



The First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301-2487
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www.firstpresby.com

Pastors:
William G. McCoy
James W. Roberts
Claire L. Butler

Ministers:
All members
of the congregation

The Nativity of the Lord The Christmas Tableau

December 24, 2009

5:00 PM

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship here this night.

Large print hymnals, Bibles and hearing devices, as well as information about child care and other church programs, are available from any usher.

The asterisks (*) invite you to stand if it is comfortable for you to do so.

We Gather

TIME FOR PREPARATION

Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life. The Promise is fulfilled!

Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

The Light of the World has come,

*lighting our lives with the presence of God-come-alive in human flesh
within us and among us now and always.*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all.

VOLUNTARY

Little Jesus Sweetly Sleep
Fred Gaul, organist

arr. Philip Moore

MARKING OF THE HOUR

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jim Roberts

Leader: Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life. The Promise is fulfilled!

People: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.**

Leader: Hope gives way to joy, and prayer to proclamation.

People: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all.**

PRAYER

Jim Roberts

WELCOME AND GREETING

Bill McCoy

ANTHEM

Light of Light

Nancy Gilford

*Light of light, ever bright, bringing day to darkest night.
Everywhere hear our prayer, give us eyes to see. Laudamus te.*

*Blessed one, Mary's Son, Savior of a world undone,
Everywhere hear our prayer, give us hearts to love. Laudamus te.*

*Evermore we adore God of majesty and awe,
Everywhere hear our prayer give us voice to praise. Laudamus te.*

*Light of light, ever bright, bringing day to darkest night.
Everywhere hear our prayer, give us eyes to see. Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te.*

The Cherub Choir
Debbie Eads, director; Toni Clendenin, piano

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2: 1-7

NARRATOR: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM Congregation (seated)

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie,
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet, in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!*

NARRATOR: While they were there, the time came for her to be delivered.
And she gave birth to her first born Son and wrapped him in bands of cloth,
and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2: 8-19

NARRATOR: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

ANGEL: “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
This will be a sign for you: you will find a Child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying
in a manger.”

NARRATOR: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying,

ANGELS: “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth, peace among those whom he favors.”

NARRATOR: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us.”

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Child lying in the manger.
When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this Child
and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE Congregation (seated)

*We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshiping God Most High.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in a stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

THE COMING OF THE WISE MEN

Matthew 2:1-11

ANTHEM

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen/We Three Kings

trad., arr. the Team

*God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ our Savior was born upon this day to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray,
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, Oh tidings of comfort and joy!*

*From God our heavenly Father, this blessed angel came and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, Oh tidings of comfort and joy!*

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright! Westward leading, still proceeding; guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again, King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, worship Him, God most High!

The Worship Team

NARRATOR: In the time of Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the Child who has been born King of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."
When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means the least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, His mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

Claire Butler

SOLO

The Friendly Beasts
Debbie Eads

Robert Davis

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH Congregation (seated)

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Claire Butler

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Bill McCoy

CHRISTMAS HOMILY

Bill McCoy

PASSING THE LIGHT TO THE CONGREGATION

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and Child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."*

*Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King,
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.*

BENEDICTION

Bill McCoy

*JOY TO THE WORLD

Congregation (standing)

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.*

*Please stand if it is comfortable for you to do so.

We welcome all who are worshipping with us on this Christmas Eve.
If you would like to express your commitment to Jesus Christ through membership in our Church,
we invite you to meet with a pastor at the Communion Table following the service.

Please place your candle in one of the receptacles at the exits as you leave.

Merry Christmas!

Please join us for our **Candlelight** Worship Service tonight:

Thursday, December 24

11:00 p.m.

Sermon: "NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES: Jesus" by Bill McCoy