Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright! Silent and calm, until a newborn wails and angels illumine the fields! Holy indeed. Merry Christmas, and welcome to worship!

This worship service can be watched live on YouTube, as it happens, anywhere you have an internet connection. Additionally, past services will be archived so you can stay up-to-date or relive your favorite Sunday morning moments. You can find the link on our website or check it out at <u>https://bit.ly/FPClive</u>

Worship Assistant: Jeff Krause Usher: Mark Heimbach No Deacon Greeter No Nursery Candle Lighting: Bell Choir Audio: Sally Heimbach Video: Mark Ingram

NOTE: Sheet music for the hymns can be found on the next page or pages.



Order of Worship December 24, 2023

Faith Presbyterian Church of Emmaus 3002 N. Second Street, PO Box 507 Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049 610.967.5600 office@faithchurchemmaus.org www.faithchurchemmaus.org



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP CHRISTMAS EVE

8:00 PM DECEMBER 24, 2023

THE FIRST NOTE OF THE PRELUDE begins our worship.

Please use the prelude time to turn your attention to God's presence and help. Nurturing our relationships and friendships in fellowship is essential to our life as a congregation, so please continue to do so following our time of worship.

* Those who are able are invited to stand.

FOCUSING UPON GOD'S PRESENCE AND VOICE

PRELUDE

"Es ist ein Ros" (Lo, How a Rose is Growing) *"A Special Night"* (The Wondrous Story)

Faithful Harmonizers

"Christmas Time Back Home" "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

Kreider Family

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" "Silent Night" **Faithful Ringers**

WELCOME

***CANDLE LIGHTING & CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The God who makes us feel loved is the source of our joy and peace and hope. Today we light four Advent candles: the candles of hope, love, joy, and peace. We also light the fifth candle, the candle of light as we celebrate Christmas Eve this morning.

(Candle lighting)

- Leader: Let us praise our Lord Jesus Christ.
- People: Alleluia! Jesus is coming!
- Leader: At Christmas, Jesus came as a baby.
- People: Alleluia! Jesus is coming!
- Leader: He came to be like us because he loves us.
- People: Alleluia! Jesus is coming!
- Leader: We praise Jesus, who came as a baby and will come again.
- People: Alleluia! Jesus is coming!

***OPENING PRAYER**

*HYMN #133

"O Come All Ye Faithful"



From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

TEXT: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, alt. MUSIC: John Francis Wade, c. 1743; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906 ADESTE FIDELES Irregular

LITANY OF AFFIRMATION

- Leader: Towards the end of the calendar year, we often think of the things we have done and the things we have left undone... ...Praise God for the Savior God gave us and the Savior Jesus continues to be for us. Let us pray together.
- People: Dear God, this is not our letter to Santa. This is not our wish list. This is our confession. This is us, sharing the gift of your son and the love he came to share with the world. This is our confession that the Savior you gave us is the Savior we needed and keep on needing. We confess that we do things that keep us from fully loving you and loving our neighbors as we love ourselves. We confess we leave things undone that keep us from obeying you and enjoying you fully. We confess and we're truly sorry. We want to do better. So, this is also our confession of faith. For we believe Jesus came to save us. We believe Jesus came as your Word and Light incarnate to share the kind of love you hope we learn to share with others and with ourselves. We believe you forgive us and show us grace. We hope to live in gratitude of your grace and we lift up our private confessions to you now.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayers.

(A moment is given for silent confession to God.)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS



THE WORD OF GOD TO THE CHURCH

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

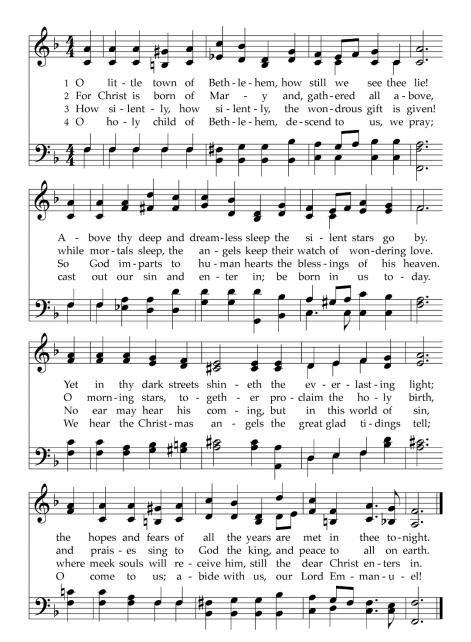
ISAIAH 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar

across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*HYMN #121

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"



SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

SONG

"Glory to God!" (The Wondrous Story) **Faithful Harmonizers**

MATTHEW 1:18-25

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

SONG

"Ave, Verum Corpus"

Faithful Ringers

FOURTH SCRIPTURE LESSON

2In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This 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 favors!" ¹⁵When 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.



FIFTH SCRIPTURE LESSON

JOHN 1:1-5

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

MESSAGE

"God is Like Light"

SONG

"Quiet Night, Wondrous Sight" (The Wondrous Story) **Faithful Harmonizers**

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

<u>GLORY TO GOD HYMNAL</u> – PG. 35 (Please use "debts & debtors".)

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

CALL FOR OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY

"O Star of Bethlehem"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN & SHARING OF THE LIGHT Hymn #122

"Silent Night"



***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

"Il Est Ne" (He is Born)

Music Licensing Information

-	
Prelude #1	John Leavitt, OneLicense.net A-713988
Prelude #2	Price/Besig, Public Domain
Prelude #3	John Duffy and Ann Hill, © BMI, arr. Kreider family
Prelude #4	St. Jean de Brebeuf, CCLI 1695793, arr. Kreider family
Prelude #5	Judy Hunnicutt, CCLI 1695793
Hymn #133	Public Domain
Hymn #119	Public Domain
Hymn #121	Public Domain
Choir:	Price/Besig, CCLI 1695793
Bells:	Douglas E. Wagner, OneLicense.net A-713988
Hymn #147	Public Domain
Choir	Price/Besig, CCLI 1695793
Offertory	Music Services, arr. Kreider family
Hymn #122	Public Domain
Postlude	Richard Hudson, OneLicense.net A-713988

The poinsettias beautifying the sanctuary this Christmas Eve were donated by the following:

- Lynda & Dick Scheirer, in memory of loved ones.
- Mary & Bill Roberts, in memory of Bob Gedney and Marilyn Roberts
- Penny & Jim Pantano
- Helen & Charley Underwood, in memory of their parents
- Marlene Smith, in memory of her husband Larry
- Terry Eck, in memory of Sally W. Eck, and in honor of his grandchildren
- Larry & Kathy Hemberger, in honor of precious grandchildren Graham, Ella, and Max
- Sue & Bob Vitale, in honor of loved ones
- Christina Godiska, in memory of Pappy and Bob Forbes, Jr.
- Ron & Sandy Gingrich
- John & Carolyn Baittinger, in memory of our parents
- Luff Family, in memory of Jim Slamon
- **Steven Eck**, in memory of Sally Eck, and in honor of Betsy Turner and Gail Corvaia
- Ann & Kevin Greenwood, in honor of Owen, Meredith, and Michael
- Anita & Jeff Krause, in honor of their great-grandchildren
- **Pam Melchior**, in memory of Eleanor Pronath, and in honor of Donald Pronath
- The Webb Family, in memory of Julius & Margery McIntosh, Maurice Webb, and Allie Shuemake
- Donna Call, in memory of loved ones.
- Jim & Ellie DePhillips, in memory of their parents
- Lynn Ingram, in memory of the Ingram and Hanna families
- Kennington family, in memory of Christmases past
- Bruce & Beth Kunkle, in memory of Sandy and Michael, and in honor of our family
- David & Jana Masenheimer, in memory of Robert & Eleanor Rippon, and Marilyn Rippon
- **Donald & Helen Perry**, in memory of Lora Perry, Mr.& Mrs. Stephen Hari, and Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Perry
- Chas & Melanie Shimer, in memory of Ernest & Margaret Shimer, and James Fehr

Plants may be collected after the 10 p.m. service.

Faith Life Sunday, December 24, 2023



• TODAY: December 24- Fellowship (Christmas Eve) at 10 am service only. The deacons are serving during fellowship time this morning. Please stop in Fellowship Hall and greet b is your deacon? Check the photo

your deacon. Not sure who is your deacon? Check the photo quilt in the hallway.

• December 31 - Fellowship (New Year's Eve)

See the back of this page for a list of SMT's future Sunday and midweek events. Youth Group News is also on the next page!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Pastor Becki will be on vacation December 25 through January 1, and will be back in the office on January 2.

For pastoral care needs during that time, contact your deacon or Rev. Joanne Marchetto. Their information can be found in the directory.



Also! All contributions to the church that are to be counted as 2023 contributions **must be received at the church no later than Tuesday**, **January 2**. Donations made after that, even if the check is dated 2023, will be counted toward your

2024 giving. Online gifts processed after December 31 will also count towards your 2024 giving. Thank you for your understanding.

The Financial Secretary will print and send out your 2023 tax statements before the end of **January** 2024.

KNOW THYSELF

In the midst of cold and flu season (and whatever else might be going around), remember to pay attention to how you are feeling and who is around you. Stay home if you aren't feeling well. Listen to your body and get rest when you need it. Masks are not required, but are welcomed for anyone who might feel more comfortable with a mask, or anyone who might be feeling even a little under the weather. We can love our neighbors as we love ourselves when we take consideration for everyone's physical health!

There is a box of luminaries in the Narthex for folks to take for personal use Christmas Eve.



Christmas Eve Worship Services

Sunday, December 24th

10:00 a.m.— Family Worship 8:00 p.m.— Traditional Service 11:30 p.m.— Outdoor Service at the Emmaus Triangle

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EMMAUS

3002 N. Second Street - PO Box 507 - Emmaus, PA 18049 610-967-5600—<u>office@faithchurchemmaus.org</u> Visit us on the web! <u>www.faithchurchemmaus.org</u> <u>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</u> Monday - Thursday from 9:00 AM to Noon. Closed on Fridays.



Sunday Morning Together brings our church family together for fellowship and special activities. Most activities take place right after worship. Children of God of all ages are welcome!

- 1/7 First Sunday Luncheon
- 1/14 Fellowship
- 1/21 Fire Safety & First Aid
- 1/28 Congregational Meeting
- 2/4 First Sunday Luncheon
- 2/1 Fastnacht
- 2/8 Fellowship
- 2/25 Pretzels & Lent Fellowship
- **3/3** First Sunday Luncheon & Ice Hockey
- 3/10 Fellowship
- 3/17 Vision Team Event
- 3/24 Palm Sunday- Egg Hunt
- 3/31 Easter; Easter Breakfast
- 4/7 First Sunday Luncheon
- 4/14 Church Clean-up Day & Lunch
- 4/21 Earth Day Clean



TALENT SHOW: FEBRUARY 4

Sign up to participate in our upcoming talent show!

- Share a **SIGHT**; crafts or hobbies you enjoy and can be placed on a table to see.
- Share a **SOUND**; something to be heard and/or performed on a stage.
- "S" FOODS don't need to be signed up for, but please bring a dish to share for lunch that starts with the letter S. If your last name begins with A-K bring a side dish that starts with the letter S, and L-Z bring something sweet.

Sign up by speaking with Heather Davis, or on the whiteboard in Fellowship Hall.

<u>Word on</u> Wednesday (WOW)

Our Word On Wednesday group meets on Wednesdays at noon in the parlor. WOW will take off for the holidays and will **not meet on December 27 or on January 3.**

All are welcome!

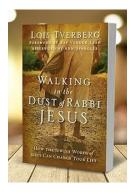


THURSDAY WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

This group meets Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30 a.m. in homes of our members for coffee, study, prayer and laughter.

We will continue our study on "Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus" starting again January 11, 2024 and begin a new study (TBA) in February.

Interested? Contact Anne Laubach or Deanna Robinson.



Youth Group Need

Pastor Jo Marchetto, our Youth Group Director, could use some help from us here at FPC. At times, an adult or two are needed to assist in the Youth Group activity, program.



No experience is needed or special skills, just a genuine interest in our youth. The commitment can be flexible. Why not give Pastor Jo a call (phone number is in the directory) and find out what it's all about. You will be greatly appreciated! THANK YOU!

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH! BUT HOW?

Sponsoring a meal for our Youth Groups is a very beneficial and easy way to show your support for our youth. (For a rewarding experience, consider joining them for the



meal and getting to know them better.) <u>It's</u> <u>easy</u> - scan the QR code to schedule/sponsor your meal, or you can call Pastor Jo Marchetto, our Youth Director. What a wonderful way to show interest in and support our youth! <u>Thank you</u>.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

The last three holiday seasons, our Reverse Advent Calendar has been a big success, so we will be doing it again this year.

The calendar began in the middle of November and ends a week or so before Christmas so the items can be dropped off at church (in the narthex), have time to "cool off" and be delivered to the Emmaus Food Bank at Bethel Bible Fellowship Church in January.

Thank you to everyone who participated this year!



PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Messages to be shared via the Prayer Chain may be emailed directly to <u>prayers@faithchurchemmaus.org</u>. Messages can also be sent through a form on the Prayer Requests page of the church website. If you wish to be included in our Prayer Chain distribution list (or if you don't think you are receiving messages), please contact the office.

Stewardship Pledge Update

As of 12/17 we have 65 pledges at \$224,794.



It's not too late to pledge. It's not too late to pledge. The pledge cards will stay in the pews until the end of the year or use the on-line form found on the website: https://faithchurchemmaus.org/donate/pledge/.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

You might think that assisting during worship is a bit daunting, but it is easier than you think! Spoon-fed instructions are provided, with all the necessary materials. Everything is prepared for you! Yet, as easy as it is, volunteers are always needed. Here are the dates where a worship assistant is needed:



January 7

Contact Sally Heimbach, or use this link to the SignUpGenius: <u>https://bit.ly/3FCW8iO</u> Thank you.

Fellowship Hosts Needed



Everybody loves fellowship time following worship. It's a wonderful time to catch up with your church family! Hosting is easy and instructions are provided, but we still need people to volunteer. Here are the dates where hos

people to volunteer. Here are the dates where hosts are needed:

January 21, 28

Sign up on the whiteboard in the narthex, or contact Heather Davis. Thank you.

THE NURSERY NEEDS YOU!



We are looking for volunteers for the nursery during the worship time. If you do not have your clearances, we can assist

you in obtaining them. Here are the dates where volunteers are needed:

January 7, 14, 21, 28

Sign up on the whiteboard in the narthex, or see Sally Heimbach. Helpers will need their clearances. Thank you.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Scan this QR code to donate to aid disaster relief, or send a check with PDA in the memo line, mail to:

Presbyterian Disaster c/o Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) P.O. Box 643700 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700



TWO WEEKS OF FAITH

This calendar is prepared on the Thursday prior to distribution. Please see the church website for the most up-to-date information.

<u>Christmas Eve</u>

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 24

10:00 a.m.— Family Christmas Eve Service 11:00 a.m.- Sunday Morning Together 8:00 p.m.— Traditional Christmas Eve Service 11:30 p.m.— Outdoor Christmas Eve Service @

Emmaus Triangle

Monday, December 25

Christmas Church Office Closed

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Wednesday, December 27

8:00 a.m.— Rotary Food Program (FH) 7:00 p.m.— Faithful Harmonizers rehearsal (S)

Thursday, December 28

11:00 a.m.— Youth Group Movie Marathon 7:00 p.m.- Narcotics Anonymous (FH)

Friday, December 29

Saturday, December 30

9:00 a.m.- Zumba (FH)

<u>NEXT WEEK</u>

New Year's Eve

10:00 a.m.— Worship Service: Rev. Joanne Marchetto 11:00 a.m.— Sunday Morning Together

Monday, January 1 9:00 a.m.— Quilters

Sunday, December 31

Happy New Year! Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2 9:00 a.m.— Quilters (FH) 7:30 p.m.— Ministry of Support meeting (P)

Wednesday, January 3 7:00 p.m.— Faithful Harmonizers rehearsal (S)

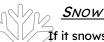
Thursday, January 4

Friday, January 5

Church Office Closed

Saturday, January 6 9:00 a.m.- Zumba (FH) 10:00 a.m.- Crazy Quilters (FH)

Weekly Volunteers Needed! Please see Page 3 for details.



SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

If it snows sufficiently to make you wonder if worship will be held, we will post the concellation information on WFMZ: (https:// www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter/).



ARE YOU GETTING THE INFO YOU NEED? Faith Church has four email lists. Are you interested in being added to one or more of them? Please indicate your interest, add your email address, tear off this tab, and drop in the offering plate.

Weekly Announcements Quarterly Newsletter

Prayer Chain

□ Emergency Alerts

Name & email:

Daybreak - January 8 2023 Per Capita—\$48.00 Spring Flyer deadline—February 18

Looking Ahead



Jan. 1Happy New Year 2024!
Jan. 7Pot Luck Luncheon
Jan. 28Annual Congregational Meeting
Feb. 4Pot Luck Luncheon, Talent Show
Feb. 23Youth Group 30 Hour Famine
Mar. 3Pot Luck Luncheon
Phantoms Hockey Game
Apr. 7Pot Luck Luncheon
Apr. 14Church Clean-Up Day
May 4Fellowship Event—Mind Body Soul
Jun. 17-20Vacation Bible School

Key BR Brick Room Fellowship Hall FH MR Music Room Р Parlor Sanctuary 7 Zoom