FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE
Savior of the Nations, Come
J. S. Bach

INTROIT
Lo, How a Rose
Praetorius
Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF
THE FOURTH ADVENT WREATH CANDLE
Peter and Barbara Fish
Leader 1: We light this candle as a symbol of the joy to be found in your kingdom on earth.
Leader 2: For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind.
We rejoice in his justice and mercy, faithful to all generations.
People: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 102  Savior of the Nations, Come
Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland

*LITANY OF CONFESSION
Sam Miglaresc
Leader: We live in a world oppressed by sin; a world of hunger, pain, injustice.
People: We acknowledge that we are part of this world and have not always played our part in confronting the darkness and bringing the light of Christ to troubled places.
Leader: We are part of the Body of Christ; a Body which is broken by the sin of its members.
People: We recognize that we belong to the broken Body of Christ; that our lives are touched by the sin of others and that our sin touches their lives.
Leader: We are unique individuals, created in the image and likeness of God.
People: We confess that we do not live up to God’s dream for us: that where God says, “Let there be light,” we fear to come out of the shadows, afraid of the power of God’s love for us.

(Silent Confession)

Leader: We gather as people aware of the shadow that sin casts on the world,
People: Celebrating the healing love of Jesus; God’s power to dispel the darkness of our hearts, minds, and souls.
Leader: May the God of tenderness and compassion, who enters this world so weak and so vulnerable, bless us today and every day into eternity;
People: The Maker, the Healer, the Holy Spirit.
Leader: Until we meet again,
People: May we be held in the palm of God’s hand.

* Those who are able, please stand.
Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.
The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side til morning is night.
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.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray.
All: God, our light and our salvation, you bring hope and peace to the lowly and oppressed. Let us see the world through your eyes that we may love the widow and orphan, that we may work for justice, that our lives may bear witness to the good news of the kingdom at hand and our vocation serve to draw people to your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Leader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God!

HyMn no. 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

GOsPEL LESSON


(Pew Bible, NT Page 57)

Leader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God!

SermoN

“How Silently, How Silently”

Marilyn Hedgpeth

(Silent reflection)

INSTRUMENTAL

Silent Night

Mary Kay Robinson, violin

Stille Nacht

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, robed in splendor, veiled in mystery, ruler alike of darkness and light.
We encounter God in Jesus Christ, who was put to death, but whose radiance could not be quenched; whose touch revives the weary, heals the wounded, dazzles the satisfied.
We walk with God, guided by the light of God’s loving Spirit, who enters the shadowed places of our hearts and leads us into truth and life.
We wait for God, and for the fulfillment of God’s promises, for the time when the darkness will hold no fear and the light will no longer blind, but creation will be made whole once more and God’s peace will reign forever. Amen.

(by Cally Booker, Candles and Conifers)

*HyMn no. 347

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

Leader: O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.
People: Come, Lord Jesus.
Leader: Let us pray.

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

... 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.

*THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

(Children through 1st grade enter worship during “The Peace.”)

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Children’s Choir Anthem The Snow Lay on the Ground Italian Folk Melody
(The children sing the carol first and the congregation joins the second time.)

The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
When Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite adoremus Dominum; Venite adoremus Dominum.

Refrain: Venite adoremus Dominum; Venite adoremus Dominum.

(Following “A Time with the Children,” the children may return to the childcare room or join their parents or guardians in the pew. There is no Children’s Choir rehearsal after worship today.)

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to the Offering
Offertory Schlaf, Mein Liebster (Aria from the Christmas Oratorio) J.S. Bach
Rebecca Robinson, alto; Joseph Robinson, oboe; Mary Kay Robinson, violin
(English translation)
Sleep now, my dearest, enjoy now thy rest, Wake on the morrow to flourish in splendor!
Lighten thy breast, with joy be thou blest, Where we hold our heart's great pleasure!

(Following the anthem, please come forward with your Hunger for Change Offering.)

*Doxology (Hymn No. 108, verse 6) Divinum Mysterium
Christ to thee with God the Father, and O Holy Ghost, To thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearying praises be
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, Evermore and evermore!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: The Lord be with you,
People: And also with you.
All: Be still, my soul, and steadfast.
Earth and heaven both are still watching
though time is draining from the clock
and your walk, that was confident and quick,
has become slow.
So be slow if you must, but let
the heart still play its true part.
Love still as once you loved deeply
and without patience. Let God and the world
know you are grateful.
That the gift has been given. Amen.

(from Mary Oliver’s The Gift)
**HYMN NO. 100**

Canticle of the Turning  
Star of the County Down

**BENEDICTION**

Marilyn Hedgpeth

**POSTLUDE**

Savior of the Nations, Come  
Johann Pachelbel

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship here. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. So that we may better know each other, please sign the Ritual of Friendship pad, pass it along the center pew across to the shorter side pew, and then return it to the starting point, noting the names of those sitting near you. On Sunday, December 16, we welcomed 32 visitors to our worship service.

We are grateful to Joseph and Mary Kay Robinson and their daughter Rebecca for sharing their musical gifts with us in worship today.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received today. This offering is distributed to the PC(USA) Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and also supports education programs at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. See the insert for more information about this special offering.

The poinsettias are given to the glory of God and are a gift to the congregation from Arthur Clark.

Special thanks to Alice Raney, Jane Williams, Dale Georgiade, Brent Curtis and Robert Daye for decorating the sanctuary for the season.

The striking Advent paraments, purchased with funds from the bequest of Anne St. Clair Williams, were designed and created in 2012 by Laurie Wohl, a fiber-artist internationally known for her “Unweavings.” The pulpit hanging contains a text in Hebrew and English drawn from Isaiah 12: 3: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” while the text for the lectern hanging is from Luke 1:78-79: “The dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

The sanctuary table upon which the Advent Wreath sits was made by George Danser and is given to us by his wife, Jean Cary and him. George has drawn design features from our communion table and used oak removed from the sanctuary during our renovation and from a tree in their backyard that Jean saw get hit by lightning some years ago.

Nursery care for infants to 6 years of age is provided during worship on the second floor of the Education Building. There is a changing table in the narthex, located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

Worship bags and activity bulletins are available in the foyer for children. Books are on the pews in the narthex for young children to read and enjoy should they need a break from the service.

Portions of today’s worship texts were reprinted from Feasting on the Word Advent Companion, Book of Common Worship (2018 edition), The Gift, and Candles and Conifers.

Year-End Giving: Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24, 2018; or place them in the offering plate at a service through Sunday, December 30, 2018; or the gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2018, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2018 taxes. If you wish to make a contribution by credit card, this may be done through the church’s website (www.firstpres-durham.org) at any time. To be deductible on your 2018 taxes, please initiate the gift by Friday, December 28. If you wish to make a donation through a gift of stock, please notify Tom Bloom, Business Administrator (t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org) as soon as possible. Members aged 70½ + who own an IRA may be able to make a tax-excludable gift directly to First Presbyterian and have that gift satisfy any required minimum distribution for this year. Please contact your IRA administrator ASAP if you wish to consider this giving option for tax year 2018.
A Call for Nominations: The Nominating Committee has two important tasks to complete this 2018-2019 church year. They will manage the process to nominate members to the Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families Nominating Committee and in the spring, will present a slate of candidates for the Diaconate, Session, and at-large members of the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee. Forms for submitting nominations can be picked up from the tables in the foyer and narthex. The deadline for submitting nominations is January 6, 2019.

Christmas Eve – Monday, December 24

The livestream radio broadcast of the King’s College Lessons and Carols event at FPC has been canceled.

3:00 p.m. - Worship with Communion and Candles (in the sanctuary)
A simple 45-minute service featuring carols from around the world.

5:00 p.m. - Communion and Candlelight Service (in the sanctuary)
The birth of the Christ Child is celebrated in word and song with Communion by candlelight.

At both services on Christmas Eve, childcare will be provided for younger children and an offering will be received to support Welcome Baby and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC.

~ Our Concerns ~

The love and concern of the congregation are extended to Dale Gaddis on the death of her former husband, Steven Earl Gaddis, who died December 12th in Durham.

Added this week:
Robin, friend of Mary-Jo Keenan (3 years old, recovering from a rooster attack)
Margaret Mubanga, recovering at home from surgery
Joseph Ngumi, a patient at Duke Hospital

Recovering at Home:
Barbara Gervse
Franzi Rokuske
Carolyn and Jim Wolfe

Care Communities:
Brookdale Senior Living, Durham: Julian Boswell
Croasdaile Pavilion: Bette Conroy, Lee Courtland, Ann Prospero, Bob Rankin
Durham Regent: John Kerr
Pruitt Health at Carolina Point, Durham: Helen Garrison
The Forest at Duke: Fran Bryant

Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff:
Doug Hervey, son of Jeanne Hervey
Shirla Hudson, mother of Tyler Momsen-Hudson
Jim Mau, father of Shirley Frederick’s daughter-in-law, Sharon
Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss
Nellie Van Ewyk, sister of Hendrika Vande Kemp
The following members and friends of FPC send Christmas greetings to the church family. In the Spirit of Christmas, they also made donations to Christmas Concerns to support two parents in sanctuary.

Tom and Ellen Bacon
Paul Baldasare/Jane Wettach
Mary Banner
Bob and Sheila Breitweiser
Mindy Douglas & Tim O'Brien
Will and Jamie Chambliss
Susan Buck and Lenore Champion
The Comptons (Will, Mary Ann, James, Peter, and Anna)
Linda Dobson
Peter and Barbara Fish
Shirley Frederick
"John"
John and Sue Fricks
Dale Gaddis
Wib and Libby Gulley
Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey and Kwesi Aggrey
Joe and Carlisle Harvard
Marilyn and Hedge Hedgpeth
Philip Herndon
Maxie Honeycutt
Dan Hudgins and Ann McKown
Mary-Jo Keenan
Tom and Margaret Keller
Mal King

Dewey and Bet Lawson
David Lorimer
Marcia Lorimer
Carolyn McAllaster and Coin Page
Valerie and Tyrone McMillian
Laura H. McNab
Miriam and Robin Morey
Parker and BJ Morton
Vern and Beth Neece
Presbyterian Women
Ed and Caroline Pritchett
Mary E. Putman
Rod and Sara Radtke
Cris Rivera and Beth Stringfield
Mary Jane Rivers
Ruth and Russell Roberson
Joe and Mary Kay Robinson
Margaret and Miguel Rubiera
David and Marie Sappenfield
Jim Seitzer
David and Judy Smith
Marila Stone
Phyllis Supple
Bob and Lina Yoder

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

Feliz Navidad

Matokeo va Utafutaji Kwa
THE HUNGER FOR CHANGE OFFERING

Hunger has become more prevalent, particularly since the recession. First Presbyterian Church of Durham has a long history of involvement in hunger-related mission, most notably Pennies for Hunger (now Hunger for Change) and the Durham CROP Walk. In addition, we coordinate volunteers for the Community Kitchen at Urban Ministries of Durham, collect food for the members at Iglesia Emanuel Presbyterian Fellowship, and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. Our youth sponsor the annual Souper Bowl of Caring to raise money for hunger-related missions. We also encourage giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing Hunger Offering on Easter Sunday which funds mission activities related to disaster assistance and hunger programs locally and around the world.

The funds received from our Hunger for Change Offering go to the New Hope Presbytery for the Presbyterian Hunger Relief Program and are divided as follows:

- 50% - International Hunger Relief Programs
- 40% - Local Hunger Programs
- 10% - Administration.

These funds are dispersed through local grants to hunger relief programs based on a grant application process. Urban Ministries of Durham, Presbyterian Urban Ministries and Iglesia Emanuel have been frequent recipients.

If your family committed to saving a penny/day each month, you’d be donating about $0.30 per month or $3.65 for the entire year. That’s not much in the face of the rising need. Save a nickel/day, and you can contribute $1.50 per month. A dime/day will generate $3.00 and a quarter/day will generate $7.50 per month.

The fourth Sunday of each month is designated to receive the Hunger for Change Offering. Please consider supporting this hunger relief effort with a generous offering today.
Descent

They sought to soar into the skies
Those classic gods of high renown
For lofty pride aspires to rise
But you came down.

You dropped down from the mountains sheer
Forsook the eagle for the dove
The other Gods demanded fear
But you gave love.

Where chiseled marble seemed to freeze
Their abstract and perfected form
Compassion brought you to your knees
Your blood was warm.

They called for blood in sacrifice
Their victims on an altar bled
When no one else could pay the price
You died instead.

They towered above our mortal plain,
Dismissed this restless flesh with scorn,
Aloof from birth and death and pain,
But you were born.

Born to these burdens, borne by all
Born with us all ‘astride the grave’
Weak, to be with us when we fall,
And strong to save.

by Malcolm Guite
Savior of the Nations, Come

1 Savior of the nations, come; virgin's
2 From God's heart the Savior speeds; back to
3 Now your manger, shining bright, hallow's
4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's

son, make here your home. Marvel now, O
God his pathway leads; out to vanquish
night with newborn light. Night cannot this
son, incarnate Word! To the holy

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.
light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.
Trinity praise we sing eternally.
1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
3 How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven,
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly
   earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human
   on the way, as the Light of light de-

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on
   sleep less eye, veil their faces to the

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard
   minded, for with blessing in his hand
   vesture, in the body and the blood,

4. At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with
   descendeth from the realms of endless day,
   presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,

Capo 3: (Bm)

Christ our God to earth descend eth,
he will give to all the faithful
that the powers of hell may vanish
"Alleluia, alleluia,

our full homage to demand.
his own self for heavenly food.
as the shadows clear away.
alleluia, Lord most high!"
1 Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began
2 By his Word was all created; he commanded; it
3 O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full
4 This is he whom seers in old time chanting with one
5 O ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts, his praise,
6 Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost,

   to be, he is Alpha and Omega; he the
   was done: heaven and earth and depths of ocean, uni-
   of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the
   accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised
   sing. Powers, dominions, bow before him, and ex-
   to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and un-

   source, the ending he, of the things that are, that
   verse of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft
   Savior of our race, and the babe, the world's Re-
   in their faithful word. Now he shines, the long ex-
   tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
   weared praises be. Honor, glory, and do-

   have been, and that future years shall see,
   shining, all that breathes beneath the sun,
   deem er, first revealed his sacred face,
   pect ed. Let creation praise its Lord,
   silent; every voice in concert ring,
   min ion, and eternal victory,

   (after stanza 6)

   evermore and evermore! Amen.
1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a
4 Though the nations rage from age to age, we re-

God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the
work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your
member who holds us fast: God's mercy must de-

wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
liv'er us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the
This saving word that our forebears heard is the

weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can never earn; there are tables spread; every
promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be
name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.
crushed by God, who is turning the world a round.

Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.
~ Serving Today ~

Liturgist: Bob Yoder  
Narthex Greeter: Will Chambliss  
After Worship Greeters: Andy Henry (side/font); Alice Raney (rear/narthex)  
Ushers: Emily Wilkins (head), Johanna Bernhardt, Dale Gaddis, Wayne House, Mary-Jo Keenan, Amy Sanchez

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<tr>
<th>The Week at a Glance!</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Later Today</strong></td>
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<td>12:15 – 1:30 PM</td>
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<td>Middle School and</td>
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<td>High School Youth</td>
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<td>Groups Eve of</td>
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<td>Christmas Eve Lunch</td>
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<th><strong>Monday, December 24</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Eve Worship</td>
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<td>3:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship with Communion</td>
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<td>and Candle Lighting</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
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<td>Worship with Communion</td>
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<td>and Candle Lighting</td>
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<th><strong>Tuesday, December 25</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Nativity of Jesus</td>
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<td>Christ / Christmas Day</td>
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<td>Church Office is Closed</td>
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<th><strong>Wednesday, December 26</strong></th>
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<td>Church Office is Closed</td>
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<th><strong>Thursday, December 27</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 – 11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>FPC preparing lunch bags</td>
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<tr>
<td>at Durham Urban Ministry</td>
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<td>Church Office is Closed</td>
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<th><strong>Friday, December 28</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 – 9:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>FPC Men Breakfast and</td>
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<td>Conversation at Nosh’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cafe</td>
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<td>Church Office is Closed</td>
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<th><strong>Saturday, December 29</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>First Sunday After</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Sunday School</td>
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<td>11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Youth Groups</td>
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*About the bulletin cover:* “Joseph and Mary traveling to Bethlehem” from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. [http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56350](http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56350) [retrieved December 14, 2018].

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**CHURCH STAFF**

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator  
Robert Daye, Sexton  
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff  
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate  
Marilyn Hedgepeth, Associate Pastor

Cheryl Henry, Parish Associate  
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator  
Sam Migliarese, Associate Pastor  
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music  
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

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