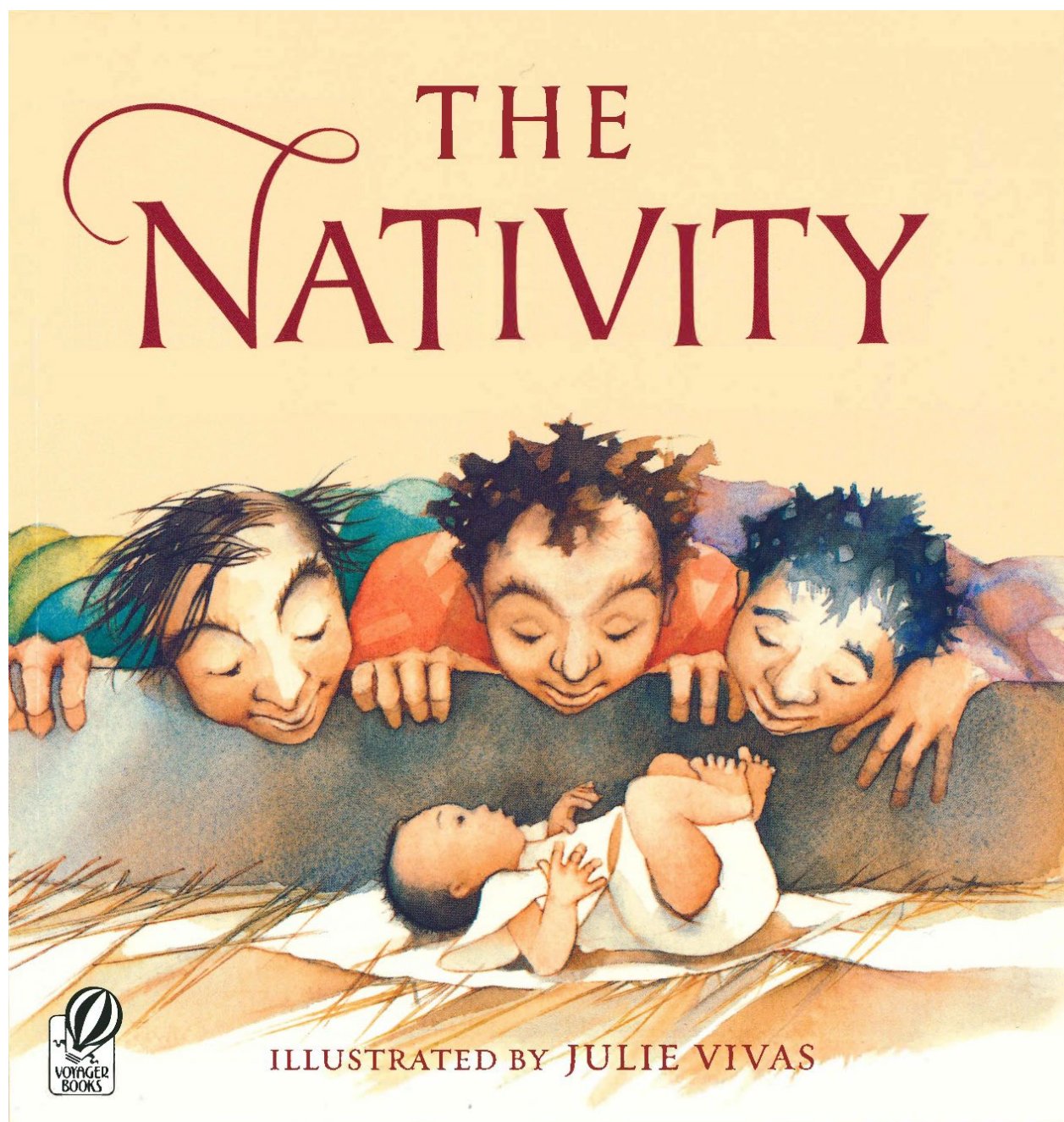




First Presbyterian Church
OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Young and Young at Heart – December 24, 2024 | 4:00 p.m.



Welcome

We are grateful you are with us to celebrate this holy birth and hope you will experience a worship filled with joy! This service will present the story of Jesus' birth, interspersed with favorite carols and special music.

PRELUDE

Five Carols Settings

Wilbur Held

*Of the Father's Love Begotten; From Heaven Above; O Little Town of Bethlehem;
The First Noel; God Rest You Merry*

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. John C. McKinnon

ON THIS NIGHT OF NIGHTS

Paula Denner

Beyond our wildest imagining;
beyond the scope of our cleverest knowing;
escaping the farthest reach of our best understanding:
the Spirit of God, God of great power,
who cannot be harnessed.

And yet this is the God we have come to speak with;
to listen and come close to,
to worship in this place and on this night.

Be very careful as you make your approach.
Think carefully and think twice.
Because on this night of all nights,
at this time of all times,
the power of God is unleashed on an unsuspecting world.

Think carefully and think twice,
because on this night of all nights,
at this time of all times,
you have come to worship the power
of a weak and helpless baby.

Is this not the strangest thing we say,
the oddest and most unlikely thing to believe:
that a baby is, in fact, a God;
that an infant has such power;
that a child, born long ago,
has changed the world?

Unless, of course, in weakness there is power.
Unless, of course, power can reside in weakness.
Be very careful as you make your approach.
For on this night of all nights,
at this time of all times,
the power of God is unleashed upon the world.

The weakness of this baby may change you.
You may find you are never the same again.

**Like the angels, we have come here to worship this weak child.
With the angels we will worship this most powerful God!**

*CAROL 133

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!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In hope the universe waits:

God's purpose shall be revealed.

Limited by mortality, yet destined for liberation, in hope the universe waits:

God's purpose shall be revealed.

Groaning as if in childbirth, sampling the fruits of God's harvest, in hope the universe waits:

God's purpose shall be revealed.

Trusting in what is unseen, believing the best is to come, in hope the universe waits:

God's purpose shall be revealed.

In the hiddenness of a byre where the Maker of All will be born, in hope the universe waits:

God's purpose shall be revealed.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Isaiah 2:4, 11:6, 35:1, 7:14b, 9:2

Josh, Taylor, Archer, Opal, and Aoife Short

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the days

People: when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Leader: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

People: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

Leader: The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel—God is with us.

People: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*CAROL 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Not an easy peace,

not an insignificant peace, not a half-hearted peace,
but the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with us now.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

*CAROL OF RESPONSE

Gloria Patri

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit Three in one.

May every tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise. Amen.

ANTHEM

The Little Drummer Boy

Katherine Kennicott Davis

Treble Choir

Come, they told me, a newborn King to see. Our finest gifts we bring to lay before the King, so to honor Him, when we come. Little Baby, I am a poor boy, too. I have no gift to bring that's fit to give the King. Shall I play for you on my drum? Mary nodded; the ox and lamb kept time. I played my drum for Him; I played my best for Him. Then He smiled at me, me and my drum.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST THE LORD

Cyndi Lockwood

THE NATIVITY

ILLUSTRATED BY JULIE VIVAS

CAROL 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

FIRST READING

CAROL 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

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! (*Glory to God in the highest!*)

SECOND READING

CAROL 121

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.

THIRD READING

CAROL 115

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

FOURTH READING

CAROL 145

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

FIFTH READING

CAROL 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

SIXTH READING

CAROL 119

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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

*ENTRANCE OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*SHARING OF THE LIGHT

CAROL 122

Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

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.

CAROL 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

*BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Wilbur Held

On This Night of Nights and the *Call to Worship* are from “Dirt, Mess and Danger”
by Glendon Macaulay.

Upcoming Events

Music for the Nativity — Friday, January 3 | 12:00 p.m.

FPC-OKC presents Joseph Ripka, Organist Canon Precentor & Director of Music Diocesan Music Missioner at St. Paul's Cathedral of Oklahoma City, in a Music for the Nativity concert. The concert will be followed by a luncheon in Watchorn Hall.

Both the concert and luncheon are FREE, but donations will be accepted. **RSVP for the luncheon by calling 405-525-6584 or emailing office@fpcokc.org.**

Boy Scout Popcorn Sale — Sunday, January 5 | Before & After Worship

Troop 15 will hold a popcorn fundraiser before and after worship service on Sunday, January 5. Thank you for supporting Troop 15!

First Sunday Lunch — Sunday, January 5 | 12:00 p.m.

After 11:00 a.m. worship, we'll gather in Watchorn Hall to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Junebug Catering. **Menu:** Roasted Chicken, Roasted Vegetable Platter, and Lemon Cake

Individual Prayer & Evensong Worship — Wednesdays | 5:00 & 5:30 p.m.

The Sanctuary is open on Wednesdays for individual meditation and prayer at 5:00 p.m. and an Evensong service from 5:30–6:00 p.m. Evensong is a short church service, featuring sung psalms, readings, and prayers, offering a period of respite and contemplation after the workday, to help transition into the restful night.

Free Yoga Class — Wednesday, January 8 | 6:00 p.m.

Our weekly Free Yoga Class returns on Wednesday, January 8! We'll meet in the Rec Room in the basement. Angela Rose will lead our hour-long class. All skill levels are welcome!

Reserve the Third — Saturday, January 18 | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

We're volunteering at the Urban Mission in January! **Please contact Roane Pittman (johnpittmanmd@gmail.com) if you're interested in serving or have any questions.**

Kemp Concert Series

4x4 Organ Concert — Sunday, February 2 | 4:00-6:00 p.m.

In this moveable musical feast, audience members begin in the Chapel, then move to the other organ rooms in the church, hearing a short recital in each location. Music is chosen to highlight the special characteristics of each instrument. *This is a free concert.*

Featuring:

- Alvez Barkoskie IV of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, OKC
- Christopher Evatt of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmond
- Steven McConnell of First Baptist Church, OKC
- Carolyn Sargent of Mayflower Congregational Church, OKC

**Scan for
online giving!**



First Presbyterian Church

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