



**First Presbyterian Church**

300 School Street

Clarks Summit, PA 18411

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[www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)

# First Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Jazz Communion Service

December 24, 2023

11:00 p.m.

## ALL ARE WELCOME

Music to Gather the Shepherds

“I Wonder as I Wander”

arr. Carter

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

arr. Carter

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                    "God's Love Made Visible"                    Dave Brubeck

Second Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

Sermon: "Made Visible"                    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                    "What Child is This"                    arr. Carter

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                    "Sleep, Holy Infant, Sleep"                    D. Brubeck

## RETURNING HOME BY ANOTHER WAY

\* Candlelighting Hymn 122                    "Silent Night, Holy Night"

\* Charge and Benediction

Music to Warm the Soul

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentle Waltz Kings"                    arr. Carter

"Christmas Time is Here"                    Vince Guaraldi

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"                    arr. Carter

*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 guest forms 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: Susan Kelly

Bass: Tony Marino   Drums: Marko Marcinko   Saxophone: Mike Carbone

**We welcome our visitors and are glad you are here!** Please take a moment to sign a guest card in the pews and place it in the offering plate.

Interested in discovering more about our church? Visit our website at [www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org).

**On Sunday, December 31** we will worship at **10:00 a.m.**

**Large print bulletins** are available from ushers.

**2024 offering envelopes** for adults are available in the hall outside the sanctuary.

**Next week**, you may want to call before you stop by because the church staff will be visiting family members, catching up on sleep, or simply taking some breathing room after a very busy month.

**As the year concludes**, we want you to know of our gratitude for your support for our church's ministry and mission. Thank you for your consistent support and generosity. It helps you bring the Gospel alive in our faith community.