

# **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Sunday December 31st, 2017**

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: Micah Pawluk Music Director: Kendall House

## **WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

**Prelude**

**\*Entry of the Bible**

**Introit**

**Call to Worship**

**Hymn** "Joy to the World"

**#153**

**Opening Prayer:**

**God of grace and glory, we praise you! Your splendour shines from a manger, where the Light of the world was born to pierce the darkness. In fragile flesh you are revealed to us face to face. And so we gather with all people in every place who have glimpsed your salvation and grace. Together we worship and praise you as Creator, Son, and Spirit. We confess that we are reluctant to embrace this new life and choose instead to remain in the darkness. We allow our fears and hurts to hold us hostage, and our illusions to hold us back from new and real possibilities. You offer us unconditional love, but we expect our own love to be earned. Forgive us and create us anew in the image of your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Special Music Cyril Johnson – Beautiful Star of Bethlehem**

**\*Children's Hymn** "Once in royal David's city" **#166**

\*Sing last verse after Children's Time\*

**\*Children's Time**

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

**Hymn of Preparation:** **#119 v.1**

**"Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright. 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."**

"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.

**Bible Readings:**

**Isiah 40:26-31**

**pg. 668 OT**

**Psalms 98**

**pg. 551-552 OT**

**Ephesians 4:22-32**

**pg. 195 NT**

**Gloria Patri:**

**#594**

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

**Illustrated Sermon: "Flight 2-0-1-8"**

*(adapted from a play by Rev. Fred Gilbert, United Methodist pastor in Clinton County, New York. From the Whole People of God program, 1994.)*

**Hymn** "It came upon a midnight clear"

**#148**

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD**

**Tithes and Offerings**

**\*Offertory Response**

**#145 v.4**

**"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 I can I give him--give him my heart."**

**\*Prayer of Dedication:**

**Lord of Peace and Hope, we thankfully give these generous gifts as an expression of all that you have given us. As the prophets foretold, your son was born for the redemption of our sins. We humbly acknowledge that of all the gifts we have received, your gift of a babe in a manger is the one that truly matters. We prayerfully ask you to increase our ability to help others discover anew the best Christmas message ever: the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ. In His name, we pray. Amen.**

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

## **WE GO OUT TO SERVE**

**\*Hymn:** "Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming" **#151**

**Blessing** **#168 v.5**

**"Sacred infant, all divine, of God's tender love the sign, for you came from highest bliss, down to such a world as this! Hail, O ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**Postlude (please remain seated)**