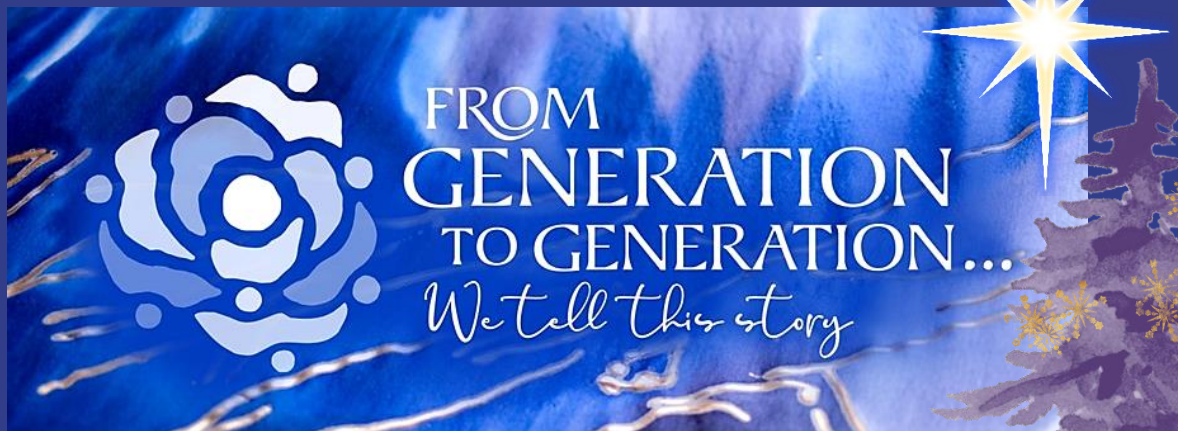


FARRAGUT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



CHRISTMAS EVE 2022-7:00 pm



~The Gathering~

Prelude

Stille Nacht
Tami Newsom, organ

Bullard

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Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Voices of Advent

The Christ Candle
Read by LisaKay Matchen

Voices of Advent by Jeri L. Shumate. Produced by special arrangement with Contemporary Drama Service

Call to Worship

Tonight, we tell the story that we tell every year—the story of Christ’s birth,
The story of love made flesh.

It’s a story that weaves through every generation.

It’s a story that picks up the bits and pieces of our narrative and braids us together.

Let us hear the story again and worship.

Hymn #41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles



**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!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**



**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given:
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**



~continued next page~

**Sing, choir of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

Text: John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743) Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841. Music: John Francis Wade (c. 1740-1743), Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.
The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. All Rights reserved. Used by permission.



Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we admit—we don't fully understand the Christmas story. So we sometimes hesitate to tell it. Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we could imagine, we whisper this good news. Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in, we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out. Instead of telling the next generation why this night matters so much, we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.

Forgive us for our silence. Forgive us for our hesitation. Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news. Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation.

(please continue in silent prayer)

Kyrie Eleison

Remember Not, O God

Southwell

O Lord, our Savi - ior, help, and glo - ri - fy your name; de -
liv - er us from all our sins and take a - way our shame.

Text: *The New Metrical Version of the Psalms*, 1909, alt. Music: Daman's *Psalms*, 1579, alt. *Glory to God The Presbyterian Hymnal* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, KY.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo; Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo.

The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.



~The Word~

Prayer for Illumination

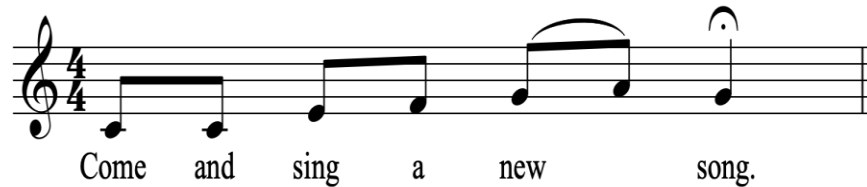
**O Holy God, we need this story—this Christmas story.
We need this story of ordinary people who were brave.
We need this story of love that changed the world.
We need this story of angel choruses that give reason to hope,
and starlight that reminds us to look up.
In a battered and bruised world, we gather around your Word like people gather
around a fire to warm themselves. So we are here, gathered together to warm
ourselves by your light, because we need this story. We need the truth that lies
deep in these holy words. So today we pray: scoop out space in us to truly listen.
Quiet our minds. Open our hearts. Kindle the fire. Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

Dr. Angela Batey, cantor

Blenkinsop



Come and sing a new song, a song of celebration
Lift to God your voices in joyful adoration. **(R)**

Sing to God and bless his name in every congregation.
Day by day extol him, and tell of his salvation. **(R)**

All his works are marvelous – make bold your proclamation.
Telling of his glory to every race and nation. **(R)**

Bow before his majesty in holy contemplation.
Worship and adore him with humble dedication. **(R)**

Words: Punjabi; tr. Allison Blenkinsop © Allison Blenkinsop
Music: Punjabi; arr. Geoff Weaver © The Royal School of Church Music; ostinato acc. Martin Tel © 2011 Faith Alive Christian Resources
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Second Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“We Tell This Story”

Rev. Matt Nieman



~The Response~

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that for generations people have gathered together on this holy night, because there is something about this story that speaks to the deepest parts of us.

We believe in bundling up this hope, this good news, and passing it on—to our children, to our neighbors, to the world around us.

I believe my voice can make a difference, just like I believe this story can make a difference, so I will not stay quiet.

I will tell this story—of a love that makes room for all.

I will sing this story—of a love that knows our name.

I will live this story—because love has come again.

I believe that words have power.

I will not stay quiet.

The Anthem

The Jesus Gift
Chancel Choir

Gilbert Martin

Shall I gather emeralds? Shall I bring him gold?
Shall I gather diamonds? White hard? Bright cold?
Shall I spangle jewels like stars above?

Give him laughter; Simple warm laughter.
Offer him warm laughter and love.

Shall we gather emeralds? Shall we bring him gold?
Shall we gather diamonds? White hard? Bright cold?
Shall we spangle jewels like stars above?

Simplest of gifts; gentlest of hearts
Kindness he'll use as he leads
So, give him these gifts; hand him your hearts--

Honour his birth and you'll need no:

Emeralds nor rubies, silver nor gold.
Neither bright diamonds, white hard, bright cold.
Spangle not rich jewels like stars above.

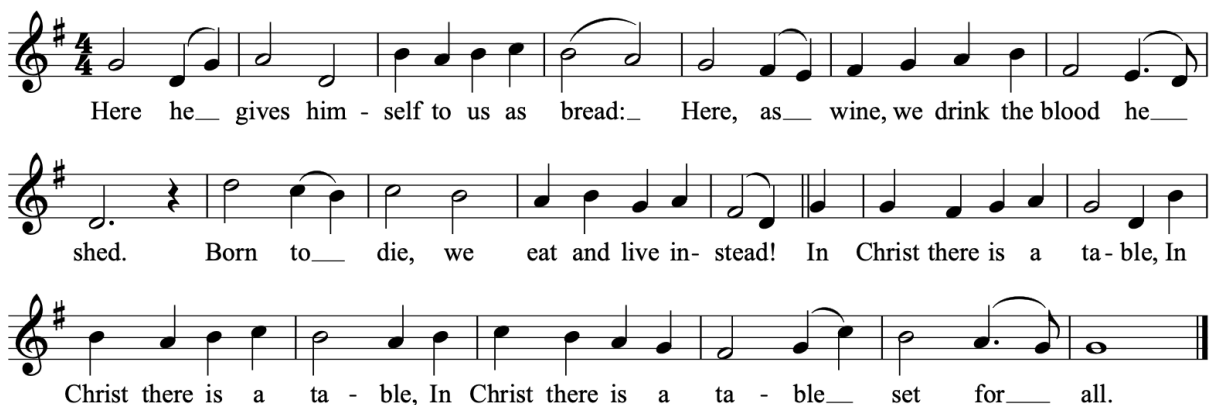
Give him laughter
Sweet, peace-filled laughter
Offer him warm laughter and love.

A Call to Give

~The Eucharist~

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Preparation Song



Here he__ gives him - self to us as bread:__ Here, as__ wine, we drink the blood he__
shed. Born to__ die, we eat and live in- stead! In Christ there is a ta - ble, In
Christ there is a ta - ble, In Christ there is a ta - ble__ set for__ all.



Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(prayer continues)



Sanctus

Picardy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

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; 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.

Words of Institution

Agnus Dei

Picardy

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sins of the world: grant us thy peace.

The Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion



~ The Sending ~

Lighting of Candles

Hymn #60

Silent Night, Holy Night

Stille Nacht

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1818, Trans. John Freeman Young, 1863. Music: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818.
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Hymn #40

Joy to the World!

Antioch

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; alt. Music: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742. Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836.
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Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response

We Will Tell Each Generation



We will tell each gen-er - a - tion all that you, our God, have done:



how you called and let your peo-ple, chose us out_ to_ be your own.

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If you would like the church office to record your attendance today, you can:

- Scan this QR code and click on the generated google doc link, or
- Go to <https://tinyurl.com/record-FPC-attendance>, or
- Email the office at office@fpctn.org



EVERY YEAR

My heart and I have an agreement.
Every year we show up here—here in the sanctuary,
here with the candles and the tall ceilings,
here with the creaky church pews and the songs of silent nights.
My heart and I have an agreement.
Every year we show up here—at the end of the year,
after another 12 months of humanity, of me trying to keep it all together,
trying to keep my head above water, trying to keep up appearances.
Every year we show up here.
We drop it all. We leave it at the door.
We come into this space and I could swear it feels different.
Maybe it's God.
Maybe it's hope.
Maybe it's love.
But whatever it is, I need it every year,
so we show up here.
Tell us again the story of tonight.
My heart needs it.

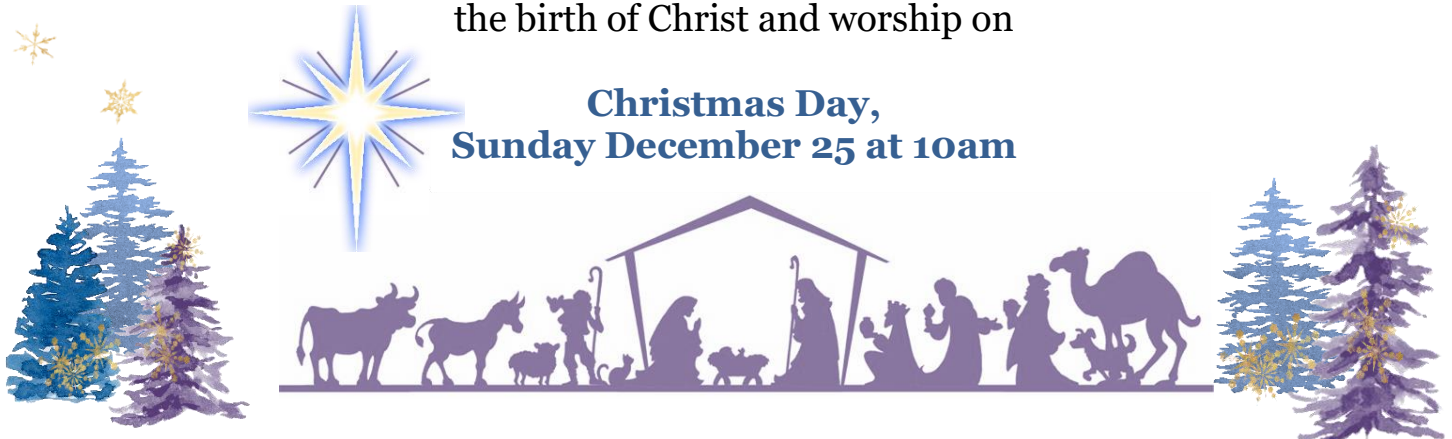
FROM generation to generation - We tell this story - Poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed



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Join us tomorrow morning as we celebrate
the birth of Christ and worship on

Christmas Day,
Sunday December 25 at 10am



This Week at FPC

Sun, Dec 25	10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Sunday Worship		
Mon, Dec 26	*****	****	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Thur, Dec 29	7:00	p.m.	Thursday Night Bible Study/Zoom
Fri, Dec 30	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Narthex

Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (No Class on 12/25)

Class	Room	Topic
Adult Bible Study	Outside or in the Parlor in bad weather	This class discusses the Lectionary text from the sermon, and still meets under the trees in good weather and in the parlor in bad weather.
Monday Connection	Zoom and Room A	This group is discussing the book <i>Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved</i> , an autobiography by Kate Bowler who is facing cancer and the prospect of her own mortality.
Intergenerational Advent Study for Adults and Youth	Library	Youth and adults are invited to join together to study "The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of <i>The Grinch</i> ." Contact Mason Warren for more information at masonwarren@fpctn.org .


Joy
to the world

THE LORD HAS COME

Farragut Presbyterian Church

209 Jamestowne Blvd., Farragut, TN 37934

Phone: 865/966-9547

Email: office@fpctn.org

Website: www.fpctn.org

Praising God - Serving Others - Growing in Faith

