First Presbyterian Church

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

The Nativity of our Lord — 5 PM, December 24, 2016

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.

WELCOME — Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE — *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* — Polish Carol, arr. Brian Henkelmann
Emily Hedgpeth Schauer, flute; *Ben Maxwell*, cello

INTROIT — *Advent Hymn* — Martin Jean

Come with me now to see the throne, the manger where our Savior lies.
Kneel down in awe before his crib and kiss the feet of God.
Our hope is here. The peace he brings will draw us to that place,
Where we shall sing in perfect praise and dwell in endless day.

CALL TO WORSHIP / LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE — Dorothy Graham, Scottie Seawell, and Phil, Erin and Lauren Boyle (from *Luke 2:10–15*)

Leader: Do not be afraid; for see—
I am bringing you good news of great joy.
People: **To us is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**
Leader: This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.
People: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among people.**
Leader: Let us go now to Bethlehem.

(Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles and Christ Candle)

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 133** — *O Come, All Ye Faithful* — *Adeste Fideles*

O come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, Born the King of Angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the Highest!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** — Cheryl Henry

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.

** Those who are able, please stand.*

All: **Living God, on this holy night we gather—** (from *Luke 2:1–20*)
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.
May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7 Bob Breitweiser

Leader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

A TIME WITH CHILDREN Marilyn Hedgpeth

Hymn *(verse 1, sung by Ellie Goodridge)* *Away in a Manger* *Mueller*

Solo: *Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,*
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Procession of the Holy Family
(Mary – Meredith Brown; Joseph – Chris Brown;
Baby Jesus – Evelyn Brown; Jesus' brother – Logan Brown)

Congregation: ***The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,***
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-20 Marilyn Hedgpeth

Leader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN NO. 112** *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing* *Sussex Carol*

(Children may return to their seats, or go to the nursery)

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
on Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
heaven and earth with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God in highest heaven; peace on earth and goodwill. Amen!"

CONFESSION OF SIN Sam Miglarese

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession *(in unison)*

O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. We wonder at the miracle of creation; we stand in awe before the mystery of the Incarnation. Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith, empty of home, lacking in love. This year, let the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us again. We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Response (Hymn No. 134, verses 3 and 4) *Antioch*

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

***THE PEACE** Cheryl Henry

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE OFFERING *(The offering will be given to Durham's Welcome Baby organization.)*

Offertory Anthem *Judah's Land* Appalachian Carol

To thee with joy I sing, Sweet Child that heav'n did bring,
Now Judah's land shall ring with thy praises.
Gentle Stranger, in that manger, in Judah's land we find thee, Infant Savior.

I greet thee, Prince of Peace: from sin give thy release!
Nor shall my tongue e'er cease from thy praises.
Gentle Stranger, in that manger, in Judah's land we find thee, Infant Savior.

Thy crib can scarce contain thy love, our precious gain;
May hymns new heights attain with thy praises.
Gentle Stranger, in that manger, in Judah's land we find thee, Infant Savior.

Now twilight quietly comes: the baby lies asleep;
Play softly, flute and drums, to his praises.
Gentle Stranger, in that manger, in Judah's land we find thee, Blessed Savior.

*Doxology (Hymn No. 147, verses 5,6) *The First Nowell*

Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

MEDITATION *"A Savior Like Jesus"* Mindy Douglas

INVITATION TO THE TABLE Mindy Douglas

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Marilyn Hedgpeth

Leader: God is with us.
People: **We are not alone.**
Leader: Christ is present here.
People: **The Spirit moves within us.**
Leader: Let us give thanks to God
People: **In memory and in hope.**
Leader: Blessings be to you, Creator God, who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring love and light everlasting.
People: **Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages; your ancient promise still brings us hope.**
Leader: Over the ages, you sent prophets and messengers to your people, reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice that would surround the world.
People: **They came in the middle of our despair and filled us with hope.**
Leader: And then you came to a young woman named Mary and laid out the promise in a new way,
People: **Promising her a son who would be called Jesus;**
Promising her that in her son the world would be changed.
Leader: Now as we celebrate that child, we lift our voices in song, singing together the praises of ages:
All: (Sung to *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord! God of Hosts, by all adored!
Heaven and earth cannot contain all the Glory of your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is he who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hallelujah glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due be forever, Lord to you!

Leader Yet even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, we remember the life this baby will live.
People: **We remember how he broke the bonds of human tradition to show all, what the Banquet of Hope could be as he ate openly with the despised and the outcasts of his world.**
Leader: And we remember one special meal, foretaste of the banquet that is to come, that he ate with his closest friends.
People: **Gathering them together in an upper room to share the story of liberation, he prepared them for liberation.**
Leader: At the end of the meal he took bread, blessed and broke it, then passed it to them saying:
People: **Take and eat. This bread is the body of Life, broken by the world.**
Eat it in remembrance and in hope.
Leader: After that he took the cup, blessed it and passed it to them saying:
People: **This cup is the sign of the New Covenant. Whenever you drink it remember me, for I shall not eat or drink again until the time of the heavenly banquet.**
Leader: Remembering the birth of the child in the stable, we remember also his life, his death and his resurrection.
People: **We remember how he poured his love out to all he met and we look forward to his return and the coming reign of peace, love, and justice.**
Leader: Let us remember, in His Name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the lonely and the unloved; all who have none to care for them; all those whose lives have been torn asunder by injustice, terror and war; the agéd and little children; and all who know not the great loving-kindness of the Lord Jesus. And now, as beloved children of a loving Parent, we pray:
All: **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.**

Leader: The Bread we break is the Bread of Life. The Cup we share is the Cup of Promise. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**
Leader: Come and eat, the banquet awaits.

(The elders will now come forward to be served and to receive the elements.)

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

This evening we are celebrating Holy Communion by intinction. You are invited to come forward, take the bread, dip it into the cup, and remember God's greatest gift as you return by the side aisles to your seat. Those seated in the balcony are requested to follow the directions of the ushers to proceed down to the Narthex and return. If you are unable to come forward, please raise your hand, and an usher will bring the elements to you in the pew. ***Gluten/peanut-free bread*** *is served at the station by the baptismal font at the front of the sanctuary.*

Anthem — *O Sweetest Lord Jesus* — J.S. Bach

O Sweetest Lord Jesus, tender and mild,
The Father's will, you have fulfilled
In human form, you came from heav'n,
That greatest gift, so freely giv'n:
O sweetest Lord Jesus, holy child.

O sweetest Lord Jesus, tender and mild,
Who God and sinners reconciled:
Come fire in us, love's burning Light,
That we in turn love you aright:
O sweetest Lord Jesus, holy child.

Instrumental — *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* — French tune, arr. Jeremy Young

Hymn No. 145 (all sing) — *What Child Is This* — *Greensleeves*

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

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.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION — Marilyn Hedgpeth

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
People: **Amen.**
All: **God of peace and good will, you came in silence while all lay sleeping, to enter our world as a child of humble birth. We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, born of your handmaid Mary. In his face we behold your glory, for in his life and death is your gift of salvation. Let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you, God of comfort and joy, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, your Son, now and forever. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF CONGREGATIONAL CANDLES Sam Miglarese

(In passing the light, please hold your lighted candle upright while the recipient of your light tips his or her unlit candle).

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

HYMN (*see back cover*) *Silent Night, Holy Night* *Stille Nacht*

(Remain seated during this hymn. Keep your candle lit through the singing of the final hymn.)

***BENEDICTION** Mindy Douglas

***HYMN (*see back cover*)** *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* *Mendelssohn*

***POSTLUDE** *Swiss Noel* D'Aquin

(As you leave the sanctuary, please drop used candles in the large metal cans in the narthex and foyer.)

WELCOME to those who are visiting with us! First Presbyterian honors and celebrates the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church.

The ***poinsettias*** in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and are a gift to the congregation from ***Arthur and Mary Clark***. ***Special thanks*** to ***Alice Raney*** and ***Dale Georgiade*** for decorating the sanctuary for the season.

Special thanks to ***Emily Hedgpeth Schauer*** and ***Ben Maxwell*** for sharing their musical gifts with us this evening.

The ***bulletin cover***, "*The Arrival*," is artwork by John Stuart (www.stushieart.com). Used with permission.

Ushers*: *Mary-Jo Keenan (head), ***Carl and Chris Anglin***, ***Celia Dickerson***, ***Amy Dillon***, ***Michael Honeycutt***

Communion Elders: Head/Replenisher: ***Eric Wiebe;*** Additional Replenisher: ***Peter Fish***

Bread 1 (Process): ***Al Arrowood***
Bread 2: ***Kate Busa***
Bread 3: ***Jerry Postema***
Bread 4: ***Lenore Champion***
Bread 5 (narthex): ***Marie Sappenfield***
Bread 6 (narthex): ***Karen Romines***

Cup 1: ***Marcia Lorimer***
Cup 2 (process): ***Alice Raney***
Cup 3: ***Bob Breitweiser***
Cup 4: ***Wes Carson***
Cup 5 (narthex): ***David Sappenfield***
Cup 6 (narthex): ***Lea Bingham***

Shepherd, center aisle: ***Jody Maxwell***
Shepherd, font side: ***Sharon Hirsch***
Shepherd, pulpit side: ***Kristin Meade***
Shepherd, balcony, font side: ***Barbara Buckley***
Shepherd, balcony, pulpit side: ***Libby Gulley***

The Christmas Eve Offering

The recipient of the Christmas Eve offering is **Welcome Baby**. As we welcome the Christ Child, let us also welcome children born in Durham with loving arms and help provide a safe and healthy start to their lives. Welcome Baby provides free parenting education and support to any family residing in Durham with a newborn or children to age 5. Workshops, childhood development newsletters, Cribs for Kids, clothing closet, car seat safety program, community resource referrals and Spanish services are among the services offered.

Silent Night, Holy Night

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.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Robert Daye, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Sarah Finbow, Youth Minister
Lyn Francisco, Administrative Assistant

Marilyn Hedgpeth, Associate Pastor
Cheryl Henry, Parish Associate
Chris Karnadi, Ministry Intern
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Sam Miglarese, Associate Pastor
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:
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