

First Presbyterian Church Worship Bulletin 12.31.23
First Sunday after Christmas

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Prayer of the Day

As you led Simeon to embrace the infant Jesus, guide us, Holy Spirit, by your gracious light, that we may welcome your saving word. Amen.

Prelude *He is Born* arr. Mark Hayes

***Call to Worship**

When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

God is there.

When Jesus is presented at the temple,

God is there.

When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

God is there.

When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

God is there.

This very morning,

God is here.

In the future we cannot see,

God is there.

Let us worship God!

***Hymn of Praise** #28 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice

With heart, and soul, and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say:

Jesus Christ is born today;

Ox and ass before Him bow,

And He is in the manger now.

Christ is born today!

Christ is born today!

*2 Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart, and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!*

*3 Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!*

Call to Confession

Worship Leader Only: *Our confession this morning is interactive, with various parts. Please join me as we begin in unison, and then continue through the various parts.*

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we know that you have been present to us throughout all of history, even throughout our own histories. We know you will be with us in our future. Yet often we don't live as if we know that. You ask no more of us than what we can provide.

Parents: As Jesus' parents were asked to give within their means at the temple, you ask us to give of our means. We often fail to do this.

Men of Wisdom: As Simeon recognized in Jesus the salvation of his people, we recognize in Jesus' Way our own wholeness and health, yet we often fail to follow.

Women of Wisdom: As Anna recognized in Jesus the redemption of her people, we recognize in Jesus God's saving grace for us, yet we often fail to rejoice and to share this good news.

All: Forgive us, make us wise and joyful and strong so that we live in the understanding of your never ending love. Amen.

Prayer Song Jesus, Name Above All Names #2071 Sing the Faith
*Jesus, name above names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.*

Silent Reflection and Confession

***Proclamation of the Gospel**

The scriptures promise that God will make all things new. As God makes the year new, may we also be made new by God's love and forgiveness in Jesus. Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another and share the peace we have found in God with our neighbor.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another in the name of Christ! If you are worshiping online with us, please share your peace with us in the comments.

***The Gloria Patri**

Prayer for God's Wisdom

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word that was made flesh in Jesus Christ. In his name we pray, Amen.

First Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

Christmas Hymn Sing: *choose your favorite carol*

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-40

Message

Memory Blesses Hope

***Hymn**

#603 Song of Simeon

*1 Now may Your servant, Lord,
According to Your word,
Depart in exultation.
My peace shall be serene,*

*2 You did for all prepare
This gift so great, so rare,
Fulfilling prophets' story--
A light to show the way
To Gentiles gone astray,
And unto Israel's glory.*

Offering Our Gifts and Ourselves to God

***Doxology** #592
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Loving God, the greatest Gift this season is the Gift you gave of yourself in Christ Jesus. All that we do at this Holy Season points to that expression of Holy Love. Christ came as a babe in Bethlehem and promises to come again. In that gift is life, hope, and a future, reconciliation between you and all of us too often wayward human beings. May these gifts be used as an expression of your deep love, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

1 O sing a song of Bethlehem,
Of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them
From angels in the air:
The light that shone on Bethlehem
Fills all the world today;
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth
The angels sing away.

*2 O sing a song of Nazareth,
Of sunny days of joy,
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath,
And of the sinless Boy;
For now the flowers of Nazareth
In every heart may grow;
Now spreads the fame of His dear Name
On all the winds that blow.*

*3 O sing a song of Galilee,
Of lake and woods and hill,
Of Him who walked upon the sea
And bade the waves be still:
For though, like waves on Galilee,
Dark seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Master's word,
Falls peace upon the soul.*

*4 O sing a song of Calvary,
Its glory and dismay;
Of Him who hung upon the tree,
And took our sins away:
For He who died on Calvary
Is risen from the grave,
And Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored,
Is mighty now to save.*

***Benediction**

Postlude *A Christmas Celebration* arr. Phillip Keveren

Remembering in Prayer

Praise and Thanksgiving: (Lord, hear our praise): the joy of celebrating Christ's birth with friends, family, and church community.

Ministry of the Church in the Community: Neighbors Together

Healing and Encouragement (Lord, hear our prayer):

Homebound: Jean, Ernie, Carlene and Wayne, Les, Sheri and Jim, Connie S

For those seeking healing and comfort: Dan & Sam, those with health concerns, David, Mary Jo, Matthew, Don B, Gene, Kevin, Denny, Chelsea, Dorothy, Peggy's family, Tracey, Shannon, Freya and family, Katelyn, Ross, Preston, George, Corban, Nicholas F & his family, Cindy & Steve, Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel.

For Our Community: Those suffering from homelessness and financial concerns over the holiday.

Psalm of Encouragement:

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
Psalm 148: 5,6

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UPCOMING EVENTS

De-Greening the Sanctuary January 3 6PM

New Members Inquiry Dinner-Following worship on Jan 7. Let Keith and Laura know ASAP!

Congregational Meeting-January 21 following worship to approve Pastors' terms of call and election of officers

Ordination & Installation of Officers-January 28 in worship

Community Fellowship Night Dinner will start back up Jan 24!

On-line donations are now being accepted. If you wish to support the church ministry by donating with your credit or debit card, click on the "Give Now" link on the church webpage, www.fpclagrande.org, or use the QR code.

