

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

First Sunday After Christmas

December 27, 2020

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(Click [here](#) to connect to today's live worship.)

GATHERING MUSIC

In the Bleak Midwinter
Kathy Parkins, piano;
Gordon Campbell, bells

G. Holst,
arr. Cathy Moglebust

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Weicher

PRELUDE

A Stable Lamp is Lighted
Caleb Conner, soloist

David Hurd

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: Praise the Lord!

All: **Praise God from the heavens.**

Leader: Young men and women alike,

All: **old and young together!**

Leader: Let us praise the name of the Lord,

All: **whose name is exalted above earth and heaven.**

Alleluia!

HYMN No. 132 (verses 1,2) *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

In Dulci Jubilo

*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!*

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

Susan Dunlap

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children.

We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred.

We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice.

We have not been a light to the nations

and our lives have not revealed your glory.

Forgive us, Merciful God.

**Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us your beautiful grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Response (Hymn No. 132, verse 3)

In Dulci Jubilo

***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!***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Julio Manceras

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Holy God,
remove from us now
empty words, idle words,
and hollow deeds.**

**Fill our worship with the Spirit of truth,
that we may know that you are real,
that you are here,
and we are yours,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PSALTER READING

Psalm 148

Julio Manceras

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:22-40

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

HYMN No. 115

Away in a Manger

Mueller

***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.***

***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.***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*(from A Declaration of Faith)*

John Weicher

God sent the promised Deliverer to his people. Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

John Weicher

CELEBRATIONS and Concerns

Susan Dunlap

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Susan Dunlap

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

**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.**

HYMN No. 136*Go, Tell It On the Mountain**Go Tell It*

Refrain: ***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

***While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.*** (Refrain)

***The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.*** (Refrain)

***Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*** (Refrain)

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

POSTLUDE

Interlude from "A Ceremony of Carols"
Jacquelyn Bartlett, harp

Benjamin Britten

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. 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. On December 20, 125 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

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

Special thanks to Jacquelyn Bartlett (harpist), Caleb Conner (vocalist) and Gordon Campbell (bells) for their leadership with music for today's worship.

Many thanks to Jody Maxwell, Pat Dillon, Keith Rokoske, and Jay Klinck for their "behind the scenes" technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship each Sunday morning. Thanks to John Fricks who helped locate and edit sound files for the hymns. We are also grateful to Jennie Alwood for the powerful images accompanying our online worship services.

Portions of ***today's worship text*** are taken from Feasting on the Word. ***Hymn texts and music*** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

~ Our Celebrations and Concerns ~

CONCERNS:

- ❖ ***Robin Morey***
- ❖ ***Grace Abels***
- ❖ ***Harold Dunlap***
- ❖ ***Kerry Holbrook***
- ❖ ***Kathy Parkins***
- ❖ ***Jane Rourk***
- ❖ ***Carol Wills***
- ❖ **The many households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic**
- ❖ **Those who are grieving during this holiday season**

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: ***Julian Boswell***

Croasdaile Pavilion: ***Bob Rankin***

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: ***Arthur Clark***

Durham Regent: ***John Kerr, Ann Prospero***

Durham Ridge: ***Phillip Herndon***

Emerald Pond: ***Paul Cornsweet***

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: ***Walter Chambliss***, father of Will Chambliss

The Forest at Duke: ***Fran Bryant***

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

- ❖ ***Evelyn Bass***, aunt of Valerie McMillian
- ❖ ***Brendan Bequette***, family friend of Margaret & Miguel Rubiera
- ❖ ***Peggy Boulden***, mother of Dick Boulden
- ❖ ***Linda Capers***, friend of Li-Chen Chin
- ❖ ***Meg Courtney***, daughter of Bob and Mary Lee Clark, active friends of the congregation
- ❖ ***Daniel Cheney***, brother of Johanna Bernhardt
- ❖ ***Maureen Darcey***, friend of Brianna Bennett
- ❖ ***Phil Goss***, friend of the congregation

- ❖ **Candee Herndon**, friend of Kathy Krahenbuhl
- ❖ **Peggy Mordecai**, mother of Beth Eisenson
- ❖ **Shannon Putman**, daughter of Mary Putman
- ❖ **Robert Reaves**, husband of Floalice Reaves, active friend of the congregation
- ❖ **Joe Rudigier**, brother of Jeanne Hervey

Church Office/Staff Holiday Schedule

During the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays, the church staff will continue working from home as they have been doing during the pandemic. The pastors and administrators will be reachable by text and mobile phone. Their church voicemail and email will be monitored, so feel free to reach out to them if you have a need or concern.

YEAR END GIVING

Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions by midnight on **Monday, December 31, 2020**; or the gift must be postmarked by **December 31, 2020**, if mailed, **to be deductible on your 2020 taxes**. If you wish to make a contribution by credit card, this may be done through the church's website (<https://firstpres-durham.org>) at any time. **To be deductible on your 2020 taxes, please initiate the gift by Tuesday, December 29. On-line contributions scheduled for December 31 will not reach us in time.**

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. If you have recently transferred stock to FPC, but have not notified the church, please contact Tom Bloom, Business Administrator, ASAP.**

Members aged 70 ½ + 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 2020.

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Robert Daye, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate



Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

**For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:
info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.**

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511

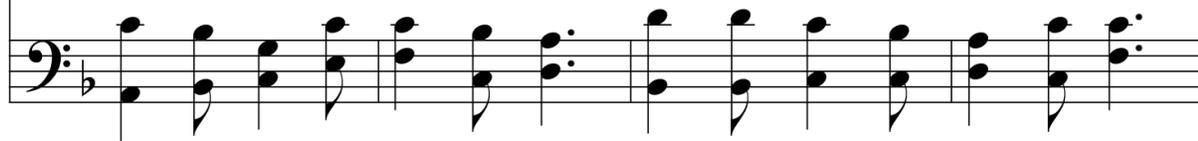
132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



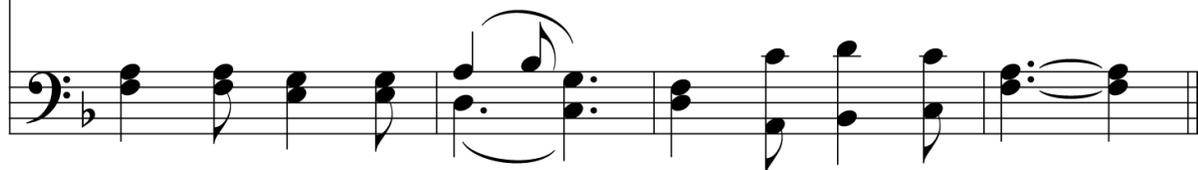
give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



115

Away in a Manger

Capo 3: (D)
F



(G)
B \flat

(D)
F

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

(A7)
C7



(D)
F

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.

(G)
B \flat



(D)
F

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,

(A7)
C7

(D)
F

(Em)
Gm

(A7)
C7

(D)
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.

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain 

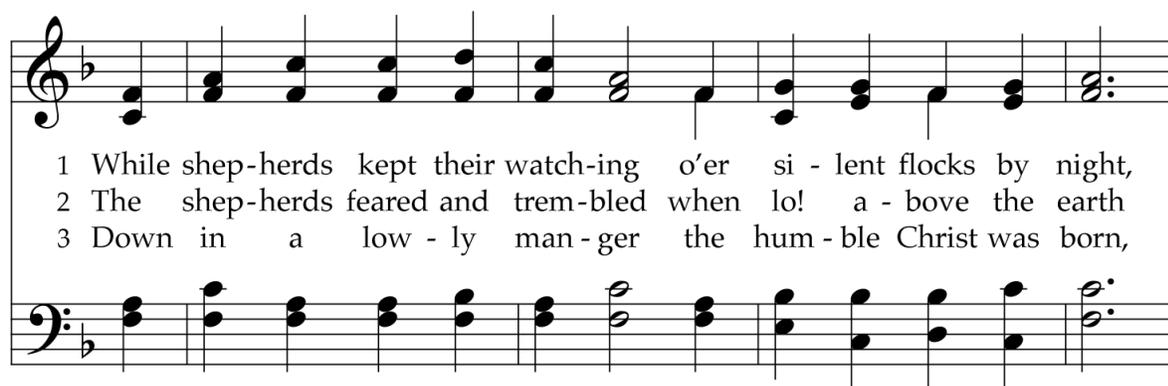


Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

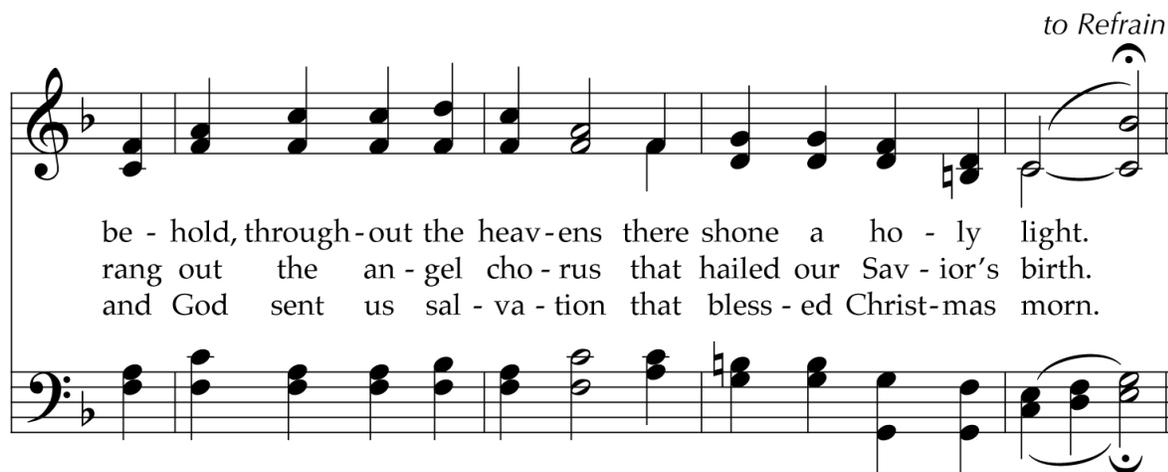


go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

to Refrain