



SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

**First Presbyterian Church
Tallahassee, Florida
December 24, 2024, 5:30 PM**



Welcome

Whether this is your first time at First or you have been here forever, you join by YouTube or in person, we are glad you are here. First Presbyterian Church is a downtown congregation called to glorify and enjoy God as we worship through the Word and Sacrament, make disciples, nurture faith, serve neighbors, and strive for justice. We pray that worship is a place in which the Spirit guides you to strengthen and deepen a life of faith.

Land Acknowledgement

As we come to worship, we acknowledge that the land on which we are meeting is the traditional and ancestral homeland of the Apalachee, Miccosukee, Seminole, and Black Seminole peoples. The people who called this beautiful land home for millennia were decimated, forcibly removed, and coerced from their homes. We the church recognize, remember, and are challenged by the stewardship of these indigenous peoples and their land. We acknowledge that the building in which we worship was built on the backs of enslaved peoples and funded by the sweat of their brows. We also acknowledge that until the mid-20th century we excluded people based on race. We repent of our complicity in the harm done to our siblings in the human family. We see our wrongs. We remember their place in our story, and we commit to shape our worship and service to reflect God's dream for a world where all members of the human family live together in justice and peace.

Cover Photo Note

Hofheinz-Döring, Margret, 1910-. Holy Family, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56749> [retrieved Dec. 18, 2024]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stern_von_Bethlehem,_Margret_Hofheinz-D%C3%B6ring,_Aquarell_1973_\(VV-Nr.5834\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stern_von_Bethlehem,_Margret_Hofheinz-D%C3%B6ring,_Aquarell_1973_(VV-Nr.5834).jpg).

GATHERING

Ringling of the Zimbelstern

Voluntary

Chorale Prelude on "O Jesulein süß"

David N. Johnson

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Corzine Family

The people who have walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
**those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.**

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

Hymn 110, v. 1

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

Call to Worship

Ethan Murphy

A child has been born for us.

**A great light shines
in the middle of our darkness.**

A child has been born for us,

**establishing God's justice
and breaking every yoke.**

A child has been born for us,

whose reign will have no end.

A child has been born for us,

and we worship him together:

**Wonder Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Hallelujah!**

Opening Prayer

*Hymn 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

**you have come among us in Jesus Christ,
hallowing our humanity and embodying love.**

**We confess that we have turned from the path Jesus has marked,
failing to claim all you intend for us,**

withholding love from our neighbors and ourselves.

Forgive us.

Be born anew in us,

that our lives might reflect

Christ's radiant light.

*Assurance of Pardon

This is good news! **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

*Response — Hymn 112, v. 4

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

SUSSEX CAROL

*The Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

PROCLAIMING

Prayer for Illumination

... *that our lives, like bread, may feed a hungry world.* **Amen.**

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 9:2–7

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 304

O Sing a New Song to the Lord
(Psalm 96)

GONFALON ROYAL

Epistle

Titus 2:11–14

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Luke 2:1–7

Ethan Murphy

*Hymn 114

Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG

Gospel

Luke 2:8–14

Rev. Glenn Hodges

*Hymn 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Gospel

Luke 2:15–20

Rev. Glenn Hodges

*Hymn 117

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

WINCHESTER OLD

RESPONDING

*Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from the Confession of 1967 9.19)

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.

**His faith and obedience were the response
of the perfect child of God.**

**He was the fulfillment
of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.**

**He gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be his servant
for the reconciliation of the world.**

Prayers of the People

O Christ, our light, **hear our prayers.**
... in your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

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.

Call to Offering

Presentation of Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings

Anthem

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Henry Walford Davies

*O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*

*How silently, how silently,
the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him
still, the dear Christ enters in.*

*For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together,
proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth!*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
Cast 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!*

*Presentation Hymn 111, v. 5

From Heaven Above

VOM HIMMEL HOCH

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

*Hymn 122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

*Ushers will come forward to light candles. As we sing the last verse of Silent Night, you may raise your candle.
Please extinguish your candle following Silent Night, and place it in the basket in the Narthex upon leaving.*

*Blessing and Charge

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God.
Amen.
May the God of glory, the Word of life, and the spirit of truth bless you all, now and forever.
Alleluia!

Voluntary

Hymn Prelude on "God Rest You Merry"

Wilbur Held

*Asterisks indicate to please rise in body or spirit. Congregational responses are in **bold print**.

IN WORSHIP THIS EVENING

This evening we welcome back Tim Hoekman as our guest organist.

“**Kingdom**” or “**Kindom**” in the Lord’s Prayer? Our Scriptures were developed when Kingdoms were the going community structure. We realize now that other Biblical metaphors, like *koinonia*, more adequately capture the communities of care and genuine kin-ships about which Jesus taught and preached.

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations — **We offer prayers for healing** for Wayne Friedemann, Morris Springer, Mary Jo Wright, Jane Hughes, Patricia Yeilding, Cindy Harden, Carol Lou Phillips, Joyce Crawford, Bev Breedlove, Tara Reynolds, Sandra Sherrard, and Martha Snowden. **We offer prayers for strength and mercy** for Evanna (Wayne Friedemann’s sister), Patricia McCoy Delancey, Thaddeus Gillon, and Aidan (grandson of Sue Safford). We pray for the staff and volunteers of Second Harvest of the Big Bend and all our mission partners, and for victims of gun violence in our community and our country. We pray for the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba, Pastor Izett Samá Hernández, and Pastor Alison Infante. We pray for peace in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, and around the world. **We also pray for those in military service**, including Brian Guisao, Ross Yielding, David DelRossi, and Owen Elzie.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children are welcome in this service as full members of God’s family. Parents and children are invited to use whatever is useful in the basket by the back door. Child care for children under the age of kindergarten is in the Education Building. Please note that during worship the Education Building is locked. Please enter through the breezeway door.

Restrooms are located in this building through the door at the end of each aisle of the sanctuary.

An induction loop system is available in the sanctuary. To use the system, switch your compatible hearing aid to the T–telephone mode or request a wireless headset from an usher.

Large print versions of the *Glory to God* hymnal and worship bulletin are available from ushers.

Elementary/Youth and Adult Bible Study classes will not meet Sunday, December 29.

If you are visiting, welcome! If you have questions about our congregation or about church membership, please let us know by using the friendship registers or speaking to one of the greeters so we can connect you with the right people. We welcome new members during worship on the second Sunday of each month.

Online Offerings



Give Online!

QR Codes



Check-in

Let us know you came to worship today!



MEMBERS OF SESSION 2024–26

Class of 2024

Peggy Wright-Cleveland
Chris Corzine, Clerk
John Hightower
Martha Kutter
Peggy West

Class of 2025

Donna Barber
Carolyn Bradley
Debbie Gibson
Patrick Kennedy
Sue Safford

Class of 2026

Jane Atkinson
Daniel Bruno
Janet Fixel
Norma Meier
Greg Riccardi

Designated Pastor Rev. Glenn Hodges
Parish Associate Rev. Dr. Greta Reed
Organist..... Elizabeth Lajeunesse
Choir Director Ethan Murphy
Financial Administrator Fran Owens
Custodian and Sunday Host Becky Brown

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Love Has Come

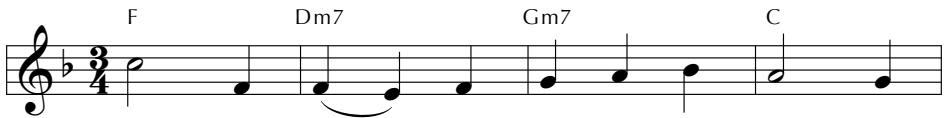
110

Capo 3: (D)

(Bm7)

(Em7)

(A)



1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D)

(Bm7)

(Em)

(A7) (D)



Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A)

(D)

(Bm)

(D)

(A) (G)

(D)



heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7)

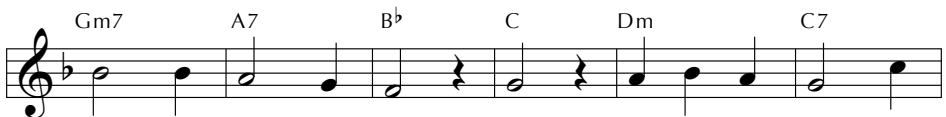
(F#7)

(G)

(A)

(Bm)

(A7)



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D)

(A)

(G)

(A)

(D)

(A)

(A7)

(Dsus) (D)



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing 112

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (A7) (D)
 F B \flat F C7 F



1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re -
 3 When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then life and
 4 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the

(G) (A) (D) (G)
 B \flat C F B \flat



news the an - gels bring; on Christ - mas night all
 deem - er made us glad; then why should we on
 health come in its place; when sin de - parts be -
 an - gels sing this night; all out of dark - ness

(D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D)
 F C F B \flat C F



Chris - tians sing, to hear the news the an - gels bring,
 earth be sad, since our Re - deem - er made us glad,
 fore his grace, then life and health comes in its place;
 we have light, which made the an - gels sing this night:

(A) (Em) (D) (A)
 C Gm F C



news of great joy, news of great mirth,
 when from our sin he set us free,
 heav - en and earth with joy may sing,
 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heaven;

(D) (G) (A) (G) (D)
 F B \flat C B \flat F



news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
 all for to gain our lib - er - ty?
 all for to see the new - born King.
 peace on earth and good - will. A - men!"

The words of this carol first appeared in 1684 in a collection by an Irish bishop, Luke Wadding. Whether they were his own work or something gleaned from popular use is not clear. The tune name recalls that the tune was collected in 1904 from Mrs. Verrall of Monk's Gate, Sussex.

O Sing a New Song to the Lord 304

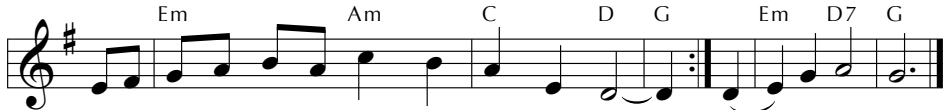
(Psalm 96)



1 O sing a new song to the Lord; sing, all the
2 Tell all the world God's won-drous ways; tell all the
3 The na-tions' gods are i-dols vain; the shin-ing
4 Let ev-ery tongue and ev-ery tribe give to the
5 Let heaven be glad, let earth re-joice; the teem-ing



earth and bless that Name; from day to day God's praise re-cord;
na-tions far and near: great is the Lord, and great God's praise;
heavens the Lord sup-ports; both light and hon-or lead the train,
Lord due praise and sing; all glo-ry un-to God as-cribe;
sea re-sound with praise; let wav-ing fields lift high their voice,



the Lord's re-deem-ing grace pro-claim.
the Lord a-lone, let na-tions fear.
while strength and beau-ty fill the courts.
come, throng God's courts, and of-ferings bring.
and all the trees their an-them raise. Al-le-lu-ia!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

When this text appeared in *The Psalter*, 1912, it was titled "The Message of Redemption," a helpful reminder that the sung praise of God is a proclamation of "redeeming grace." The tune, created slightly later, is named with a French-derived word "gonfalon," meaning "banner."

Away in a Manger

114

Capo 5: (C) F (Am) Dm (C) F (Dm) Gm

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(F) B^b (G) C (C) F (Dm) Gm (F) B^b (G) C

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(C) F (Dm) Gm

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(G) C (C) F (Dm) Gm (G) C (C) F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

This anonymous carol probably originated among Pennsylvania Lutherans in the late 19th century, giving rise to a mistaken assertion that it had been written by Martin Luther. This tune is also by an American but has become the one usually used in Canada and Great Britain.

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

The image shows a musical score for the piece "Jesus Christ: Birth". It consists of two staves, a vocal line on top and a piano accompaniment line on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The vocal line begins with a melodic phrase, followed by a rest, then the lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The score ends with a double bar line.

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

117 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all
 2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town this day, is
 4 "The heaven - ly babe you there shall find to

seat - ed on the ground, the an - gel of the
 seized their trou - bled mind: "Glad ti - dings of great
 born of Da - vid's line the Sav - ior, who is
 hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in

Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
 joy I bring to you and hu - man - kind.
 Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:
 swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."

- 5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith
 appeared a shining throng
 of angels praising God, who thus
 addressed their joyful song:
- 6 "All glory be to God on high,
 and to the earth be peace;
 good will to all from highest heaven
 begin and never cease!"

This was one of the first metrical texts to deal with a New Testament narrative rather than paraphrase one of the Psalms. It is set here to a psalm tune that is more than a century older than the words, though the two were not firmly joined until the mid-19th century.

111

From Heaven Above

1 "From heaven a - bove to earth I come to bring good
 2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your
 4 My heart for ver - y joy now leaps; my voice no
 5 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heaven, who un - to

news to ev - ery - one! Glad ti - dings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; he will him - self your
 lon - ger si - lence keeps; I too must sing with
 us the Christ has given." With an - gels sing the

joy I bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
 low - ly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be and from all sin will set you free."
 joy - ful tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song;
 Sav - ior's birth, a glad new year to all the earth.

This Christmas hymn gives us a rare glimpse of Martin Luther as a father creating verses for his children to sing at home on Christmas Eve for a retelling of Luke 2:8–14. The first three stanzas paraphrase the angel's song, and the final two provide the human response.

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

GERMAN

- 1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

KOREAN

- 1 고요한밤 거룩한밤
 어둠에 묻힌밤
 주의부모 앉아서
 감사기도 드릴때
 아기잘도 잔다
 아기잘도 잔다

SPANISH

- 1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*
Todo duerme en derredor,
entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.