

****Prayer of Confession**

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

****Assurance of Forgiveness**

****Hymn “Gloria Patri”**

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen. Amen.”

****The Passing of the Peace of Christ**

Leader:May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader:Let us share this peace with one another.

Time with Our Youngest Saints

THE WORD

Unison Prayer for Understanding

By the breath of your Spirit inspire us, that in the hearing of your Word we may be filled with new understanding and fresh desire to please you in all we do, for the sake of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

The Reading from the Gospels

Luke 2:12-35

This 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 favours!’ 15 When 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.

21 After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. 22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), 24and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’ 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, 28Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,29 ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

33 And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

Liturgist: The gospel of the Lord for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Gift of Music **Harpist Anne Crabb**

Sermon **“Living in the Background”**

****Hymn 41** ***“O Come, All Ye Faithful”***

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Responsive Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer **(debts/debtors)**

Pastor: O God of Love, **People: draw us together in peace.**

“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.

Invitation to the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

****Hymn** *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

*“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above,
ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!” Amen.*

****Prayer of Dedication**

THE SENDING

****Hymn 29** *“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”*

****Charge and Blessing**

****Postlude**

****please stand as you are able**



First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster

Order of Worship for

The First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024

Liturgist: Ms. Addison Comley

Interim Organist—Mr. Jim Parrish

Ushers—Mrs. Amanda Marsee and Mr. Nick Marsee

Pastor—The Reverend Michael Denney

Please silence your phones prior to worship.

THE GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

****Call to Worship***Ps. 148:1, 7, 12, 13*

Liturgist:Praise the Lord! Praise God in the heavens.

People:Praise the Lord from the earth!

Liturgist:Young and old alike,

People:men and women together. Praise the Lord!

Liturgist:Let them praise the name of the Lord,

People:for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

****Prayer of the Day**

****Hymn 40**

“Joy to the World”

****Call to Confession**