

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 24, 2017

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

Organist – Carol Wehrstedt Music Director- Kendall House

"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.



WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

* Hymn: "It came upon a midnight clear" #148

Lighting the Christ Candle (see insert)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Bible Readings:

Isaiah 52:7-10	P. 683	O.T.
Psalms 96	P. 550-551	O.T.
Hebrews 1:1-4	P. 218	N.T.

Meditation: "*God Has Spoken*"

Hymn: "I wonder as I wander" #142

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

HYMN: "What wondrous love is this" #242

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.

Upcoming Events at First

Dec 28 th	Choir Practice	7:00 pm
Dec 31 st	New Years Eve All ages Worship Pinewood Court Service	11:00 am 1:15 pm

"If you have reimbursement cheques from First Presbyterian Church that you have not cashed, please do so by Dec 31st. Alternatively, sign the cheque and indicate your offering envelope # and put it on the offering plate. The amount will be credited to you and included in your tax receipt"

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:** "Good Christians, all rejoice" **#141**

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.