

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Variations on "Morning Star"
Away in a Manger

Margaret Sandresky
James Murray

WELCOME

INTROIT

In the Bleak Midwinter
Reverend Anna Owens, Soprano

Eric H. Thiman

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Catherine McInnis

One: God of grace, by your tender mercy the dawn from on high breaks upon us.

Many: Your son gives light to all sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death.

One: Your child guides our feet into the way of peace. Your hand reaches out to us. Together we picture that first night in Bethlehem,

Many: The baby cradled by his parents, and angels speaking good news to all the world.

One: May the voice of angels so fill our hearts this evening with good tidings of great joy.

Many: Tonight we sing to the glory of Emmanuel, God with us!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

* HYMN OF PRAISE 140

IRBY

Once in Royal David's City
Verse 1, Solo; Verses 2-4, Congregation

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Reverend Nick Cheek

Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people. We come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. Forgiving God, call us back when we have wandered from your presence. Reach out to us when we are lost in our pride, lost in our business or lost in our fear. In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts. Come Emmanuel and be born in us this day. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is faithful and just. God judges all people with equity. 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. In the glow of God's grace, you are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

* RESPONSE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Reverend Ashley Cheek

Away in a Manger (Children come forward during singing.)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Catherine McInnis

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

Catherine McInnis

HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

Reverend Nick Cheek

HOMILY

"The Endless Search"

Reverend Nick Cheek

SERVICE OF GIVING

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

Wonderful Peace
Chancel Choir

Gustaf Nordqvist

Peace, peace, wonderful peace, peace to the world is given.

Hushed are the angels, so still is the night;

Then in the East shone a heavenly light.

Join in the chorus His praises sing!

Glory to God, to the newly born King.

Peace, peace, wonderful peace, peace to the world is given.

Peace, peace, bearer of peace, men of good will receive Him.

Holiest of nights, O most wondrous of day;

Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise.

Join in the chorus His praises sing!

Glory to God, to the newly born King.

Peace, peace, wonderful peace, peace to the world is given.

* Song of Dedication

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

What can I give Him, Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a Lamb

If I were a wise man, I would do my part:

Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

* Offertory Prayer

* HYMN OF PREPARATION 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: We give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Michelle Blassengale, Soprano

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

GOD'S LIGHT SPREADS INTO THE WORLD

Light from the Christ Candle is passed through the Congregation.

(To avoid wax burns, hold your lighted candle up straight and allow the unlighted candle to tilt into the flame.)

* HYMN

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.***

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!"

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.

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.

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE

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.***

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.

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Carillon-Sortie

H. Mulet

You are invited to our Christmas Worship tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. in the

Extinguished candles may be placed in baskets as you exit.

* Please stand as you are able.
Bold type indicates congregational response.

Chapel.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, December 25

No Sunday School

10:30 a.m. ~ Informal Worship Service (Chapel)

Sunday, January 1

No Sunday School

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship (Sanctuary)

Sunday, January 8

10:30 a.m. ~ Ordination & Installation of Officers

4:00 p.m. ~ Installation of Reverend Nick Cheek

In observance of Christmas and New Years, please note our holiday office hours:

December 26 and 27 ~ Closed

December 28 and 29 ~ Open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

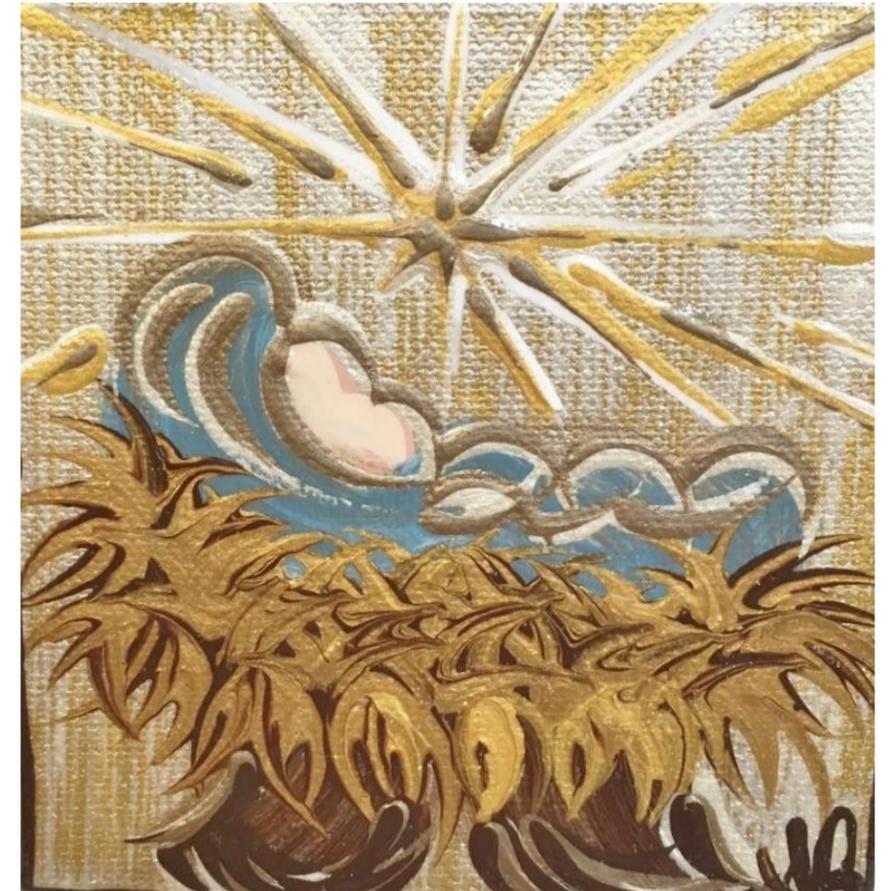
December 30 ~ Closed at noon

January 2 ~ Closed

January 3 ~ Normal office hours resume

Please remember all end of year pledges and gifts must be turned in or postmarked by December 31, 2016, in order to be counted as a 2016 contribution.

**A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
OF
COMMUNION & CANDLELIGHT**



First Presbyterian Church
9 West Calhoun Street
Sumter, South Carolina 29150
(803) 773-3814
www.fpcsumter.org

**First Presbyterian Church
Sumter, South Carolina
December 24, 2016
6:00 p.m.**