

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day

December 25, 202210:00 AM

GATHERING

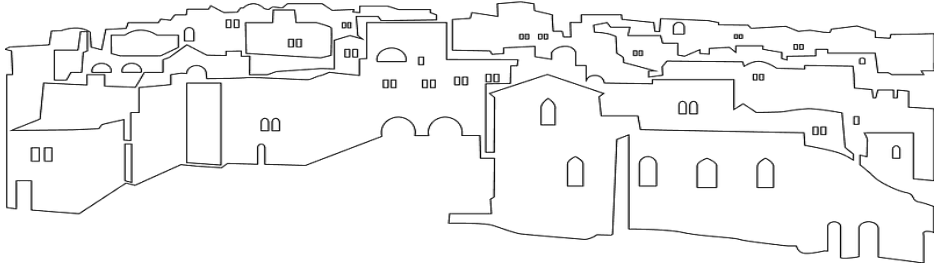
Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

Prelude

“Away In A Manger” (arr. Chatham)

Rita Harmon



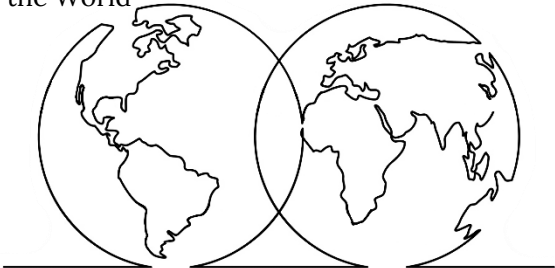
Call to Worship

Buck Jolley

Leader: Hark! I hear angels singing! What are they saying?
All: Glory to the newborn king!
Girls and Women: Peace on earth!
Boys and Men: God and sinners are reconciled!
Girls and Women: All you nations, rise up and be joyful!
Boys and Men: Join the triumph of the skies!
Leader: And what is it that we proclaim with all those angels?
All: Christ is born in Bethlehem!

*Hymn of Praise #40

“Joy to the World”



*Call to Confession

Buck Jolley

***Prayer of Confession**
Loving God, Christmas has become a season of high expectations we have created for ourselves.
We want the perfect Christmas memory. We want to give the just-right gift.
We want a show-stopping dinner. We don’t want to be alone.
Forgive us when those are the sum of our expectations. We set all that aside now so that we can simply be still, so that we can be here and remember:
You see us. You love us. In Jesus Christ you have come to us.
Forgive our belief that when Christmas day is over –
when presents are opened,
when the decorations are taken down,
when the world moves on –
that there is nothing of the spirit of Christmas left for us.
May we know that wherever you are, there is the spirit of Christmas.
Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**
One: One: The proof of God’s love is this: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. Jesus Christ came into the world for us. So hear the word of the prophet: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Friends, believe the good news.
Many: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Gloria Patri #581**
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Hymn (printed) “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** (A Declaration of Faith, 4.1)
Jesus, the long-expected Savior,
came into the world as a child,
descended from David,
conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of Mary, a virgin.
He lived as a Jew among Jews.
He announced to his people
the coming of God’s kingdom of justice and peace on earth.
We affirm that Jesus was born of woman
as is every child,
yet born of God’s power
as was no other child.
In the person and work of Jesus,
God’s own self and a human life
are united but not confused,
distinguished but not separated.
The coming of Jesus was itself

the coming of God’s promised rule.
Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship between God and humanity
that God always intended.

***Prayers of the People** concluding with the Lord’s Prayer

Service of Giving

Offertory It Came Upon A Midnight Clear” (arr. Curry) Rita Harmon

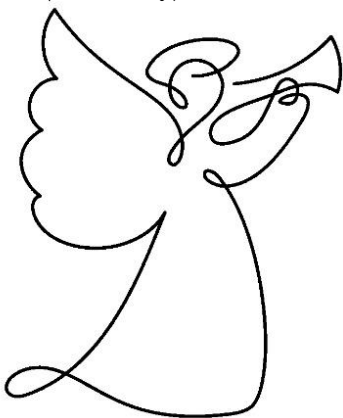
***Doxology #606**
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn #56** “The First Nowell”

***Charge and Benediction** The Rev. Dr. Lynn Miller

***Postlude** “Go Tell It On the Mountain” (arr. Curry) Rita Harmon



**Please stand, in body or in spirit.*

Please remember in prayer:
Lorraine Chavez; Butch Carroll; Noah Lindemann; Mark Porter; Miriam Burgess; Peggy Wyatt; Steve Beheler; Justina Eddy; Jo Jo Ritchie; Trish Tong; Confirmation Class: Layla Lemmonds, Taylor Miller & Leah Miller; Confirmation Sponsors: Michelle Jolly, Hazel Hubbard, & Becky Wheeler.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Library Needs Some Love
And "love" to a library looks like people wandering by, looking at books on the shelves, maybe even opening a book or two. We are looking for random reviewers -- folks who would wander in the library, choose something from the shelves, "read" it, and write a paragraph or two about it for a Thursday newsletter. Maybe it's a reference book. Maybe it's a commentary about your favorite book of the Bible (do you have one?). Perhaps it's one of the children's books. What's in our library? Help us discover some forgotten treasures (or discover that we might need to be thinking about some new treasures). No need to sign up...just wander to the library, choose a book, and turn in your review to Lynn.



BIRTH, CHRISTMAS

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day **187**

And He will be their peace. Micah 5:5 (NIV)

1. I heard the bells on Christ - mas day Their old fa -
2. I thought how, as the day had come, The bel - fries
3. And in de - spair I bowed my head: "There is no
4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not
5. Till, ring - ing, sing - ing on its way, The world re -

mil - iar car - ols play, And wild and sweet the
of all Chris - ten - dom Had rolled a - long th'un -
peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong, and
dead, nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the
volved from night to day A voice, a chime, a

words re - peat Of peace on earth, good will to men.
bro - ken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.
mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."
right pre - vail, With peace on earth, good will to men."
chant sub - lime, Of peace on earth, good will to men.

WORDS: Henry W. Longfellow
MUSIC: John Calkin

WALTHAM
8.8.8.8.(L.M.)

STAFF

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sunday, December 25

10:00 AM Christmas Morning Worship - FLC

Sunday, January 1

9:45 AM Confirmation Class - Parlor

9:45 AM Children's Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary & via Facebook Live

Upcoming

12/26 Church Office Closed

12/29-1/3 Church Office Closed

There will be no Wednesday night supper on December 28.

Sunday, Jan. 8 Remove Christmas decorations

NEXT STEPS

☐ Review a book from our Library

Next week's lectionary readings are:

Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23.

BIRTHDAYS

December 25 - Joyce Infante

December 26 - Samuel Wyatt

December 27 - Will Spires

QR code for electronic contributions:



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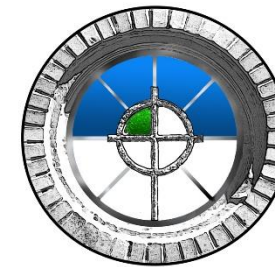


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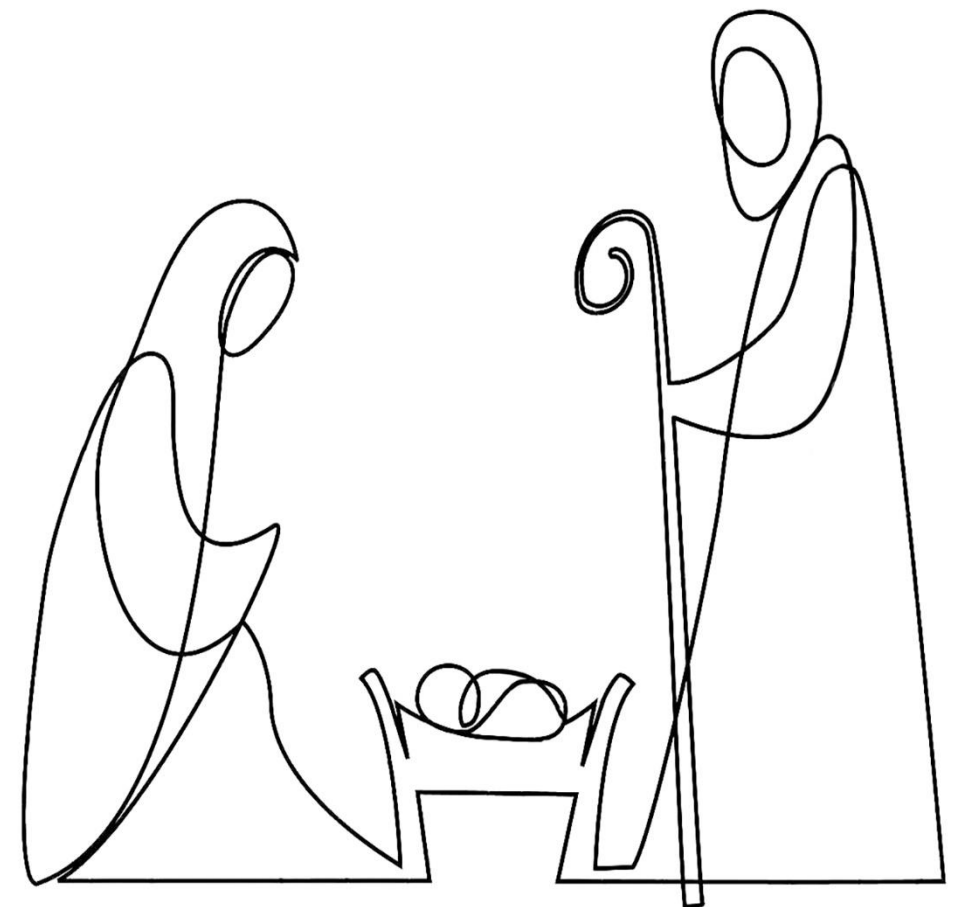
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LIMESTONE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC(USA)

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF A LOVING GOD,
GATHERING, GROWING, GIVING, AND GOING TO SERVE,
TOGETHER



Today, O God, the soles of your feet have touched the earth.
Today, the back street, the forgotten places have been lit up with
significance.

Today, the households of earth welcome the King of heaven.

For you have come among us, you are one of us.

So may our songs rise to surround your throne

as our knees bend to salute your cradle. Amen.

--Church of Scotland