



*“For my eyes have  
seen your salvation  
that you have  
prepared  
in the presence  
of all peoples.”*

LUKE 2:30-31

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023

10:00 a.m.

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music

Concerns of the Church

Prelude

“Rêverie”

Debussy

Call to Worship

Christ is born! Alleluia!

**Jesus is among us. Alleluia!**

The Word has become flesh.

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\* Hymn 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Litany for Christmas

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

Christ is now on earth! Exalt him! O earth, sing to the Lord!

**O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified! Amen.**

\* Passing of the Peace

\* Response (refrain to 113)

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Special Music:

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” arr. Nathaniel Worrell

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 (OT, p. 246)

Hymn 118

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17 (NT, p. 201)  
Hymn 146 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Third Lesson: Luke 2:22-35 (NT, p. 59)  
Sermon: "When Consolation Finds Us"

Rev. Carter

### **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\* Hymn 545 "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go In Peace"

\* Affirmation of Faith: Nicene Creed (Hymnal, p. 34)  
Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Offering and Dedication of Christmas Joy Offering  
Offertory "Allemande from Partita 1"

J.S. Bach

\* Doxology (606)

\* Prayer of Dedication

### **GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn 132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Postlude "Midnight Rag" arr. Nathaniel Worrell

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\* All who are able shall stand.

### **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor  
Organist  
Liturgist

Rev. William G. Carter  
Nathaniel Worrell  
Barbara Norton

**The flowers** are given to the Glory of God and dedicated to the members of First Presbyterian Church.

As we bid farewell to 2023 with all its joys and sorrows,  
we welcome 2024 with all its new tomorrows. It's time to find the  
opportunities hidden in each new day.

Remember, God is always with us to lead us on our way.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**300 School Street**  
**Clarks Summit, PA 18411**  
**570/586-6306**  
**[www.fpccs.org](http://www.fpccs.org)**

## Church Family Announcements

*Our congregation worships God, equips God's people for ministry in the world, and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.*

**Thank you for joining us for Worship.** We worship in two ways!

- **Join us in person at 10:00 a.m.**
  - **Tune in online** for our service, which is broadcast live on [our video page on YouTube](#) and archived for later viewing on the same site.
- **Large-print bulletins** can be found at the rear of the sanctuary.
- **Please** use the red attendance pads to record your presence today.

**The Nursery is open** Sunday mornings from 9:40-11:10 a.m. for children ages 3 and younger in room 208. The nursery is staffed by Heather Lyons.

**Bible Time** is our program for children (age 4 to approx. grade 4) to hear Bible stories told in a fun and engaging way. Each Sunday following the anthem, children are invited to go (with adult leadership) for Bible Time (lasting about 20 minutes) and return for the Prayers and the end of service.

**Make some music with us.** Every Wednesday, **the Adult Choir** rehearses at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, and **the Bell Choir** rehearses at 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. New singers and ringers are welcome for these ensembles.

**Adult Education** continues this coming Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in room 206.

**Tell us your prayer concerns.** Prayer Request Cards are in the pew racks. Pass them to the center aisle to be collected during the first hymn.

**Please pray for:** Hall, Bob, Bonnie, Betty, Lisa, Janet, Patty, Sharon, Jim, Sonny, Ralph, Linzy, Sue, Dillon, Tony, Aiden, Margaret, Colleen M., Bill, LeAnne, Wayne, Dennis V., the family of Janet Taylor, Thank you, Lord.

**2024 Offering Envelopes** can be found on the tables in the hallway by the pastor's office. Please take yours home today. If you would like a box of envelopes, and one hasn't been prepared for you, contact the church office (570-586-6306).

**Speaking of pledges,** thank you for your generous support of our work and worship. As we wind up the year, our church's accountant will be closing the books on a generous year. Need to fulfill your financial pledge? You can do so online or you can drop it off at the church office.

**It's time to UN-decorate the church after Christmas!** We will meet on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at 10 a.m. Volunteers of all ages are welcome! Please come! Questions? Contact Robin Pinches and Jan Thyren and the Music, Worship and the Arts Committee.

**The Chamber Music Society of NEPA** will perform a concert "Tempestuous Harmony" at the First Presbyterian Church in Clarks Summit on **Sunday, January 14 at 4 pm.** The program will feature piano quartets of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Richard Strauss. Artists are Brian Farrell, piano, John M Vaida, violin, Amy Iwasumi, viola, and Bryan Hayslett, cello.

**Mr. Farrell** currently holds the position of Music Director and Conductor of Repertory Opera Company of Los Angeles, and both Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from The Juilliard School where he studied piano with Jerome Lowenthal, opera with Diane Richardson, and collaborative piano with Samuel Sanders.

**John Vaida and his wife, Amy Iwasumi,** are co-founders of the NEPACMS, and perform regularly as soloists, recitalists, and chamber musicians. Vaida is currently on the faculty at Mansfield University and Wilkes University, and Artist-in-Residence at the Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School. His wife enjoys a diverse career as a musician, web developer and graphic designer, and is the chief of operations for the NEPACMS.

**Cellist Bryan Hayslett** teaches as Assistant Professor of Cello at the New World School of the Arts and serves as the cellist of contemporary performance group Juxtatonal.

The Piano Quartet in G Minor by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was one of only a handful of his compositions in G Minor, a key in which his most turbulent and tragic yet beautiful works were written. Paired with the fiery and expansive Piano Quartet in C Minor by Richard Strauss, this concert is not to be missed!

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**Art Show at the Ice Festival** First Presbyterian is happy to host a juried photography exhibit, as well as the fine artwork of its talented parishioners at the Clarks Summit Ice Festival, held on **January 27-29, 2023.** If you want to be a part of the event, here's what you need to know:

- Elaine Tweedy will coordinate the Art Show. If you are interested in participating, you will need to let her know by December 30th. You can contact Elaine via her cell at 570-575-1705 or email at [elainetweedy@gmail.com](mailto:elainetweedy@gmail.com).
- Drop off of artwork and photography will be Thursday, January 26 between 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. Pick up of your work will be Sunday, January 29 between Noon and 1:30 p.m. There will be a People's Choice Award as part of the show. For more information and a schedule of the event, contact Elaine.

As part of the Ice Festival, **The Chili Cafe** will take place on Saturday, January 27th -11 a.m.-2 p.m. We are looking for donations of crockpots of chili and we also need a crew of volunteers to help pull this event together. Please see or call/ text Karen White at 570-575-7005.

## This Week at a Glance

Today, December 31, 2023      **New Year's Eve**

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the sanctuary and online

Monday, January 1, 2024      The Church Office is closed.

Tuesday, January 2

- **7 p.m.**, Mission & Justice, Room 206

Wednesday, January 3

- **9 a.m.**, Presbyter mailing, Room 206
- **6 p.m.**, Adult Education, Room 206
- **7 p.m.**, Adult Choir, Sanctuary
- **8 p.m.**, Adult Bell Choir, Fellowship Hall

Thursday January 4

- **8:30 a.m.**, Men's Breakfast, Room 206
- **5 p.m.**, Worship, Music, Arts, Room 206
- **7 p.m.**, Christian Education, Room 206
- **7 p.m.**, Building and Grounds, Room 209

Sunday, January 7

- **10 a.m.**, Worship in the sanctuary and online
  - Following anthem, Bible Time

Looking Ahead:

Saturday, January 13

- 10 a.m., Time to Un-Decorate the Church

Sunday, January 14

- **After worship**, We Worship Together for children, theme of **Baptism**.
- **4 p.m.**, NEPA Chamber Music Society presents "**Tempestuous Harmony**", in our Sanctuary.

**We Worship Together series:** Have you ever wondered about our church traditions? Answering questions about the way we worship, our new series for children will last about 30 minutes and will be held after worship; parents will be invited to sign up (so we know to expect your child), and each family will receive a book to take home related to the topic discussed.

We are grateful for the many ways that people support our church's ministry to the community and world. If you wish to contribute by cell phone, scan here.

