

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Prayer

(from The Book of Praise, # 535)

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen

Cover Drawing by Colin Rackham



Sunday December 24th, 2020

Christmas Eve

Minister: Rev. Susan Mattinson

Music Director: Carol Wehrstedt

Pianist/Organist: Carol Wehrstedt

Church Secretary: Gina LaManna

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Visit us online: facebook.com/firstchurchtbay
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7:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Musical Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Please stand at items marked * if you are able.
Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in unison.

Lighting the Christ Candle (see insert)

Instrumental Hymn: "Angels we have heard on high" #147

*Opening Prayer:

Creator God, you make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Shine your light into our hearts as we listen once more to the story of that night so long ago. May the hope, peace, joy, and love that came to our world through the birth of your Son, Jesus, give us faith to believe that the darkness of our sin has indeed been dispelled by His coming in the flesh. And may we seek your mercy as we pray to you:

Mighty God, we confess that we have listened to the advice of the dark world around us. We have let the gloom of the nations and the difficulties of our lives blind us to the light of your love. We have ascribed too much power to the forces of evil in this world. We have failed to recognize you as glorious Lord over all. And we confess that, in our daily struggles, we have forgotten the great forgiving love that prompted Christ to become one of us to die for us. We have not always sought to live in your light. Forgive us, restore us, and shine your light upon us. For we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Special Music: "Halleluiah" - Leo Tardif

Reflection: God's Glorious Light Comes:

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Bible Readings:

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38: Reflection and Candle Lighting

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 Reflection and Candle Lighting

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7 Reflection and Candle Lighting

Special Music: "O Holy Night" – Carol Wehrstedt

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20 Reflection and Candle Lighting

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-1 Reflection and Candle Lighting

Special Music: "If That's my Merry Christmas (then alright)"

Lorne Clifford

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Tithes and Offerings

* Offertory Prayer:

Loving God, in Christ your Son, you have given the world your Eternal Light that burns brightly in the midst of darkness. Help us to follow that Light, and like the wise men of old, create within us the joy of giving, as we humbly offer the treasures of our lives. We pray that as you receive our acts of offering, you would shine the light of Christ in our hearts to lead us **on into new and challenging ways of living and serving**. Lead us by your Spirit to share your light and grace with our neighbors. We pray through Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (see the back of bulletin)

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

Closing Reflection and 'Take Home' Congregational Candles

As you leave the sanctuary this evening, you are invited to take a Christ candle home with you and light it in honour of the Christ child born in Bethlehem. Jesus is Emmanuel—God with us—no matter where we are!

Blessing

INSTRUMENTAL HYMN/POSTLUDE: "Silent night" (#154)

Music Postlude:

(Please maintain a reverent silence and stillness during Postlude)