



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
December 24, 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

The Holly and the Ivy

French Carol: Flynn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ADVENT WREATH – LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE

Chris & Candy Gulotta

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 106

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord for the Lord is good.

For the Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord?

Or who can declare all of the Lord's praise?

Happy are those who observe justice.

And who do righteousness at all times.

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord for the Lord is good.

For the Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN 19 (V.1, 2, 5, 6)

To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, we hear Gabriel's words to Mary, "Fear not for God is with you" and understand that those words are meant for us as well. But Lord we confess that we are not always sure that you are with us. When the wind is cold and the news is bad, we wonder if you are with us. When the night is dark and we can't see the light, we wonder if you are with us. And when the world at times seems to be exploding around us, we wonder if you are with us. Lord, forgive us for not being mindful that your ways are not our ways, for who among us would have thought that our salvation would arrive as an infant in the dark cold of the night. Send your Spirit to assure us that regardless of our circumstances, your love and presence is with us. Always. In Jesus' name we pray.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Just as Mary was assured by Gabriel that she was most blessed, so too are we most blessed for the child she gifted to the world now stands in our place before the Lord who sees us as blameless. Praise be to God.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

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.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:26-38

SERMON

No Greater Love

Rev. Larry Van Hise

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Christmas Joy Offering

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God's ministries through Christ's church.

*Please leave your offering in the boxes at the front and rear of the sanctuary
or make your gifts online or via mail.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to witness to Christ's ministry in your world. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 5 (V. 1-4)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square: Hegarty

Worship Leaders

Rev. Larry Van Hise

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Donna Van Norman, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed

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