

## Concerns of the Church

### Prayer List:

**Members:** Nathalie Givens, Jennifer Kincaid, Meg and Bob Omer

**Friends and family of FPC:** Mary Black, Joyce Bolton Turbyfill (Lynne Bolton's Aunt), Mick Caudill (Danette's daughter's father-in-law), Neil Dunnivant (Pastor at FPC from 1992-2003), Janice Ford (Danette's sister), the family of Andy Haynes (Kip Burton's long-time friend), Tim Heinlein, Lynne Kessler, Sawyer Lucas and Jackson Hetzel (Valerie's grandsons), Laura Holt McCann, Doug McLaughlin (Kip & Lyn Burton's son-in-law), Sarah Meadows' parents (they were in a car wreck), Hi Nicely, Mary Lee Reese, Frank Rizo (Jim & Sue Porter's family), Donna Smith (former Member), John Turner (Lori's brother-in-law), Ray White (Danette's brother-in-law).

### Soloist: Rebecca Smith

Rebecca is a graduate of the Hartt School of Music (University of Hartford). Her aspirations as a singer began with her first church solo at age 4, growing up in Charlotte County, Virginia. She sang in the touring production of the Broadway musical CATS, The Virginia Opera Association production of Carmen, and various other productions. She recently moved to Lexington and owns a farm with 8 horses, and 3 corgis. Her mother, 92, lives with her and is her dearest fan!

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**The Worshiping Church Hymnal:** 1990 Hope Publishing Co. Carol Stream, IL —

**Service Music:** # 823 Kyrie, #805 Gloria Patri, #809 Doxology.

**Hymns:** #173 "O Come All Ye Faithful"; #150 "What Child Is This?"; #155 "O Little Town of Bethlehem", #147 "Away in A Manager"; #152 "Angels We Have Heard on High"; #164 "Silent Night"

**Service Music:** "Noel Nouvelet" / Traditional French Carol "Permission Oxford University Press; "Silent Night, Holy Night" / Mohr/Gruber © 1990 Hope Publishing Company; "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" / Heber/Dykes;

Solos: "Ave Maria" / F. Schubert/Arr by Wanda Sobieska © 2022 www.freegigmusic.com; "O Holy Night" / Cappeau/Adam Arr by Wanda Sobieska © 2022 www.freegigmusic.com

# Service for the Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023 — 7:00 pm (In Person & Live Streaming)

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Back Street Ringers

*"Noel Nouvelet" (Sing We Now of Christmas)*

Arr D. Wagner

*"Silent Night, Holy Night"*

Franz Gruber/ Arr. F. Callahan

Back Street Ringers

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (Luke 2:10-11)

One: Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

**Many: Say to those who are of a fearful heart,**

**All: "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. . . . He will  
come and save you!"**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Patsy and David Dickerson

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn: #173 (vs 1,4)

Back Street Ringers

*"O Come All Ye Faithful"*

Franz Gruber/ Arr. F. Callahan



Call to Confession: (unison)

**All: Trusting in God's promised mercies revealed in the birth of  
our Savior, Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins.**

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Almighty God.**

**You sent a star to guide all people to the holy child Jesus. We  
confess that we have not followed the light of your word. We  
have not searched for your love in the world, or trusted your good  
news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth, and  
refused his peace on earth. We have expected little, and hoped  
for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires, so we  
may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Sav-  
ior, Jesus Christ the Lord.**

Silent Confession: **Amen**

Kyrie: Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have  
mercy upon us. #823

**Assurance of Pardon:** (a prayer of Thanksgiving)

One: Great God of power: we praise you for Jesus Christ, who  
came to save us from our sins. We thank you for the  
prophet's hope, the angel's song, for the birth in Bethlehem.

**Many: We thank you that in Jesus you joined us, sharing human  
hurts and pleasures. Glory to you for your wonderful love.  
Glory to you, eternal God;**

**All: through Jesus Christ, Lord of lords, and King of kings, in  
whom our sins are forgiven! Amen.**

Gloria Patri: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy  
Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen. #805

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer



Offering - Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands (PCCH)

Offertory Anthem

*"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"*

NIACEA / Arr. L. Larson

Doxology: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; #808  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication



Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading : (Pew bible pg. 593)

Isaiah 9:2-7

Hymns: (sing the 1st vs of each)

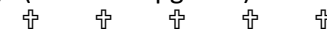
#150 *"What Child Is This?"*

#147 *"Away in a Manger"*

#152 *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

New Testament Reading: (Pew bible pg. 889)

Luke 2:1-20



Sermon

*"Sojourners On the Road to Christmas"*

Moment for Meditation

*"Ave Maria"*

Solo: Rebecca Smith

F. Shubert/Arr. Wanda Sobieska

A Candle Service:

A Reading: John 1:1-5, 10-18

Rev. Dr. David Dickerson

*"O Holy Night"*

Solo: Rebecca Smith

Silent Night (by candlelight)

Sing 1st verse 2x

Benediction

Merry Christmas to all!

## Old Testament Reading

### Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.

<sup>3</sup> Thou hast multiplied the nation,  
thou hast increased its joy;  
they rejoice before thee  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
thou hast broken as on the day of Mid'ian.

<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government will be upon his shoulder,  
and his name will be called  
"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom,  
to establish it, and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and for evermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## New Testament Reading

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. <sup>2</sup> This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; <sup>11</sup> for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## #173 O Come All Ye Faithful

1 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;

[Refrain:]

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Refrain)

## #150 What Child Is This?

1. 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.

## #147 "Away in a Manger"

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

## #152 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

1 Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echo back their joyous strains.

## #164 Silent Night

1 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.

