

# First Presbyterian Church

5401 South Claiborne Avenue  
New Orleans, La. 70125

**December 24, 2017**

## **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE**





# Gathering Around the Word



\*Writing in **bold** is for the congregation response.  
Please stand as you are able.

## MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

### WELCOME

\*INTROIT                    “Angels from the Realms of Glory”  
Lynn Hyder and Ann Philbrick

\*LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE                    Terry, Kristy & Sarah Ruppel

\*HYMN 133 (*vv 1 & 3*)                    “O Come, All Ye Faithful”                    Adeste Fideles  
**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!**

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION  
**Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your son, the Lord of Love, wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, the Savior of all. On this night of all nights, draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory. Grant us a place among the shepherds that we may find Jesus, the one for whom we have waited. Amen.**

\*HYMN 113                    “Angels We Have Heard on High”                    Gloria

SCRIPTURE                    Isaiah 9:6-7  
Liturgist: The word of the Lord.  
**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## A TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE                    Luke 2:1-14

MEDITATION                    “On This Night”                    Rev. Kim Rodrigue

### OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM                    “Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”  
Lynn Hyder and Ann Philbrick

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*We invite all baptized people to receive communion today. This invitation is not reserved for Presbyterians, nor is it just for adults; it is for all baptized persons who wish to come. We receive communion by coming forward, taking a piece of bread from the loaf, then dipping it into the cup. The pastor will be offering wine; the elder/liturgist will offer unfermented grape juice. All of the bread is gluten free.*

*“Access to the table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love.” Book of Order, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Leader: This is the joyful feast of the people of God.

**People: People will come from east and west, from north and south to sit at the table in the kingdom of God.**

Leader: On this night we celebrate the birth of the one who comes to bring the reign of God. A star shines in the sky. Angels sing of peace on earth. Of this reign, Isaiah says, “The wolf shall lie down with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.”

**People: The little child is born tonight. He is wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.**

Leader: We have come from east and west, from north and south, from all kinds of places and circumstances and gathered around the manger to give thanks to God for the coming of this gift of love. We also give thanks by gathering around this table, called here by the child in the manger, who grew to be a man, who died on a cross, and who was raised from the dead. This is the Lord's table. Everyone who trusts in the child in the manger is welcome here.

\*HYMN 119

“Hark, The Herald Angels Sing”

Mendelssohn

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: Let us pray:

People: **Thank you, Holy God, for the gift of your son, Jesus, who came that you might be with us. As a baby in the manger he shows us your power, which is the power of the helpless. He shows us your wisdom, which is the wisdom of the innocent. On a dark night in Bethlehem, we see the birth of your kingdom on earth – a reign of light and peace.**

Leader: Dear Lord, bless this bread and this cup that they may become symbols of your kingdom and the sustenance that we need to live for you. Fill our hearts with joy and thanksgiving for your presence with us. Amen.

### BREAKING THE BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP

## PRAYER

**We thank you, God, for this supper shared in the Spirit with your son Jesus, who makes us new. Thank you for giving us bread to eat and wine to drink and a manger around which to gather. Cause us to be so filled with your presence that we have the courage to walk in the darkness, bringing the good news of the arrival of your light to all the world. May we know the peace of your love, the joy of your redemption, and the power of being your people, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

\*SHARING THE LIGHT

John 1:1-5, 14

\*HYMN

“Silent Night”

*(Please raise your candles during the last verse)*

**1 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.**

**2 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!”**

**3 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.**

**4 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.**

---

## ***Go in Peace***

Resources: This service draws on the poetry of the Rev. William King, a Presbyterian pastor who died in 2017. It also draws on the *Book of Common Worship*.

## **WELCOME VISITORS!**

We are glad that you are here to celebrate the birth of Jesus with us. We invite you to join us for worship at 11:00am next Sunday when we will continue our celebration of Christmas with a live nativity scene in worship.

### Leadership in today’s service

#### **PASTOR**

Rev. Kim Rodrigue

#### **LITURGISTS**

Lynn Hyder  
Wayne Hyder

#### **MUSICIANS**

Lynn Hyder  
Aya Magavina  
Ann Philbrick

#### **USHERS**

Diane Kleinfeldt  
Henry Kleinfeldt

#### **GREETERS**

Gabriel Helms-Capasso  
Luke Helms-Capasso