

First Presbyterian Church

5 PM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 24, 2022
CHRISTMAS EVE



"Flight to Egypt" by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



First Presbyterian
Church of Charlotte

VIRTUAL
CONNECT
CARD**PREPARATION****Prelude****Words of Welcome** | Robert Galloway**Chiming of the Trinity****ADORATION****Lighting of the Advent Candle** | Michael, Sarah, Davis, and Hart Peerson

Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies as we gather in adoration of the Christ-child.

Tonight, on this holy night, we give thanks for every child of God among us.

We are grateful that the Word became flesh in the form of baby Jesus, in whom God's promises are revealed.

For now we know: He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the newborn King.

+**Hymn No. 136** | "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" | GO TELL IT**Opening Prayer** | Natalie Raygor**PROCLAMATION****The Christmas Story Told by Angels** | Luke 2 | Delilah Jane Philips and Robert Galloway

In those days, Emperor Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the land so they would be counted. Everyone went to their hometowns to be listed.

**Do not be afraid!**

Joseph had to go to the town where his family was from. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of King David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of King David.

**Wow!**

He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy.

**Glory to God in the Highest!**

She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no room in the inn.

**Wow!**

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.



We bring you good news of great joy!

The angel continued, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."



Glory to God in the highest!

Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said...



Glory to God in the highest!

and on earth peace among those whom God favors. The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."



Wow!

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone.



We bring you good news of great joy!

They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.



We bring you good news of great joy!



Glory to God in the Highest!



Wow!



Amen. Amen. Amen!

GIVE
ONLINETEXT
TO GIVEPRAYER
REQUESTS**Meditation** | Robert Galloway+**Hymn No. 119** | “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” | MENDELSSOHN**RESPONSE**

+**Affirmation of Faith** | Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Christmas Offering**Visual 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 FORTH

Sharing the Light of Christ+**Hymn No. 122** | “Silent Night, Holy Night” | STILLE NACHT

During the final stanza, please lift your candle.

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.

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.

+**Charge**+**Hymn No. 134** | “Joy to the World” (verses 1 and 4) | ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

+**Benediction**

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The liturgy for the Advent wreath is written by the Rev. Caroline Jinkins and used with permission.

The Christmas Eve offering will be collected for Roof Above. Their mission is to serve as the catalyst for systemic change to end homelessness in our community.

If you would like to donate sanctuary flowers for baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, memorials, birthdays, honoraria etc., please contact Diane Maye (dianemaye@hotmail.com or 704-492-0490).

Today's Worship Leaders:

**The Reverend
Robert L. Galloway**
*Associate Pastor for
Christian Formation and
Young Adults*

Delilah Jane Philips
*Director of
Children's Ministry*

Natalie Raygor
*Executive Director of
Youth and their Families*

William P. Young, III
*Director of
Music Ministries*

CHURCHWIDE

Poinsettias may be taken after the Christmas Day service.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, December 24, 8 p.m.

Christmas Eve Broadcast (virtual only), December 24, 11 p.m., WAXN-Channel 64, WSOC-Channel 9, and Livestream

Christmas Morning Worship, December 25, 11 a.m.

Holiday Church Hours – The church building will be closed December 26-30, and staff will be working remotely December 28-30. The office will also be closed on January 2.

Do you need support during the holidays?

Our Stephen Ministers are trained to listen compassionately without judgment. | Request a Stephen Minister: adickson@firstpres-charlotte.org

Pastor on call – If you have a pastoral emergency outside of regular church hours, dial 704.927.0256 for the on-call voicemail. Your call will be returned promptly.

ADULTS

What do we believe? Passages Class, January 8-29, 9:45 a.m., S203 and Zoom - The Presbyterian Church's creeds and confessions. | More info: fpc.tiny.us/passagessundayclass

YOUTH

Montreat Worship and Music Conference Registration, Begins January 1 - Open to grades 3-12, with early-bird pricing until January 31. | Contact: coverbey@firstpres-charlotte.org

Montreat Youth Conference Registration, Begins January 8 - Open to all youth in grades 8-12!

Epiphany PYC, January 8, 6 p.m., Wood Fellowship Hall - PYC will resume on January 8th as we engage in an Epiphany themed program and receive Star Words.

Youth Council Meeting, January 8, 5 p.m., Youth Corner Middle and High School Youth Councils will meet before PYC that evening.

CHILDREN

Registration for Montreat Worship and Music Conference, Begins January 1 - Open to grades 3-12, with early-bird pricing until January 31. | Contact: coverbey@firstpres-charlotte.org

Children's Choirs and Handbells, Resumes January 11, 6 p.m. - Rehearsals for TK-5th grade begins at 6 p.m. with dinner available to purchase beginning at 5:15. | Contact: coverbey@firstpres-charlotte.org | Register: fpc.tiny.us/choir22

OUTREACH & ADVOCACY

Room In The Inn, Monday nights, FPC
Your help is needed to provide hospitality to eight unsheltered neighbors every Monday night starting December 5. | Contact: fbryan@firstpres-charlotte.org

Last Day of this Year's Habitat Build, January 7, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., 2707 Primrose Ave - Volunteers are needed for our Habitat house's punch day. | Sign up: fpc.tiny.us/HabitatSignUp22 (group no. 1686) | Contact: marwen@carolina.rr.com

Faith in Housing, January 22, 12 p.m., WFH - Learn how the local faith community is addressing the affordable housing crisis. Hear from DreamKey Partners, Give Impact, Ascent Housing, and the Presbytery on creative solutions happening in Charlotte. | Register: fpc.tiny.us/3sw5u2de



Contemplative Service

Sundays beginning January 8 | 9-9:40 a.m. | Chapel

The contemplative service at First Presbyterian Church creates time and space to experience God in different ways. This service follows a similar order of worship as our 11 a.m. service but is more intimate and experiential. The service will be unique each week. It may incorporate elements of silence, reflective prayer, music, and/or meditation. Communion will be served each week. We invite you to try this new service and find a space of calm and centering in your busy life.

More information is available in the Welcome Center.
| Questions: mbowman@firstpres-charlotte.org

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

CHURCH CLOSED

Room in the Inn, 5 p.m., FBDR

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

CHURCH CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

Church building closed - All staff working remotely

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

Church building closed - All staff working remotely

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

Church building closed - All staff working remotely

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Worship, 11 a.m., Sanctuary



**VIEW THE CHURCH
CALENDAR**

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firstpres-charlotte.org

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