

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saturday, December 24, 2016

11 pm - Christmas Eve

Communion Service

Please stand at items marked * if you are able.
Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison
Organ Prelude – Hymn and Quiet Reflection

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Susan Mattinson

Pianist – Min Yeong Sin Music Director- Kendall House

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

* Hymn: *“See amid the winter’s snow”*

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Lighting the Christ Candle (see insert)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Bible Readings:

Isaiah 53:7-12	P. 684	O.T.
Psalms 96	P. 550-551	O.T.
1 Peter 2:21-25	P. 232-2	N.T.

Meditation: *“By Whose Stripes”*

Hymn: “O little town of Bethlehem”

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SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

HYMN: “What child is this”

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Affirmation of Faith:

The light of the world has come! The Word is made real and human in our midst. All things are possible with God. Our thanks and praise rise into the heavens. On this day, of all days, we believe that God’s love will never be defeated and that peace will come and be found among us.

**“Be Still and Know that
I am God” (Ps. 46: 10)
Please take the time before
the service as an
opportunity to quietly
prepare your heart and
mind for worship.**



Upcoming Events at First

Sun, Dec. 25th	Worship Service	11: 00 am
	Birthday Party for Jesus	
Jan 1 st	Carols lessons Service	11:00 am

Share the Love, Spread the Warmth

Well done! The donation box of warm clothing articles was overflowing after last week’s worship service. The articles have been distributed to the John Howard Society, St. Anne’s school and Faye Peterson Transition House. Thank you to everyone who contributed with this year’s collection. All the organizations receiving our donations were extremely appreciative of receiving this gift.

We are in need of a Nominating Committee in preparation for our Annual General Meeting. If you are able to help take stock of the membership of our current church committees, and help recruit new members to those committees (if necessary), please contact your elder or the church office.

We believe that God has entered human life. Our journeying is forever accompanied by Jesus, who is the light of the world, and is understood in kindness. This we believe and from this we live.

REMEMBERING THE MEAL WITH JESUS

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And with you also.

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.

It is right and our greatest duty and joy, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, and so we praise you with our hearts, souls, minds, and bodies. You created light out of darkness, you formed us in your image and call us to love and serve you. You set us in the world to love and to serve you and to live in peace with one another and all that you have made. When we turned from you, you did not turn from us; when we were captives, you gave us a word of liberation. You make covenants with us and when we stray you send us prophets who speak of a more excellent way.

And so, with the heavenly choirs of angels and archangels, the prophets and disciples, the saints and with your people from every time and place, we join the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you and give you thanks, holy God, for sending your loving and beloved son into the world. Born of Mary in a state of humility, he rules over all. Though he wandered for his life; we find rest in him. Though helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love. Though poor, he brought us the great treasure of grace. Though rejected by many, he welcomes us regardless of who we have been or where we are now. Though dying on the cross, he gives new life. And in rising from the grave, he promises to be with us to the end of the age. And when he was gone from us, you sent your Holy Spirit to keep us united in him and one another. Remembering these things, we gather here at his invitation to break bread and share the cup and to proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ has risen

Christ will come again.

Almighty God, pour out your Holy Spirit, on us gathered around this holy table, and on these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and the blood of Christ, and that we, being nourished by them, may be for the world the body of Christ, made new and redeemed by his blood.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Sharing the Meal

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debts ...debtors)

* Hymn: **"Still, still, still"**

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Blessing

May the God of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, may the saving grace of Jesus Christ and the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit, be with you this night and always.
Amen.