

In Memory of and in Honor of . . .

Poinsettia Gifts in Memory of

**My parents, Earnest and Marie Griffin,
and our brother, Richard Griffin**
by the Griffin family

Elizabeth Ann Johnson (Ann's mother)
by Tom and Ann Batchelor

Earl and Betty Bjurman, Bob Bjurman
by Mary Rossmassler

Dawn McBride Johannes
by Denise McBride Reinwasser

Gloria VanDuyne, beloved mom and Gigi
by Kim and Dick Skaff and family

Jeanette Whipple
by Graham Whipple and family

Todd Lamb
by William and Wanda Lamb

Charles and Bessi Francis and brother, Jim
by Chuck and Jeannine Leighton

Homer and Shirley Weiermiller
by Mr. and Mrs Richard Weiermiller

Husband, parents and grandchild
by Evelyn M. Green

Jim Kozminski
by Sharon and Andrew Armstrong

Kenneth M. Crummer on his birthday
by Norma Crummer

Justin Jury
by Peggy and Dana Jury

My loving husband, Mike
by Patty Walton

Nancy Nichols
by Gailen Nichols

Meredith, Susan, Jerry, Lo, Michel and Carmen
by Veronique and Brian Hungerford

Joseph Thrash, Jr.
by Ruth Thrash

Tyler Dean and Chuck Gach
by JoAnn and Olivia Gach

**In loving memory of our parents,
Mary Kay and Dale Jay Drayton, and Gary J. Franz**
by Katherine, James, and Taylor Franz

Manford and Jane Giles
by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weiermiller

Poinsettia Gifts In Honor of

Dorothy Batchelor (Tom's mother)
by Tom and Ann Batchelor

The Gift of Music in Memory of

Nancy Nichols
by Crystal Carrido

Loving parents, Jack and Lucy Stallings
by Jan Goldman

Homer and Nora Rector
by Todd Lamb

Earl R. Emery
by Arlene L. Emery

Bill Rennecker
by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weiermiller

FPCF

Christmas Eve



5:30PM

December 24, 2023

Gathering

GREETING AND WELCOME

PRELUDE

Meditation on "Silent Night" (David Conte)

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Joe Mier, soloist

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.*

The candles on the table are lit.

CHOIR

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, and meek and lowly, lived on earth, our Savior holy.*

The four Advent candles are lit.

ALL SING

*And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.*

The Christ candle is lit.

▲ PROCESSIONAL CAROL

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Hymn No. 133)

Announcements

HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed for the Christmas holiday from December 25 - January 1. If you need to reach a pastor, please call the church office and wait for the prompt to leave a message on their voicemail (810.234.8673).

GUEST INSTRUMENTALISTS

We welcome to our Christmas Eve worship service today, our FPCF Brass performers:

Trumpet: Eric Fontan, Ross Turner

Trombone: Ava Ordman, Greg Lanzi

Timpani: Timothy Mocny

FPCF KIDS

Family dinner and children's choir will take a pause until Wednesday, January 17! Please enjoy your holiday!

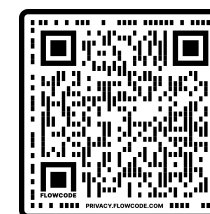
PIPE YOUTH

No Pipe today or Sunday, December 31! See you in the new year!

STEWARDSHIP 2024 CONTINUES

Join Our annual stewardship campaign for 2024 has begun! From now through December 31, we are inviting you to prayerfully determine how you will be financially supporting FPCF in 2024. When you are ready, you can submit your "pledge" via our simple and secure online platform by using the QR code below or you may also do so by going to fpcf.org/pledge. In light of our growing number of ministry opportunities and the rising costs of doing ministry, we are asking everyone to consider increasing your pledge by 5% or more for 2024. This year, an anonymous donor has provided beautiful 8"x10" matted prints of an original painting of FPCF to be given to everyone who submits a pledge by December 31! The prints will be delivered in January. So don't delay, pledge today!

Please Scan QR Code
to submit pledge online.



VISITING WITH US TODAY?

Let us know you were here by scanning the QR code to the left or dropping a Guest Card in the offering box.

PREACHING TODAY

Preaching today is the Rev. Dr. Joseph Novak.

LECTOR

Lindsey Younger

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

The Rev. Paul Ytterock

WAYS TO GIVE

We have three easy ways you can make a financial contribution or send your pledge to support the work of the church.



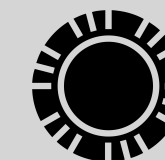
OFFERING BOX

In the back of the sanctuary there is a secure drop box available.



ONLINE

Go fpcf.org/pledge or use the above QR code to access our secure online platform.



OFFERING PLATE

Add your gift or pledge to the offering plate as it comes to your pew.

The Word

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

TEXT: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1-3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863;
stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt.
MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818
Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

STILLE NACHT
Irregular

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

SECOND READING: TITUS 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

▲ CAROL

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Hymn No. 119)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

▲ CAROL

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (Hymn No. 121)

▲ GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 2:1-20

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great

joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“O Holy Night/Angels” (arr. Collin Whitfield)
Collin Whitfield and Erin Whitfield, soloists

HOMILY

“A Thrill of Hope”
The Rev. Dr. Joseph Novak, *preaching*

Lord’s Supper

▲ CAROL

“The First Nowell” (Hymn No. 147)
verses 1, 2, & 6

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

OFFERING + OFFERTORY

“What Is This Lovely Fragrance?” (arr. Healey Willan)
(Translation by Ysobel)

*What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flowers in spring!
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty, hear you not heavenly caroling?
What is this light so fair, so tender breaking upon our wondering eyes?
Never the Morning Star so radiant followed his course o'er eastern skies.
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps seek the Saviour, born today.
Low at His feet we lay our treasure, heart's adoration, love for aye.*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

(The ministers continue in prayer)

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and love,
heaven and earth shine with your glory. Hosanna on high!
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.
Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

Memorial Acclamation

**Dying, Christ destroyed our death. Rising, Christ restores our life.
Christ will come again in mercy. Hosanna on high.**

Amen

**Honor, glory and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore. Amen.**

▲ COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE + CHORAL ANTHEM

“Away in a Manger” (arr. Mack Wilberg), Natalie Lindsey-Dean, flutist

Sending

▲ SHARING OF LIGHT

▲ CAROL

“Silent Night, Holy Night!” (Hymn No. 122)
See Insert

▲ BENEDICTION

▲ CAROL

“Joy to the World” (Hymn No. 134)
verses 1 & 4

POSTLUDE AND DISMISSAL

“The Trumpet Shall Sound” from *Messiah* (George Frideric Handel)