# FIRSTPRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, Dec 25, 2016

Please stand at items marked \* if you are able.

Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison.

Welcome & Announcements Rev. Susan Mattinson **Pianist:** Min Yeong Sin **Music Director:** Kendall House

### WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude
\*Entry of the Bible
Introit
Call to Worship (written by Jim Lake):

Merry Christmas! Welcome to the Party! We come together now and sing Happy Birthday Jesus Glad tidings of great joy we bring Happy Birthday Jesus

Spread the News to every land And let the people know His Birthday Party's just at hand As candles burn and glow

God sent His Son, His Special Gift To bring us Hope and Peace To give our lives a marvelous lift His wonders never cease

This Baby born in Bethlehem
Is God in human flesh
He came to save and not condemn
Our souls He will refresh

"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**

Dec 29th Choir Practice 7:00 pm

Jan 1st Communion Worship 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

Saw Winning is looking on someone's behalf for a piano or full sized keyboard. If you or someone you know has one that they'd be willing to part with, please call him at 577-5948.

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

#### **Hymn of Preparation:**

#119 v 4

"Love is a flame that burns in our heart. Jesus has come and will never depart. When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid."

Bible Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 OT-Pg. 638

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be

on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty has accomplished this."

#### Gloria Patri:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

**Reading: The Christmas Alphabet Poem** 

Hymn: "Twas in the moon of wintertime" #144

## Reading: Let's Think of Christmas

By Lois Anne Williams, Christmas Ideals, Vol.21, No 6, Nov. 1964

\*Hymn: "It came upon a midnight Clear"

Paper Talk: Star of David

#### **WE RESPOND TO GOD**

#### Offering and Baby Gifts

\*Offertory Response

#145 v.5

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what can I give him-give him my heart."

#### \*Prayer of Dedication:

Gracious God, you provide hope for our future. We join together in unison prayer, knowing that you act as a loving parent who calms our worries and fears. You consistently give us truth unclouded by the good that you work in our hearts. Multiply these tithes and offerings so our hearts and our actions reflect your love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Prayer: "Not Only Christmas Day" (**adapted from: Christian Salvage Mission, Bookmarks 2011)

### **WE GO OUT TO SERVE**

\*Hymn: "Go, tell it on the mountain" #133

**Blessing** 

Response: "Happy Birthday Song"

Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday, dear Jesus, Happy Birthday to you!

Postlude \*Please help yourselves to a birthday cupcake after the service\*

Rev. Susan will be on vacation from Jan. 2 - Jan. 23. If you or someone you know has a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact your elder or the following ministers:

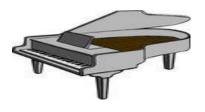
Rev. Susan (Jan. 2-11): 628-8302

Rev. Joyce Yanishewski (Jan. 12-23): 632-8348

Worship services will be lead by: Rev. Ann Camber (Jan. 8),

Will Newton (Jan. 15), Lorne Clifford and Patricia Mark (Jan. 22).

Unfortunately for us, Min Yeong Sin will be moving to Toronto in January and will no longer be able to continue as our church pianist. Thank you to Min for her wonderful playing and her lovely personality! It has been a pleasure to have her as part of our church family. This does, however, leave us with the need for another church pianist/organist. The Worship Committee is searching and would welcome any suggestions of people willing and able to fill the position. Please speak to Janet Racey or Ken House if you have any leads.



His Party is the best in town
And you have been invited
Come be with Christ who wears the Crown
And let's just get excited

Let's sing again those songs of old Which stir us in this season And gladly share the truth we hold That Jesus Is The Reason!

\*Hymn: "Good Christians, all rejoice!" #141

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, so that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the wisdom of the Wise Men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May this Christmas morning bring us to this time with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

#### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Special Music: "C.H.R.I.S.T.M.A.S" - Cyril Johnson

\* Hymn "Joy to the World" #153

#### **Christmas Cartoon Talk**

\*Hymn: "Hark! the herald angels sing" #139