon us.

**God has sent us to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.**

Then our mouths will be filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;

**Then it will be said among the nations, the Lord has done great things!**

The Lord has done great things for us!

**Rejoice!**

\*Hymn 41 O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES

### ***To Confess Our Sins and Receive Forgiveness***

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession from [Call to Worship](#)

**Holy Lord, as we wait and watch and yearn and ache, we look for signs of your coming. You enter our world to bring Your unconditional love. You call us to love You, to love our neighbors, to love even our enemies. We confess that often love is not in our hearts and we lack courage to show love in our actions. We need your mercy; we long for the coming of Your Light. We wait, but we also pray, come quickly, Lord. In Your name, we pray. Amen.**

Silent Reflection and Personal Confession

Response No. 44, Stanza 4 O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;**

**Case out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell;**

**O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

Lesson 8

Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with Him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ “ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Carol Jesus Child John Rutter  
Adult Choir

Lesson 9

John 1:1-14

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 overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

\*Hymn 40 Joy to the World! ANTIOCH

### ***To Respond in Faith***

The Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (The Presbyterian Hymnal, Page 16)

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Christmas Canon adapted by Glass

Response, Hymn #53, stanza 3 What Child Is This

**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. This, this is Christ the King, Who Shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn 31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Carol Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming Adapted from Max Drichner  
Handbell Choir

Lesson 5 Luke 1:26-35, 38  
In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

\*Hymn 29 Go, Tell It On The Mountain GO TELL IT

Lesson 6 Luke 2:1, 3-7  
In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol The Virgin's Slumber Song Max Reger  
Adult Choir

Lesson 7 Luke 2:8-16  
In that 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 Rise Up Shepherd Thompson/Glass  
Handbell Choir

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the Good News.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia. Amen.**

## ***To Experience God's Word Through Lessons and Carols***

Lesson 1 Genesis 3:8-19  
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." To the woman he said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

\*Hymn 49 Once in Royal David's City IRBY

Lesson 2 Genesis 22:15-18  
The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Carol Carillon Gerald Near

Lesson 3 Isaiah 9:2, 6-7  
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. 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. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

\*Hymn 9 O Come, O Come Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

Lesson 4 Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9  
A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,