



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 am

December 31, 2017

A Christian is:

*a mind through which Christ thinks,
a heart through which Christ loves,
a voice through which Christ speaks,
and a hand through which Christ helps.
-- St. Augustine*

Our Mission Statement

Called to love God and one another, First Presbyterian Church responds to God's grace by following Christ with ministries of hospitality, worship, faith development, service and generosity.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

We're glad you're here with us today. We fondly refer to this community of Christ-followers as "First Pres," and you being here is one of God's blessings for our fellowship. If you wonder what we're up to at First Pres, it's actually pretty simple. In fact, we use a short phrase to remind ourselves of our shared purpose: "Above all, love." Drawn from a New Testament text (1 Peter 4:8-11), those brief words challenge us to focus everything we do on loving God and loving every single person we encounter. So every day we're learning how to do just that, as God's Spirit keeps working in our lives.

By the way, we can't take credit for this idea. It goes as far back as Jesus. He was once asked to sum up what it looks like to really be alive; what we should aim for in our lives if we want to live as fully as we can. His answer? Love God with every fiber of your being, and love the people around you. So whether we meet you in worship, or in the hallway, or in one of our many activities—or just run into you around town—we hope that you will feel the deep love of God welcoming and embracing you. We really are glad that you're here.

Use these moments prior to the Prelude to greet one another briefly. At the ringing of the chimes, please seek the presence of God in stillness and quiet. Please silence cell phones. The asterisk (*) invites you to stand as you are able.

Chimes and Organ Prelude

Intermezzo in E-flat Major
Johannes Brahms

*Call to Worship

The people were walking in darkness; now the light has come!

(Sung) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel

Jesus has been revealed to the world as the Messiah, the living Christ.

(Sung) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel

Let us worship God together!

*Hymn #119

Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Mendelssohn

*Prayer of Confession

Patient God, we confess that we are often in a hurry and make little time for you.

**Generous God, we confess that we accept grace for ourselves,
but are reluctant to extend it to others.**

Loving God, we confess that we love too little, and too narrowly.

In your patience, wait for us. In your generosity, pour out your grace for all people.

In your love, grant us forgiveness and peace.

We ask this for the sake of Mary's child, born to set us free.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Response

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Affirmation of Faith

Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child,
descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of Mary, servant of the Lord.

**We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child,
yet born of God's power as was no other child.**

He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people
the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.

**He preached good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed, blessing the children, healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted, and calling all to repent
and believe the good news of God's grace.**

The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule.

**In the light of his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

*Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Response (#19)

God of Great and God of Small

**God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.**

Scripture Reading

Psalm 148 (Old Testament, p. 582)

Anthem

What Sweeter Music
Music by Philip Stopford
Text by Robert Herrick (England, 1591-1674)

Welcome

Ministry Updates

Prayers of the People and 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.**

Offertory

Rondo from Concerto Nr. 4
Georg Glottermann

*Response

Old 100th

**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.**

*Hymn #145

What Child Is This
Greensleeves

Scripture Reading

Luke 22:40 (New Testament, p. 87)

Sermon	“New Year’s Resolutions”	Rev. Caroline Cupp
*Hymn #157		I Danced in the Morning <i>Lord of the Dance</i>
*Blessing		
*Response		Christmas Eve Carol <i>Jeffrey Rickard</i>
Organ Postlude		Sortie in E-flat Major <i>Louis Lefebure-Wely</i>

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRES

SUNDAY 12/31

9:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
9:00 am	Jam for ages 3 through Grade 5	Social Hall
10:00 am	Chapel Team	Library

MONDAY 1/1 - Happy New Year; Church Office Closed

TUESDAY 1/2 - Bucket School Resumes

5:30 pm	Men’s Ministry Study	Room 217
7:00 pm	Pub Theology	Off-site

WEDNESDAY 1/3

9:00 am	Sew Many Blessings	Quilting Room
12:00 pm	Bulletin Deadline	
3:30 pm	Bereavement Group	Rev. Cupp’s office

THURSDAY 1/4

6:40 pm	JuBellation Ringers	Room 208
7:00 pm	Men’s Study Group	Room 209
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

FRIDAY 1/5

6:30 am	Men’s Study Group	Room 210
1:00 pm	Sweet Dreams	Quilting Room

SATURDAY 1/6

11:00 am	Funeral Service for Loretta DeStefano (Visitation at 10:00 am)	Sanctuary
----------	--	-----------

SUNDAY 1/7

8:00 am	Worship with Communion	Sanctuary
8:30 am	Sunday Social (til 10:30 am)	Fellowship Hall
9:00 am	Worship with Communion	Sanctuary
9:00 am	Nursery to age 2	Nursery
9:00 am	Adult Bible Study	Room 217
9:00 am	Christian Faith and Issues	Room 209
9:00 am	Middle and High School Sunday School	Rooms 210 and 216
9:00 am	Radio Broadcast on 1520AM; Live Web stream	
9:00 am	Confirmation Meeting	
10:30 am	Worship with Communion	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Nursery to age 2	Nursery
4:00 pm	Youth Fellowship	Youth Room

WORSHIP NOTES

Today we are filled with the joy of Christmas,
and celebrating the 6th day of the season of Christmas.

What Sweeter Music

Robert Herrick and Philip Stopford

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol,
for to sing the birth of this, our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night fly hence away,
and give the honor to this day that sees December turned to May.
Why does the chilling winter's morn smile like a field beset with corn?

Or smell like a meadow newly shorn?
Thus on the sudden, come and see why things thus fragrant be.
'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth gives life and lustre, public mirth,
to heaven and the underearth.

We see him come, and know him ours, who with his sunshine
and his showers turns all the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come, and fit it is we find a room to welcome him.

The nobler part of all the house here is the heart,
which we will give him, and bequeath this holly and this ivy wreath,
to do him honor, who's our King, and Lord of all this reveling.
What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this, our heavenly King?

Christmas Eve Carol

Jeffrey Rickart

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free from our fears and sins,
release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King.

Born to reign in us forever, angels in the heavens sing.

Hodie Christus natus est. Salvator apparuit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, born today.

FIRST PRES MATTERS

Leading us in worship today are Caroline Cupp, Associate Pastor; Sándor Kádár, Director of Music; Marcia Sommers, Choir Director; The Chancel Choir; Sam Prochnau, Cello; Kira Boros, Piano.

Serving today as ushers are Craig, Liz and Daniel Single. The coffee deacons are Bob Graham and George Craven. The greeters are Kristy Douglas and Howard and Sandy Lebold. Bob Bird is running sound and video production.

The Chancel Flowers are given by Russell E. Ohneck in loving memory of Vince and Betty Mariniello.

2018 Offering Envelopes - If you requested envelopes, you may pick them up in the long red hallway. If you forgot to request them, please email ghuebner@firstpreswc.com to let her know.

Important Charitable Deduction Information - Donors must deliver or mail (and postmark) all gifts to the Church on or by Sunday, December 31 in order to be included on your 2017 Statement of Contributions. Deliver to Dory Speer in the business office as many other staff members are out of the office the week after Christmas through the New Year. Delivering a financial gift to someone other than Dory, may result in a contribution attributable to 2018 instead of 2017.

Holidays May Not Be So Joyful - Have you had a loss in your life? Do Thanksgiving and Christmas plans create stress? You don't have to try to cope alone. Our Stephen Ministers give caring attention to those thirsty for soul care. If you are interested, or know someone who would benefit from a Stephen Minister, please know that you will be treated with dignity and respect and upheld in prayer as your companion along a new path. Please contact Rev. Caroline Cupp (Church 610:696-0554) or Mary Pellack (Cell 610:570-0886) for more information.

Pub Theology This Tuesday (January 2): Plan to join us 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Ryan's Pub in West Chester (124 W. Gay), where we gather for fellowship over food and drink, and stimulating conversation. Kick off the new year with us as we share ideas and questions about living, loving, God, meaning, and . . . ? Bring your appetite, your ideas, your thoughts, and your wondering, and be ready to make new friends and learn from each other in a spirit of caring and openness.

For Next Sunday's Sermon, read Ephesians 1:3-14. For reflection: there's a whole lot of big ideas and grand concepts in these verses. What phrase or idea stands out for you? If you could ask the author just one question about this passage, what would you ask? In verses 5 and 11, Paul speaks of us being "destined" for certain things. How do you understand the concept of "destiny," and what role if any does it play in how you live your life?

TRY SOMETHING NEW THIS JANUARY

Share God's Love

WITH LOCAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

SERVE
COFFEE OR
WELCOME
GUESTS ONE
SUNDAY

HOST A DINNER OR
GAME NIGHT @
SAFE HARBOR

TAKE
COMMUNION
TO ELDERLY
CHURCH
MEMBERS

CARE FOR
KIDS AT THE
ARC
PRESCHOOL

MLK DAY
CLEANING EVENT @
FRIENDS
ASSOCIATION

START A
TOOTHBRUSH
COLLECTION FOR
ACT IN FAITH

TO SIGN UP AND SEE MORE
OPPORTUNITIES,
VISIT
WWW.FIRSTPRESWC.COM