

**Christmas
Eve**



**First Presbyterian Church
December 24, 2015
6:00 P.M.**

THE CHURCH GATHERS . .

ORGAN PRELUDE

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND SHARING OF COMMUNITY LIFE

CAROL OF PREPARATION

“Let Us Light a Candle in the Darkness”

Text by Bishop Robert Willis

Music by Dr. Richard Shephard

In a world where people walk in darkness
Let us turn our faces to the light,
To the light of God revealed in Jesus,
To the Daystar scattering our night.
For the light is stronger than the darkness
And the day will overcome the night.
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.

In a world where suffering of the helpless
Casts a shadow all along the way,
Let us bear the Cross of Christ with gladness
And proclaim the dawning of the day.
For the light is stronger than the darkness
And the day will overcome the night.
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.

Let us light a candle in the darkness,
In the face of death, a sign of life.
As a sign of hope where all seems hopeless,
As a sign of peace in place of strife.
For the light is stronger than the darkness
And the day will overcome the night.
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leaders: Lou and Kathy Roberts and Family

We have watched; we have waited in hope. *Light the first candle*

For peace. *Light the second candle*

In joy. *Light the third candle*

With love. *Light the fourth candle*

Now our redemption draws near! *The Christ Candle (center) is lit*

Hear the Word of the Lord from Isaiah 9:2-7...

Glory to God in the highest!

ALL: Alleluia! Amen!

***CAROL OF ADORATION #41**

Adestes Fidelis

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God our Savior, we confess that we are not people of peace.
You came to show us mercy, but we are not merciful to others.
You came to establish justice, but we failed to seek what is right.
Forgive us, God of grace. Let your light shine upon us to deliver
us from evil and lead us in your holy way; through Jesus Christ
our Lord.**

***PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION IN SILENCE**

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***SUNG RESPONSE OF DEDICATION #23**

Gloria

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

TO HEAR AND REFLECT ON GOD’S WORD...

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

Isaiah 9:2 - 7

Pew Bible Page #555

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM:

Still, Still, Still
Traditional German Carol
Text: translated by Patricia Halbeck
Music: arranged by Anna Laura Page

Still, still, still, see the child asleep so still;
and Mary gently rocks her Baby
singing songs of love and mercy.
Still, still, still, see the child asleep so still.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, my tender little Baby, sleep.
The angels sing glad songs before you,
praising and rejoicing o'er you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, my tender little Baby, sleep.

Love, love, love, great is God's mighty love.
He left His throne in Heav'n above
and came to earth to show His love.
Love, love, love, great is God's mighty love.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

Luke 2:1 - 20
Pew Bible Page #832

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

Rev. James F. Stansbury

“Emmanuel”

**TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD
AND TO CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER...**

***CAROL OF THE PRESENCE OF JESUS #25**

Mueller

“Away in a Manger”

***INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

***THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Unison: 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

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(Please hold the bread and the cup until all have been served.)

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD AND FOR OURSELVES

TO SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST . . .

SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST, OUR EMMANUEL

(The pastor will light a candle from the Christ Candle and light the candles of the elders, who will then light the candles of the first person on each aisle.

Light will then be passed from worshiper to worshiper. The lighted candle should remain upright and the unlighted candle is tipped to the lighted candle.)

CAROL OF DEDICATION #60

Stille Nacht

(the candle is held close to the chest)

1. **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.**

(the candle is extended outward)

2. **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.”**

(the candle is extended upward)

3. **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.**

*** THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** SHARING GOD'S GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS**

(Please extinguish your candle, and then please take it with you to the receptacles in the narthex or the hallway as you leave. As you leave, please greet those around you, as we share together the good news of Jesus, our Lord Emmanuel, God with us.)

*** ORGAN POSTLUDE**

*** All who can do so comfortably will stand**

Welcome to Worship at the First Presbyterian Church on this Holy Night. We invite you to worship with us on future occasions. Each Sunday, we have Education Classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. and our Worship Service at 11 a.m.

All who seek to love and serve the One who has come as Emmanuel, God with us, and who are members of any Christian Church, are invited to share in the meal he has given us as a way of remembering him. According to the tradition of this congregation, we will hold the bread and the cup in order that we might eat and drink together when we are invited to do so. You are encouraged to hold the bread with the napkin provided as you break off Your piece.

Ruling Elder of the Month: LuAnne Law
Church Administrator: Kathleen Evans
Organist: Stanley Littleton
Custodian: Becky Strickland
Pantry Coordinator: Melissa Krebeck
Nursery Assistants: Tina Bigale and Carlee Wilson

First Presbyterian Church
Serving God with Faith, Hope and Love since 1835
Corner of Jefferson and Clinton Streets
Marianna, Florida
(850) 526-2430
website: www.firstpresmarianna.org
E-Mail: firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net