

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful:
A Service of Lessons and Carols”**

December 2, 2018

**Those who are able, please stand.*

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all the generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Missions

Alternative Giving

Prelude

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Palestrina/ Magatagan

Gina DiCarlo...Violin, Laura Webb...Violin, Amy Corbett...Viola, Teresa Angell...Cello

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Russ and Sharon Hovda

Hymn #13: Prepare the Way (Verse 1 only, seated)

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

The Prophecy: Jeremiah 23:5-6

Bill Westcott

The Preparation: Isaiah 40:3-5

James McCain

***Hymn #9: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

The Annunciation: Luke 1:26-33

Emma Tinsley

Anthem:

A Maiden Most Gentle

A. Carter

Children’s Moment

Kathleen Lifsey

*All Children are encouraged to remain in worship today to hear and participate in the Lessons and Carols.
If needed, the nursery is available for all children up to 3 years of age.*

The Nativity: Luke 2:1-7

Barrett Thompson

Anthem:

O Come, Let us Adore Him

A. B. Sherman

Chancel Ringers

The Angels: Luke 2:8-14

Caleb McCain

Anthem:

Gloria

A. Vivaldi

The Shepherds: Luke 2:15-20

Laura Borel

Anthem:

Torches

J. Joubert

Anthem:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

M. Wilberg

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

The Magi: Matthew 2:7-11

Janet Smiley

***Hymn #66: We Three Kings of Orient Are**

Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Call to Offering

Charlotte Libbey

Offertory

Pastorale from Op. 6 VIII. Concerto Grosso, "Per la notte di Natale"

A. Corelli

String Quartet

***Doxology**

Hymn #592

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

WE GO OUT IN GOD’S SERVICE

***Hymn #41: O Come, All Ye Faithful**

***Benediction**

***Sharing the Love, Joy and Peace of Christ**

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Postlude

Toccata on “Joy to the World”

C. Phillips

Decorating the Church during Advent and Christmas:

The **Advent Wreath** represents God’s unending love for humanity. The candles represent the four Sundays of Advent, and each week, as we light another candle, the increasing light symbolizes the return of Christ who is the Light of the World.

The celebration of “Yule” includes decorating one’s home with greenery. **Evergreens** serve as a reminder that the season of winter, when nature lay dormant, was only temporary and new life would soon spring forth. We are reminded of the new life we receive through Jesus Christ.

Laurel and **bay** symbolize Christ’s victory over death; **yew** and **cypress** suggest eternal life; **mistletoe** symbolizes peace; and **red berries** and prickly **holly** remind us not only of the crown of thorns, but of Mary’s weeping heart as she stood at the foot of the cross.

The Bible is framed by three significant **trees**: the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in Genesis, the “tree” upon which Jesus was crucified in the Gospels, and the Tree of Life in Revelation. At Christmas, we make room for a tree indoors, as a sign of making room for Christ in our lives.

Christmas **Lights** remind us of the star that led the magi to Bethlehem and the light of truth that leads us to God. Lights adorn the Christmas Tree, making it more beautiful just as Christ’s presence in our lives makes us more beautiful. Christmas Lights remind us that with Christ, there will be no darkness.

Bells have been used throughout history to call people to worship. For us today, bells symbolize the joyful announcement of the angels to the shepherds, calling them to go to Bethlehem to see the newborn King.

Like the magi, who present the baby Jesus with precious **gifts**, we too are called to bring our most precious gift to Christ—our lives. At Christmas, we are reminded to share the gifts that God has given to each of us and spread the truth of God’s redeeming love to a world in need.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday, December 2

9:00 a.m. Coffee Café (Fellowship Hall)
9:00 a.m. Advent Workshop
10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
5:00 p.m. Run/Walk with God (Rear Parking Lot)
5:00 p.m. KidMin (Room 126)
5:00 p.m. MS Youth Group (FH/MS Youth Room)
6:30 p.m. HS Youth Group (FH/HS Youth Room)

Monday, December 3

9:30 a.m. Marys and Marthas (HS Youth Room)
10:00 a.m. PW Coordinating Team (Library)
4:30 p.m. Care & Nurture Committee Meeting (Officers' Room)
5:30 p.m. Elder-Elect Training (Officers' Room)
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (Scout Room)

Tuesday, December 4

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting (Officers' Room)
5:30 p.m. Personnel Committee (Library)
5:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee (Officers' Room)
6:00 p.m. Communications Committee (Martin-Gifford Room)
6:30 p.m. Gateway Meal (Young & Not So Young)
7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts (Scout Room)

Wednesday, December 5

12:30 p.m. Al-Anon (Martin-Gifford Room)
5:30 p.m. Service & Outreach Committee (Officers' Room)

Thursday, December 6

7:00 a.m. Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study (Martin-Gifford Room)
9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (Bride's Room)
6:30 p.m. Chancel Bell Ringers (Bell Room)
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

Pastor on Call: Peter Thompson (336) 269-7270.

Members Helping Members for December: Elinor Ann Clark 386-3889 and Gail Kowalski 384-6058

PW General Meeting/Brunch: General Meeting and Program, Dec 10, with guest speaker, Cory Whittier. This meeting will also be the installation of officers. Our program will be followed by a luncheon provided by the Horizon Circle in the Officers' Room.

Gloria! December 9 @ 4:00 p.m. (Sanctuary) An evening of seasonal music featuring John Rutter's "Gloria," the First Presbyterian Chancel Choir, brass players from Lynchburg, Roanoke, and Charlottesville, and the First Presbyterian Chancel Ringers. Childcare will be provided.

Christmas Flowers: This Christmas, the Chancel Guild of First Presbyterian Church is requesting memorial flower donations in lieu of the purchase of poinsettias. If you would like to make a memorial contribution in memory of a loved one, your gift will be noted in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Signups are available in the front entry. Please make your checks payable to First Presbyterian Church. All memorial contributions must be received by December 19 to be acknowledged in the bulletin.

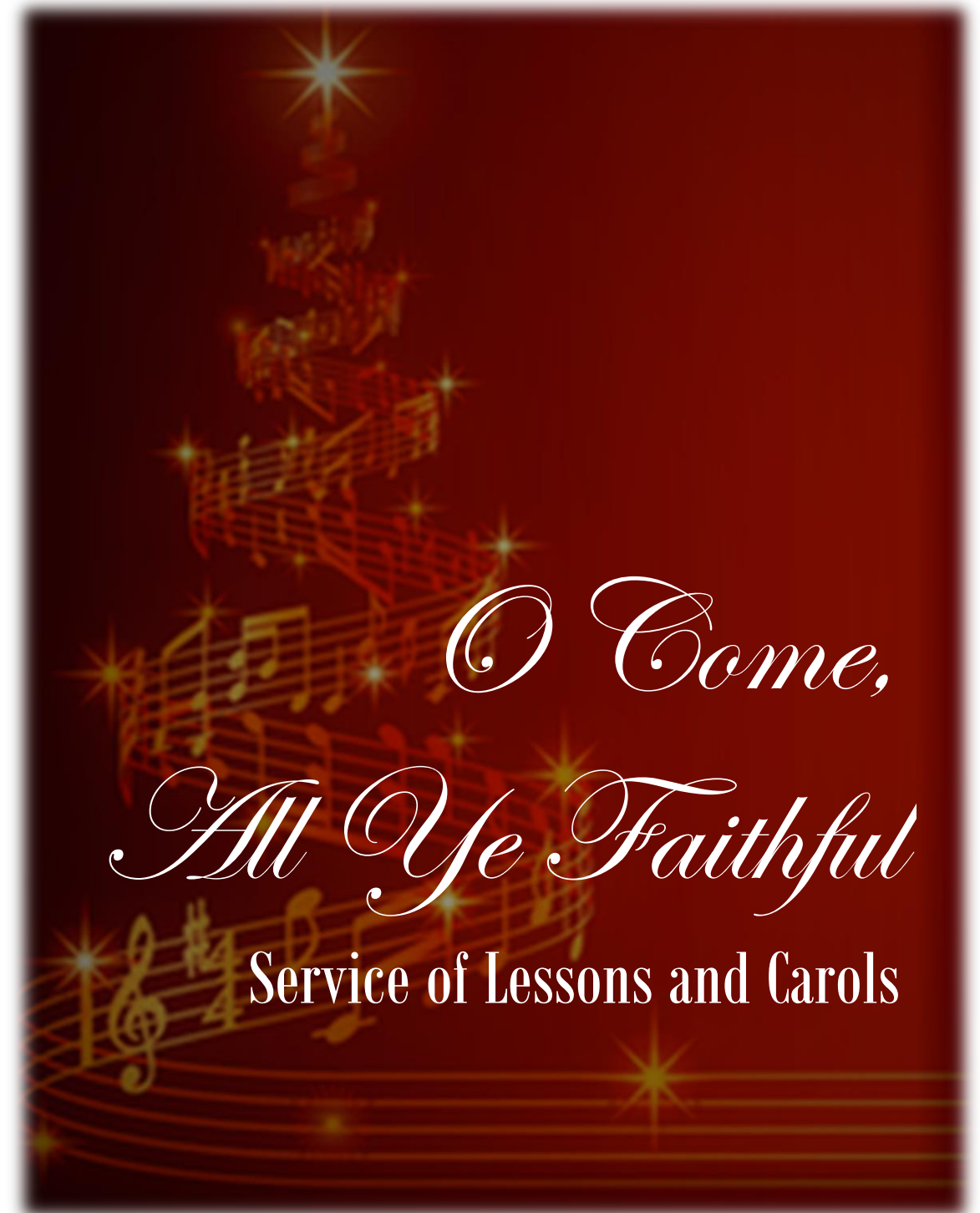
Christmas Breakfast: Graciously hosted by the Landes & O'Brian families on Sunday, December 16th at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Children's Christmas Service: Come celebrate the Christmas story on Sunday, December 16th, during worship with the children and families of FPCLY.

Alternative Giving: You can help share the joy of Christmas by giving to our mission partners of Sports Outreach in El Salvador, the people of Malawi, or hurricane victims in the southeast through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Then share your gift of love and joy "in honor" of, or "in memory" of a loved one using the cards provided. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and note which mission you want to support- El Salvador, Malawi, or PDA. Visit the table in the foyer throughout Advent.

Christmas Eve Services at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.: At 5 p.m. we will celebrate the birth of our Savior with a family friendly candlelight and communion service with carols. At 11 p.m. we will have a more traditional worship with candlelight and communion.

Run/Walk With God: Every Sunday 5 – 6 p.m. in the back parking lot. All ages and all speed of walkers are welcome to join. Please dress appropriately for the outdoors.



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