

## Prayers and Praises

Prayers for those who are missing loved ones, especially during this holiday season. Prayers for communities who were in the path of the storms in the Midwest and who have been affected by these destructive tornadoes. Please consider a donation to [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) if you are able. To support the Presbyterian Church USA response, gifts can be designated to DR000015 <http://bit.ly/DR000015>.

Gary Grasse	Arnold Leestma
Jessica Burmeister	Ruth Smith
Betty Swenson	Lincoln Deanovich
Bonnie Hughes	Jesse Fisher
Ollive Block	Silas Willey
Wendy Wilcox	Jane Devine
Pam Coburn	Jerry and Mary Heider
Joyce Jones	Chastity Geisthardt Joan Steininger
Pat Dilling	
Gib Dilling	

## Who We Are

### Christians – Serving, Learning and Loving

At First Presbyterian Church, we're here to share the love of Jesus with everyone. Every person has a name, every name has a story and every story matters to Jesus. We're here to help you develop a deeper connection with God. We're here to help you take the next step in developing your faith.

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## In-Person Bulletin for Worship

December 26, 2021

9:00 Service

**Prelude** #31 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (Mendelssohn)  
#22 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (Regent Square)

### Announcements

*Carol Wetzel*

**Lit candle is brought in reminding us of Christ in our Midst.**

### \*Call to Worship

*Carol Wetzel*

We who knelt in the stable—

**Let us come and kneel in the temple!**

Let our hearts give thanks, and our hands rejoice!

**Let our spirits sing, and our bodies dance!**

O children, enter the house of the Lord!

**Enter God's presence and be reborn!**

**\*Opening Hymn:** #40 “Joy to the World” vs. 1 & 4 (Antioch)

### \*Prayer of Adoration

O one who prepared a stable for him who would have no place to lay his head,  
shelter us, that we might shelter others.

O one who delivered him whom we would call the Great Physician,  
heal us, that we might heal others.

O one who provided swaddling clothes for him whose robe would be gambled away,  
clothe us, that we might clothe others.

O one who raised up teachers for him whom we would claim as our Great Teacher,  
guide us, that we might guide others. **Amen.**

### \*Call to Confession

In faith and in hope,  
we trust that God is merciful and just  
and receives our prayers with grace.  
In humility and with meekness,  
let us confess our sin together.

### \*Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, though we are in awe of the dawn  
of your light in Jesus Christ,  
we remain self-centered and  
cling to the sin of the world.  
We celebrate the birth of our savior,  
yet we struggle in our commitment to follow him.  
We are called to pursue justice,**

**love kindness, and walk humbly with you;  
yet we are content to seek our own comfort  
and conveniently ignore the cries of those in need.  
By the light of the Christ child,  
lead us on a path of goodness and righteousness,  
as we seek to love all of your bountiful creation.**

**Break into our expectations, awakening us with curiosity and wonder;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**

*Take a few moments for your own silent confession*

**\*Assurance of Hope and Forgiveness**

We are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved.  
The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.  
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

**\*Glory to God Hymnal #576 "Gloria, Gloria"**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

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**Scripture Readings:**

**1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

<sup>18</sup>Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod.\* <sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home. <sup>26</sup>Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

\*(in ancient Israel) a sleeveless garment worn by Jewish priests.

**Luke 2:41-52**

<sup>41</sup>Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His

mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

**Colossians 3:12-17**

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Message: "The Greatest Gift"  
Pastoral Prayer**

*Rev. Dan Schultz*

**Hymn #49 "Once in Royal David's City" (vs 1 & 2)**

**The Offering**

Offering "Shepherds"

*by Wilbur Held from the Nativity Suite*

\*Offertory #53 "What Child is This" (v3)

**\*Prayer of Dedication / Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer**

**\*Sending Hymn #28 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude "Christmas is Here"**

*arranged by Dale Wood  
Based on a French Carol*