

First Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Jazz Communion Service

December 24, 2016

11:00 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOMED

Music to Gather the Shepherds

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Tonight is when heaven kisses the earth.

Here is the manger where God takes on flesh.

The shepherds come to see this mystery,

even though official temples would not welcome them.

Wise sages from the East come to worship and offer gifts,

They are strangers, yet greeted as God's Beloved.

In a place that seems off the beaten path,

there God draws near to bring Light and Life to all;

there God sends his Son.

* Hymn 133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verses 1, 3, 4)

The musicians will play a brief interlude between the verses.

* Opening Prayer

*Creator of all the faithful and the unfaithful,
some of us almost didn't make it tonight.*

Other demands tug us in different directions.

Doubts have nipped at our heels.

Holiday greed threatens to make us less than human.

Yet tonight you meet each one of us: right here, right now.

You come, not with burning Holy Fire, but in the simplicity of a Child.

Come down low and reach us, we pray,

that we would experience your love and your mercy. Amen.

* Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you . . . and also with you.

* Response

O come, let us adore him . . . Christ the Lord.

LISTEN TO THE BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Prayer for Light

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Special Music

Second Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

Rev. Carter

GIVING AND RECEIVING GIFTS

* Hymn 134

"Joy to the World"

* Affirmation of Faith

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us,

not because of any works of righteousness we had done,

but according to his mercy,

through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

so that, having been justified by his grace,

we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Offering Our Gifts
Offering Music

Receiving God's Gifts - The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer ("debts" and "debtors")

Communion of the People

*All are invited forward by the center aisle to receive the bread and cup.
Please return to your seat by a side aisle.*

Communion Music

RETURNING HOME BY ANOTHER WAY

- * Candlelighting Hymn 122 "Silent Night, Holy Night"
- * Charge and Benediction

Music to Warm the Soul

Please stay as long as you wish. If you must depart, do so quietly.

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- * All who are able shall stand.

A warm welcome to all visitors! Please join those around you in filling out the red pads in the pews so that we know you are here.

PARTICIPANTS IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Pastor/Pianist: The Rev. Bill Carter

Worship Leader: Wayne Wolfe Cantor: Frank Jones

Bass: Tony Marino Drums: Marko Marcinko

Saxophone: Mike Carbone Trumpet: Jeff Stockham



First Presbyterian Church

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411

(570) 586-6306

www.fpccs.org

We welcome visitors to our worship services and hope that you make your presence known! Please sign the red friendship pad in your pew and let us know you are here.

Large print bulletins, hymnals, and Bibles are available from ushers. Please return worship aids to ushers.

Do you want to know more about our church? Pick up some information in the lobby and visit our website at www.fpccs.org.

2017 offering envelopes for adults have been delayed. They will be available in the narthex shortly after the first of the new year.

Interested in joining this church? Mark the space on the friendship pad. We will offer a **New Member Seminar** after the first of the year for those who would like to discover more about our church. Reserve your spot by calling 586-6306 or by e-mailing us at office@fpccs.org.