

Lighting of the Christ Candle

During Advent, we open worship with the lighting of the four candles of the Advent wreath. These are the candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. On Christmas Eve, we light the fifth and center candle, the CHRIST candle, as we continue to celebrate the gift of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Manger Offering

We dedicate our 16th annual Manger Offering to benefit Family Promise of Greater Roanoke, which serves those who temporarily find no room at the inn. Family Promise helps families struggling to overcome homelessness by providing them temporary housing and skills development.

Ushers

Mark Lawrence (Head Usher)

AV Technician

Doug Settles

SERMON SERIES "SING IN EXULTATION"

Jesus was born into a weary world, bringing good news of great joy for all people. In a season of lament, his birth sparked joy and song from angels and elders, a new mother and an old priest. At Second Presbyterian, our Advent sermon series, "Sing in Exultation," celebrates the good news of Jesus when and where we least expect it.

Looking for ways to stay connected to the church in the new year? Check out our official podcast of sermons, *Second on the Mount*, or our podcast for children and families, *Child of God with The Rev. Elizabeth Link*, and subscribe to never miss an episode! Listen wherever podcasts are found.



www.spres.org/connect/podcasts

JOIN US THIS LENT FOR KAIROS WORSHIP SERVICES AND REFLECTIONS

MARCH 5, 7:30-9:30 A.M.

"Ashes and Prayer To-Go," Parking Lot

MARCH 5, 6:00 P.M.

Ash Wednesday Worship, Kirk Hall

MARCH 12 - APRIL 16

Weekly Kairos Reflections via
YouTube and Facebook

APRIL 17, 6:00 P.M.

Maundy Thursday Worship, Kirk Hall

Second Presbyterian Church

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SECOND
PRESBYTERIAN

Finding direction by following Jesus.



The Nativity, by Gari Melchers

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons, Carols, & Candlelight

Pastoral Staff

Dr. George C. Anderson, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Elizabeth N.H. Link, Executive Pastor

The Rev. Benjamin S. Brannan, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

DECEMBER 24, 2024 · 10:00 P.M. · SANCTUARY

Passage of Preparation

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Prelude

— SILENCE —
3 CHIMES

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Anthem *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Benjamin Harlan

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7 Old Testament pp. 553-554

The Manger Offering
Offertory Anthem *Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes* Hal Hopson

Scripture Lesson Matthew 1:18-25 New Testament p. 777

Anthem *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers!* arr. Benjamin Harlan

Hymn No. 347 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* and Reading of Luke 2:1-20

Verse 1: Congregation

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Verse 2: Congregation

Reading: Luke 2:8-14

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among all people with whom he is pleased!"

Verse 3: Congregation

Reading: Luke 2:15-20

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Verse 4: Congregation

Meditation Rev. Benjamin S. Brannan

Anthem *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* arr. Benjamin Harlan

Instructions for Candles

*Hymn No. 122 *Silent Night, Holy Night!*
Sharing of the Christ Candle

*Benediction *Please extinguish your candles for the Choral Response.*

*Choral Response *Therefore Be Merry* Mark Sedio

Ringling of the Chimes

Postlude *Fanfare and Postlude on "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* David Lasky

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Flowers: Copies of the 2024 Poinsettia Memorials and Celebrations list may be requested from an usher or found at the front desk. Anyone wishing to take a poinsettia home or to a friend may take it after the conclusion of the service.