



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
16 EAST FIFTH STREET  
ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA

Website: [www.fpc-rr.org](http://www.fpc-rr.org)

Church Office: (252) 537-4018 [firstpresbyterianchurchrr@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyterianchurchrr@gmail.com)

Rev. Sandoval: (252) 676-9857 [fperrminister@gmail.com](mailto:fperrminister@gmail.com)

[To text Rev. Sandoval use (336) 420-0388]

# SERVICE OF CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2020

FIVE O'CLOCK

## NATIVITY OF THE LORD

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### ORGAN PRELUDE

*(Please use the prelude as a time to quietly prepare for worship)*

#### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

One: "Good news of great joy,"  
the angel said, "for to you a savior is born."  
"Peace on earth," the choir sang,  
"for God reigns in the highest."  
"Follow me," the star beckoned,  
"For Hope was born in Bethlehem."  
As we light the Christ candle,

**All: we watch for the Christmas story around us.**

One: Emmanuel has come and is coming.

**All: Come, all ye faithful, and worship God.**

#### CHIMING OF THE LORD'S DAY

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,

**All: for a child has been born for us, a son given to us!**

One: Glory to God in the highest heaven!

**All: Let us worship the Prince of Peace.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

One: God of all ages, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name.

**All: Amen.**

HYMN 119

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

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CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Christ, you were born in a humble stable, because there was no room for you in the inn. Forgive us when we foolishly think that there is no room for you in our lives. When we close the doors of our hearts to your word, forgive us, and burst through them with your love. When we close the doors of our minds to your challenge, forgive us, and burst through them with your love. When we close the doors of our homes, our churches, and our cities to people you would have us welcome, forgive us, and speak your angel's words to us once more: "Do not be afraid."**

## TIME FOR SILENCE

*(We ask for forgiveness for our individual faults)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### THE PEACE

**One:** Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All:** **And also with you.**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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.

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

THE WORD IN MUSIC      *Mary, Did You Know?*      Mark Lowry,  
arranged by Jack Shrader, video edited by Matthew Knudson

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

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 as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

One:    The Word of the Lord

All:    **Thanks be to God**

## TIME WITH YOUNG CHRISTIANS

## SERMON

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O holy God, creator and ruler of the universe. ... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

One: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. ... With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to

you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.  
According to his commandment:

**All: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

**One:** Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. ...

## LORD'S PRAYER

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

**One:** The body of Christ broken for us:

**All: Thanks be to God.** (The bread is eaten.)

**One:** The blood of Christ shed for us:

**All: Amen.** (The cup is drank.)

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

# BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

HYMN 122

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

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## CHARGE

## BLESSING

**One:** The loving kindness of the Lord our God, the grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

## POSTLUDE

*Merry Christmas*

# 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king,  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

# 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.

TEXT: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1-3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863; stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt.  
 MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818  
 Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

STILLE NACHT  
 Irregular