

December 29, 2024; 9:00 am
First Sunday of Christmas

We Gather Together

Welcome to today's Service of Worship. Whether you are with us in person, joining us live on Zoom, watching on our YouTube channel, or listening on KFIZ, we are glad you are here. For those in person, please use the time before worship to fill in the Friendship Pad in your pew. We extend a special welcome to our visitors, and if you have not already received your welcome gift, please pick one up as you leave the sanctuary after worship.

Copies of the Glory to God hymnal and Common English Bibles are available at the back of the sanctuary for your use during worship.

Prelude: "Lasst Uns Erfreuen"

arr. by Gerhard Krapf

Welcome & Announcements

Joanne M.

Ringling of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

***Call to Worship**

Les M., liturgist

Praise the Lord, all of creation!

God is exalted in heaven and earth.

In sun and moon and shining stars,

God is exalted in heaven and earth.

In sea creatures, land beasts, and flying birds,

God is exalted in heaven and earth.

From young to old, from princes to peasants,

God is exalted in heaven and earth.

Raise up your horns, lift up your voice,

for God is exalted in heaven and earth!

Hallelujah!

***Opening Prayer**

God of growth, we remember that in Jesus Christ you modeled what it means to be fully human. Thank you for the unwritten years of Jesus' life—the growth that happened in private, and the lessons learned in secret.

Grant us your grace in this time of worship. Help us welcome and receive the gift of slow growth that we might be formed in your likeness. **Amen.**

***Sung Response: GTG 15**

“All Creatures of Our God and King” v. 1, 2 & 4 *Carol W., Cantor*

***Call to Confession**

Les M.

We, as part of the family of God, must continually re-learn to assess our worth by God’s standards. Our value is not measured by the size of our bank accounts, the number of gifts under our trees, or by the beauty of our buildings. Our worth is based on people who find comfort and confidence in our presence. Insofar as we, the family of faith gathered here, fall short of this, we fail in God's purpose for us. Let us then be honest to admit this shortcoming, this corporate sin, ask forgiveness, be ready to obey what God has commanded, living a better, a more faithful, fruitful and joyful future. Let us pray together...

***Prayer of Confession**

Les M.

The treasures of the church, O God, are your children in need, whom we have served. How often, though, we define our treasure in other terms, and so miss the joy of serving in your name. Give us the honesty of Elizabeth and the humility of Mary, we pray, that we may become your caring presence to those around us. Most holy God, in Christ you pour out your mercy to forgive our transgression. Hear us now as we confess our sin.

Silent Confession

(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)

Lord Jesus, fill us with your love. **Speak the truth of your gracious forgiveness to us. May we readily, eagerly accept it, and then use it by sharing it. For in the sharing of this precious gift, it will remain available to us in never-ending supply. Such is the message and the example of Jesus Christ; in whose name we pray. Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the words of the Christ, "Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first must be slave of all. For the Son of man came not to be served but to serve..." Jesus gave to us in his own life the perfect example of loving obedience. Let us each one follow that example and know the love of holy obedience.

Thanks be to God for so loving the world - and us - that we are led to life, life that is true and lasting in his name.

***Sharing God's Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula 'The Peace of Christ.' 'And also, with you.' Please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands or be too close. We encourage you to use this time to send a text or emoji to someone who cannot be here.)

***Sung Response GTG 583 "Glory to God"**

God's Word Is Proclaimed

First Reading: Psalm 148 (Common English Bible)

Les M.

(page 582 in the pew Bible, page 780 Common English Bible)

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars.

Praise him, you highest heavens

and you waters above the skies.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for at his command they were created,

**and he established them for ever and ever—
he issued a decree that will never pass away.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
**lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,**
you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
**wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,**
kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,
**young men and women,
old men and children.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.
**And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.**
Praise the Lord.

Second Reading: Micah 6:6-8 (Common English Bible)
(page 866 in the pew Bible, page 1129 Common English Bible)

With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow down before the exalted God?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

Children's Time

Jennifer Zander

Sung Response: GTG 20 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Sermon: "How Can We Sing the Songs of the Lord in This Land?"

Chaplain Darren Beachy

Prayers of the People

Arnold L.	Gib D.	Pass Family
Bob & Ollive B.	Carol D.	Pat D.
Brian C.	Pete D.	Pat M.* (Bonnie H sister)
Chastity G. & Joan S.	Jesse F.	Paul W.
Corinne C.	Joan K. (Marcus A. mom)	Qualine S.* (Jodi A mom)
Danielle B.	Kathy A*(Kevin B sister)	Sherry M.
Darren B.	Liam A.	Steven B.*(Kevin B nephew)
Dick and Maryann*	Lynn M.	Vern A.* (Debra S dad)
Elias B* (Laurie C grandson)	Marie L.	

The names in bold are new to the prayer list. The names with an asterisk (*) are not church members. However, a church member has received permission to ask that they be lifted in prayer.

If you or someone you know wants to be added to our prayer list, contact a Deacon or the church staff. Prayer request cards are available in the Prayer Box located in the Narthex, in the church pews, or online ([click here](#)). You can place your prayer request in the offering plate or the lock box at the church office door. For electronic prayer requests, please complete the form and click submit.

If you have a pastoral concern, that happens before or after office hours, please call the office (920.922.0425), press #2 for Pastoral Care.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

Moment for Mission: Warming Shelter Meal

Serving Team

We Respond to God's Word

The Practice of Gratitude

In response to God's Word and remembering all things come from God, we offer with thanks a portion of that which God has entrusted to us. The ushers will collect God's tithes and our offerings. For those who have given in other forms, there are cards in the pew racks that you may use as a tangible action of gratitude to God. No matter what we return to God in material forms, may we spiritually place our hearts, and our very lives, in God's hands, to be re-shaped for ministry in Christ, furthering God's kingdom here on earth.

Offering Music: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

arr. by William Beckstrand

***Offertory:** GTG 607 "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

***Offertory Prayer**

***Sending Song** GTG 37 "Let All Things Now Living"

***Taking the Light of Christ into the World**

***Charge and Benediction** (*Romans 5:13*)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith,
so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Postlude: "Sent Froth by God's Blessing"

arr. by Charles W. Ore

WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 22, 2024

Individuals in Person: 118

Zoom Households: 7

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
12/22/2024	6811.10	Tithes/Offerings
	\$100.00	Special Offerings
12/16-20	\$ 2831.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	410.00	Special Offerings
	\$10,152.10	TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK

Financial Giving and Gratitude

You can give online at www.fdlpresbyterian.org [Giving page](#). (Click on 'Online Giving'.) You can also give by cash or check on Sunday morning, or by mail. We are so very thankful for your contributions that help us do God's work in our church and in our community.

GETTING CONNECTED:

Office Phone

920.922.0425

Office Email

fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org

Website

www.fdlpresbyterian.org

Breeze Subdomain:

[FDLFirstPresb](#)

Facebook

[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)

YouTube

[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)

December

Deacon of the Month:

Judy Dassow

Elder of the Month:

Terry Rehn

STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin

pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org

Jennifer Zander

jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Kris Bartelt

kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

Mary Robotka

mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org

This Week

Sunday

9:00-10:00am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am

December 29

Worship
Fellowship Time
Growing Connections-
Nativity Sharing Scavenger Hunt

Monday

10:00-11:30am

December 30

Annual Reports are Due
Staff Meeting

Wednesday

January 1

Happy New Year Church Office Closed

Thursday

5:00-6:00pm

January 2

Warming Shelter Meal

Sunday

9:00-10:00am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
11:30-12:30pm
6:00-7:30pm

January 5

Worship
Fellowship Time
Growing Connections-Sermon Discussions
Sunday School
Learning Team Meeting
Boy Scout Committee Meeting

Monday

9:00-10:30am
10:00-11:30am

January 6

Deacon Meeting and Decoration Changes
Staff Meeting

Tuesday

1:00-2:00pm
1:30-2:30pm

January 7

Loving Team Meeting
Nominating Meeting

Wednesday

8:00-9:00am
1:00-2:00pm
2:30-3:30pm
4:00-5:00pm

January 8

Men's Breakfast
Growing Connections Meeting
Personnel Team Meeting
Handbell Rehearsal

5:30-7:30pm

Women in Faith