



Making Room

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

7 & 9 PM



MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP

EVERGREEN

How fine the sweetness from the bough, Evergreen, ever living,
Like the pray'r offer'd now for a whole world's forgiving;
While the Christ Child is sleeping, worlds of woe in his keeping, worlds of joy in his dream.
Lord, redeem us!
That when thou art waking the hearts we uplift shall be thy Christmas gift
and be well worth thy taking.
How bright the radiance of the tree, Evergreen, everlasting,
Like the feast day to be after long years of fasting.
Bright in hope Christmas morning to the Christ Child returning,
Once again we believe. Lord, receive us!
When we come before thee, the heart's joy we bring, Noel! Shall sing and for ever adore thee.
— Robert Hillyer

FESTIVE PRELUDE

Prelude on the *Sussex Carol* | Russell Schulz-Widmar
Interlude on the *Coventry Carol* | W. S. Lloyd Webber
O Holy Night | Adam/Bish
Offertoire sur Deux Noël's | Alexander Guilmant
Choral Prelude on '*In dulci jubilo*', BWV 729 | J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Curtis A. Bronzan, Senior Pastor

Please stand

Once in Royal David's City was written as a teaching carol for children. The theme is that Jesus is the example for children to follow. It is the traditional processional for Lessons and Carols.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL | *Once In Royal David's City* | IRBY/arr. Willcocks

Leigh Shipman, Soprano



(soloist) 1. *Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle — where*
(choir) 2. *He came down to earth from hea - ven who is God and Lord of — all,*
3. *For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, day by day like us — he — grew,*
4. *And our eyes at last — shall see him, thro' his own re - deem - ing — love;*
5. *Not in that poor low - ly — sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing — by,*



shed, a mo - ther laid her — ba - by in a man - ger for — his — bed:
and his shel - ter was a — sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a — stall:
he was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles like us — he — knew;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove:
we shall see him, but — in — hea - ven, set at God's right hand on — high;



Ma - ry was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle — child.
with the poor, and mean, and lowl - y, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
and he feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he shar - eth in — our — gladness.
and he leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he — is — gone. —
when like stars his chil - dren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

Please be seated

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

7 PM: The Wynn Family

A reading from Paul to the Galatians:

9 PM: Evelyn Smith, Shepherding Elder

“But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law.”
Galatians 4:44

Let us pray:

Great God of love and light, we thank you now for the light of that special star over two thousand years ago that guided humble shepherds and learned wise men to the holy baby. Lead us now, by the light of your love, that we also may follow you to the new life in him. In celebration of the birthday of our King and our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Please stand

CAROL | O Come, All Ye Faithful | ADESTE FIDELES/arr. Willcocks

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please be seated

A “bidding prayer” is a type of intercessory prayer in Christian worship where the leader “bids” or invites the congregation to pray for specific needs, concerns, or groups of people. This particular prayer was written for the original Lessons and Carols. It beautifully weaves together the essential things that draw our hearts to a place of worship on Christmas Eve. God delights in our worship and song. We retell the Gospel story. We pray for and remember others.

THE BIDDING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Allan DuPont, Shepherding Elder

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.

CAROL | Shepherd's Pipe Carol | John Rutter

Going through the hills on a night all starry on the way to Bethlehem

Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping on the way to Bethlehem

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:

“Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King

Is come to bring us peace on earth and He's lying cradled there at Bethlehem.”

“Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily on the way to Bethlehem

Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem?”

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:

“Dance and sing for the joy that Christ the newborn King; Is come to bring peace on earth

And He's lying cradled there at Bethlehem.”

“None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem;

But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies when I get to Bethlehem.”

Angels in the sky came down from on high

Hovered over the manger where the babe was lying

Cradled in the arms of his mother Mary sleeping now at Bethlehem.

THE FIRST LESSON

7 PM: Jeanmarie Tade, Pastor of Caring

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; 11:1-4, 6-9

9 PM: Courtney McLaughlin, Pastor of Equipping

The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Messiah

CAROL | *O Magnum Mysterium (O Great Mystery)* | Ivo Antognini

O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum,

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament,

ut animalia viderent Dominum natum jacentem in praeseptio.

that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger!

O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum.

O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

THE SECOND LESSON

John 1:1-14

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

7 PM: Cynthia Ross, Covenant Partner

9 PM: Vickie Wagner, Covenant Partner

CAROL | *Before the Marvel of This Night* | Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night adoring, fold your wings and bow,

then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.

Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:

sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace,

sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made;

assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.

Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:

sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss,

sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,

now to the loveless world be shown now break upon its deathly night.

Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:

sing love, sing love, sing God is love,

sing love, sing God is love!

— Jaroslav J. Vajda

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will bear the Savior

7 PM: Jon Crantz, Pastor of Community Life

9 PM: Emmanuel Paulpeter, Pastor of Outreach

Please remain seated

CAROLS OF HIS BIRTH | *O Little Town of Bethlehem* | ST. LOUIS

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 wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together

proclaim the holy birth,

and praises sing to God the King,

and peace to men on earth.

CAROL | *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear* | CAROL

It came upon a midnight clear, That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth goodwill to men
From heav'ns all gracious King, The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

For lo! the days are hast'ning on,
By prophet bards foretold, When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold, When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling, And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

7 PM: Roberto Reyna, Chancel Choir

9 PM: Jeff High, Chancel Choir

Please stand

CAROLS OF THE ANGELS

***Angels We Have Heard on High (Gloria)* | GLORIA**

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.

INTERLUDE

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* | Mendelssohn**

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings:
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die;
born to raise the sons of earth; born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Please be seated

MESSAGE | *Making Room In Our Lives*

Curtis A. Bronzan

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

7 PM: Jeanmarie Tade
9 PM: Courtney McLaughlin

OFFERTORY | *Sleeping Adonai* | Heather Sorenson

Born upon this midnight clear, sleeping Adonai.
Calm the waves, then calm my fears, sleeping Adonai.
Mild You lay Your glory by, born that man no more may die.
Maker of the earth and sky, sleeping Adonai.
Cast our sin and enter in, sleeping Adonai.
Cleanse the leper, cleanse my sin, sleeping Adonai.
Rule the world with truth and grace, Savior of this fallen race.
In our hearts You'll find a place, sleeping Adonai.
Hallelujah, Adonai.

7 PM: Resound! Youth Choir
with Matthew Atebe, violin

(continues on next page)

At your manger, I will praise you, Adonai.
Crowned by light of Christmas star, sleeping Adonai.
Heal the lame, then heal my heart, sleeping Adonai.
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace, hail the Son of Righteousness,
All the earth will one day bless sleeping Adonai.
So rest Your head on borrowed hay, sleeping Adonai.
Light the world, then light my way, sleeping Adonai.

OFFERTORY | African Noel | arr. André Thomas 9 PM: James Winslow, percussion
Sing Noel...Sing we all Noel, sing we all Noel
Come, ye people, gather here to hear the news of good cheer.
The King of Kings, the Lamb of God is born today in Bethlehem
Sing Noel!

THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Candles are lit as
the choir sings

PASSING OF THE LIGHT 7 PM: Jon Crantz | 9 PM: Courtney McLaughlin
The Darkness bows to the light...unlit candle bends to the lit candle which stays straight.

CAROL | Peace, Peace/Silent Night | STILLE NACHT
Peace, Peace

Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all.
This is a time for joy, this is a time for love.
Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth
(All may join on the repeat)

Please stand

Silent Night

**All: 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.**

(*"Peace, Peace" and "Silent Night" continue together*)

**Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!**

(Choir) Peace, peace. Peace on earth.

SENT OUT WITH JOY

The congregation
may extinguish
their candles.

BENEDICTION

Curtis A. Bronzan

CAROL | Joy To The World | ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, 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.

(continues on next page)

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.

POSTLUDE | *Stille Nacht* | arr. Alan Bullard

MUSICIANS

Chancel Choir, Dan Wagner (Conductor & Director of Worship), Jeong-Suk Bae (organ & piano), Leigh Shipman (*Resound!* Director), Cynthia Blackwell (piano), Matthew Atobe (violin)

FLOWERS

The decorations are placed in the Sanctuary and Chapel today to the glory of God by the Flower Guild.

Special Christmas Eve Offering: Supporting Local Mission Partners

Each year, FPC Houston provides an opportunity to bless one or two of FPC Houston's mission partners through a unique Christmas Eve offering. This year, two longstanding and beloved local partners, Agape Development and Star of Hope, have been chosen as our recipients. With our focus on *Making Room* for others this Advent, it is a blessing to give to these two organizations that focus on creating safe spaces for some of the most vulnerable in our city. To learn more about Agape Development, Star of Hope, and other organizations we partner with to help serve and flourish our city, visit fpchouston.org/partners.

To contribute all or a portion of your giving to our Christmas Eve mission partner offering, text **GIVE** to **90859** or place your gift in an offering box or plate. Please select "Christmas Eve Offering" as the fund for your online gift or note it on your check. Unless otherwise noted, FPC will include all cash donations in the Christmas Eve mission partner offering.

Next Sermon Series: *One Another*

What is true Christian community? In Scripture, the Greek word for "one another" is used 100 times across 94 verses, with 59 commands detailing how we are to treat one another. During our next sermon series, we'll explore the idea of community, which is central to the Christian faith and to our mission here at FPC. In a world that is increasingly online and has lost the art of connection, understanding how we are called to love, teach, serve, encourage, and care for one another is critical to experiencing true community. We hope you'll join us!

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Curtis A. Bronzan, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jon Crantz, Pastor of Community Life

Rev. Dr. Courtney McLaughlin, Pastor of Equipping

Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Paulpeter, Pastor of Outreach

Rev. Jeanmarie Tade, Pastor of Caring

You're Invited...

Special Worship Schedule

Sun | Dec 29 | 11 AM | Sanctuary

On this Sunday there will be only one service.

GriefShare

Thursdays | Jan 9–Apr 3 | 11:30 AM–1 PM | FH 253

GriefShare offers support through the journey of grief and loss. Through this group, you'll find helpful ways of coping with the stages and emotions of grief and find support from others who understand the challenges of this season.

The Anxious Generation Parenting Study

Sunday or Tuesday Options | Begins Jan 21

Are you concerned about the mental health challenges facing today's children, teens, and even adults? Join us as we dive into *The Anxious Generation* by psychologist Jonathan Haidt and equip ourselves to navigate this alarming landscape.

City Serve Opportunity: Kids' Meals Lunch Pack

Sun | Jan 26 | 8:30 AM

FPC Houston exists to *Cultivate Community in the Way of Jesus for the Flourishing of the City* and what better way to demonstrate our commitment to this mission than a morning serving together. Skip your Sunday best, put on something comfortable, and make plans to be here as we pack 1,500 lunches for local children. All ages welcome!

Men's Breakfast

Wed | Feb 19 | 7:30 AM | Fellowship Hall

The FPC Men's Ministry equips men of all ages to live the Christian life, devotedly follow Jesus, and exhibit servant leadership in their home, work, and community. Join us as we kick off the day with breakfast and a topical message.

For information on these events, visit fpchouston.org/events.

Discipleship Opportunities

Begins January 2025

Children's Sunday School

Infant & Toddler Childcare

2 MONTHS–35 MONTHS

8 AM–12:15 PM | Nursery Cove

PreK

PREK 3–KINDER

8 AM–12:15 PM | PreK Hallway

Childcare for Worship Services

9:30–10:30 AM | Sunday School

Elementary

GRADES 1–3

9:30–10:30 AM | Grace Place (CE 141)

PreTeens

GRADES 4–5

9:30–10:30 AM | Wonderground (B042)

WinGS (Special Needs)

ALL AGES

10:30 AM–12:15 PM | CE 120 & 125

Youth Sunday School

Middle School

GRADES 6–8

9:30 AM | MS Basement (LC 080)

High School

GRADES 9–12

9:30 AM | HS Room (LC 181)

Grades and ages as of Sept 1.

Adult Sunday School

For Adult Sunday School and Small Group Opportunities, visit

fpchouston.org/adultdiscipleship.

End-of-Year Giving

Your gifts are vital to our mission to *Cultivate Community in the Way of Jesus for the Flourishing of the City*. If it is a priority to have your contributions credited in 2024 for tax purposes, please visit fpchouston.org/giving for end-of-year deadlines.

WAYS TO GIVE:

In Worship

Place in an offering plate or give to an usher.

Online

text **GIVE** to
90859

By Mail

First Presbyterian Church
Attn: Finance
5300 Main St.,
Houston, TX, 77004