

GATHERING

Lord Jesus, as you listened to your teachers, may I also, this day, listen to others with care and grace, and receive whatever wisdom they may offer. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Ave Maria
Kate Vellis, alto

R. Atkinson

Ave Maria, gratia plena; Dominus tecum: benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus. Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus: Ora nunc, et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail holy Mary, mother most gracious, most favour'd lady: amongst women thou art blessed over all, and blessed is the holy child thou bearest, Jesu. Most holy Mary, God's dear mother, we sinners beg thee pray for us today: O pray now, and when death's dark hour is near us. Amen.

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Praise the Lord! Praise God in the heavens.

Praise the Lord from the earth!

Young and old alike,

men and women together. Praise the Lord!

* **HYMN 147**

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* **HYMN 128**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ŻŁOBIE ŁĘŻY

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 148 (NRSV)

OT pg. 582

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Signs and Wonders

D. Cherwien

Bob Tucker, Kate Vellis, Edzard van Santen, Vicky van Santen

Signs and wonders lead the dancing from the heart God frees from fear: wings of angels greet the maiden, and God finds a dwelling here; boldly may we lift our hands, bow the head, and voice Amen; thus does glory shine at midnight: open hearts invite the starlight. Hope and freedom join the circle: Mary to the garden came, saw the radiance of the marvel, heard the Risen call her name; boldly may we heed Christ's call, step beyond the garden wall: beautiful the feet proceeding with good news of death's defeating. Cast aside all fear and hiding; hand in hand we dance the round. God is with us, Christ, abiding, and the Spirit's gifts abound. Called by God to holiness, let us boldly serve and bless; and to hearts that sigh and hunger may our lives dance signs and wonders.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Sarah Whitfield

(Afterward, children will return to sit with their families.)

* **HYMN 145**

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:41-52 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 59

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

He's Different Than We Are

Rev. Mark Hulst

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

J. Brahms

* **DOXOLOGY**

Hymn 606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:30 A.M.)

(Gluten-Free Bread)

SENDING

* **HYMN 136**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

* **BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE**

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

J. Pachelbel

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Mark Hults, Scott Stuart, Sarah Whitfield

ELDER ON DUTY: Sarah Whitfield

ACOLYTE: Annabel Stuart

EMERITUS DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Dr. Mark Coffey

CHAPEL USHER: Jeanne Thomas; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote, Louis Motz, Mary Lou Schubert

A/V TEAM: Dink Henderson, John Rayl, and Youth Connection students: Alex Conerly, Zack Conerly, Kim de Fretes, Dania Moreno, Elijah West

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead.

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Marilyn Ast, Leon & Jayne Fox, and Carol Hayes-Christiansen. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Matt Gowdy, Brian Hill, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez and Paul Samala.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 148 (NRSV)

¹Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! ²Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! ³Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! ⁴Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! ⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. ⁶He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. ⁷Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, ⁸fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! ⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! ¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹²Young men and women alike, old and young together! ¹³Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. ¹⁴He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 2:41-52 (NRSV)

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

147

The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
 2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher-ev - er it went.
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 their gold, and myrrh, and and with his blood our life hath bought.
 frankincense. *Refrain*

TEXT: English carol; *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*, 2nd ed., 1823, alt.
 MUSIC: English carol; Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833

THE FIRST NOWELL
 Irregular

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.

Swift are wing-ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring-ing, ti-dings bring-ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor - row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!
 Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

TEXT: Polish carol; trans. Edith M. G. Reed, 1920; rev. 1921
 MUSIC: Polish folk melody; harm. Arthur E. Rusbridge, 1962

W ŻŁOBIE ŁEŻY
 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7
 (this tune in a lower key, 410)

145

What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.


Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain 

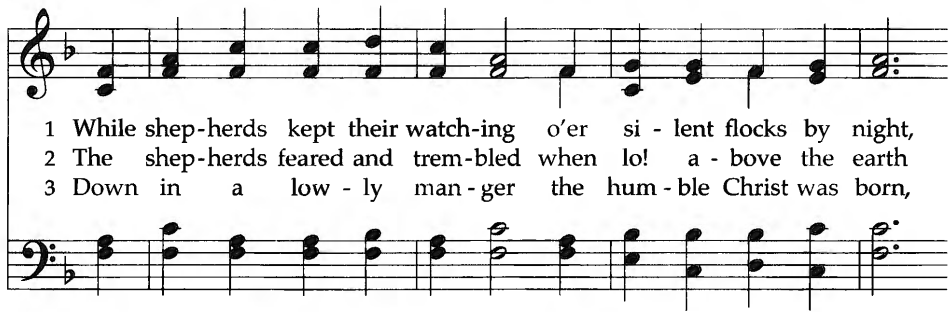


Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

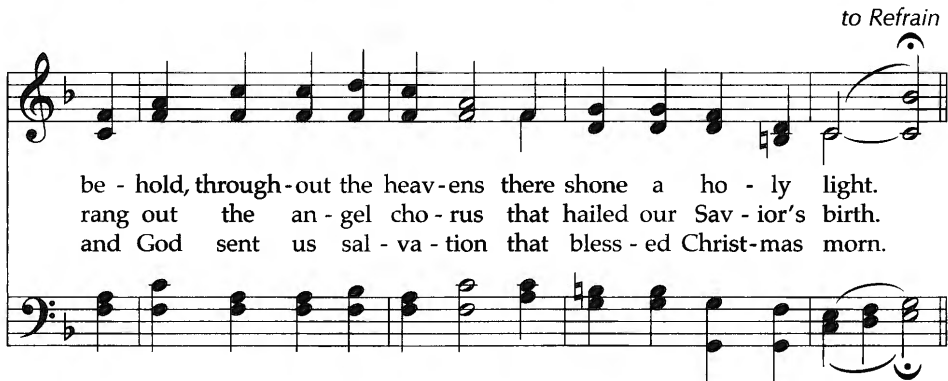


go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940

MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987
 Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen

GO TELL IT
 7.6.7.6 with refrain

Ministry Highlights

Visit our growing website
for more about our church
and ministries.



Year-End Giving

Contributions to the church made through Tuesday, December 31, 2024 will be credited to the calendar year 2024. Contributions may be placed in the offering plate on December 29, made online by midnight on December 31, or postmarked by Tuesday, December 31. There will be limited office hours after Christmas. If you need to stop in, please plan on coming on Monday or Tuesday, December 30 or 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Holiday Hours

The church office will be mostly closed for the holidays. We have limited hours this Monday and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and we are closed again New Year's Day through Friday, January 3. Thank you for your understanding.



Free Appliances

The church has three used appliances available on a first-come, first-served basis for anyone who can come pick them up - a washer & dryer and a refrigerator. Please contact John Rayl at png.1stpc@gmail.com if interested.



Start the New Year with Service

Many of you came out to help decorate the church for Advent. As the celebrations come to an end, please join us on Monday, January 6 at 9:00 a.m. to help take the Christmas decorations down.



Concert for a Cause

Sunday, January 12 at 4 p.m., join the Dance Alive National Ballet, Anew, a festival chorus, and instrumentalists for a concert highlighting the struggle, freedom finding, and the journey to restoration for those impacted by human trafficking. Come to this event to be moved and engaged in our community, but also to find hope.

Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.

Staff

Senior Pastor

REV. MARK HULTS - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist

MITCH RORICK - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

FRED LUNDY - youngadult@1stpc.org

Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry

REV. SCOTT STUART - college@1stpc.org

Preschool Director

LISA HERSHKOWITZ - preschool@1stpc.org

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Communications Specialist

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Event Sexton and Music Clerk

ANDREW NETARDUS - events@1stpc.org

Property Coordinator

JOHN RAYL - png.1stpc@gmail.com

Head Sexton

TONY COGDILL

Sexton

MARGARET HILL


Online Contributions



Visit our website, www.1stpc.org, to make an online donation. Click the GIVE button at the top of the page. You can contribute to the General Budget or use the drop-down menu, change to Other, and specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Contact Trudy Bonerba.



T-Coil installed in the sanctuary, and Hearing Assist devices available in the Narthex.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 **now from 9-10 a.m.** for our televised broadcast  or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts

Current Worship video and audio as well as archives at 1stpc.org

CCLI License #2742913 & CCLI Streaming #CSPL091568

Ministries

At **First Presbyterian Preschool**, children are fully prepared for school in a caring, Christian environment. Classes are offered 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Early Childhood Accredited.

Our **Children and Youth Ministries** provide a multi-generational approach of Christian example as the church family comes alongside parents to lead children to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

Nursery Care during worship for children 6 weeks through pre-kindergarten. Contact: Jenna Mueller - jdmueller2009@gmail.com

Kindergarten through 2nd grade children are released from worship for **Kids-4-God** to spend time growing their faith. After the service, families meet in Gordon Hall. Contact: Evelyn Lewis - citytr122@gmail.com

LOGOS is a mid-week ministry with worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and family dinner for students age 3 through high school. Contact Bev Vloedman to RSVP for 6 p.m. dinner at dvloedman@aol.com.

Youth Connection meets for fellowship and food with Bible study and mentoring for students in grades 6-12.

Our **College Ministry** seeks to launch students into a life of pursuing Christ, trusting in Him, and growing with others. Join us for Sunday worship & lunch and Tuesday Bible study. Bring a friend!

Young Adult & Family Ministry (YA&FM) is for marrieds and singles, with or without kids, in grad school or in vocation. We gather for Bible Studies and to get to know each other better and would love the chance to do life with you.

With choirs for ages three and above, our **Music Ministry** welcomes everyone to sing or ring and to dedicate their music to God. Our concert season includes Concerts for a Cause, which support local and global mission partners.

Glorify God
Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
Meet Human Needs



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 29, 2024

First Sunday of Christmas

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: John 14 - Ross Tiegen - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School: Advent Week 4 - Rm 201
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, December 30, 2024

- 10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. Limited Office Hours

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

- 10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. Limited Office Hours

Wednesday-Friday, January 1-January 3

Church office closed

Happy New Year!

Saturday, January 4, 2025

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Epiphany Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: John 15 - Tim Schubert - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School - Rm 201
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Rm 217

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