

*Hymn

“Silent Night”

#60

Benediction

Unison Reading

This evening we have offered praise to the Lord through Christmas Carols and opened our hearts to the beauty of worshipful music. We have heard a message of hope spoken once again against the challenge of sin in the world. We now depart and go forward in God's love and strength to share the glorious news that Christ is born. May the Lord bless us with Christ's grace so that we can share the peace of God with others on Christmas Day. Amen.

Postlude

All music in our bulletin is protected under CCLI#1409680

Church phone number

815-335-2051

Pastoral Cell

815-742-7503

SHARING THE WORD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Every member a minister...

Accompanist/Choir Director

Michelle West

Special music

Lydia West

Christmas Blessing to you and your family

First Presbyterian Church
Winnebago, Illinois
December 24, 2017
10:30 p.m.

Liturgical color is purple for the season of penitence and preparation

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship: **Unison Reading**
Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD God made us and has declared us holy. The prophet Isaiah said that the people would see a great light. Matthew proclaimed that Emmanuel, God with us, would open a holy pathway for sinful people. This morning we enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise because the LORD is good and his love endures forever. I will praise the Lord joyfully as I look forward to Christ's birthday. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle Judy Mitchell, Greg Keiback

*Hymn "Advent Song" (v.5) insert

Prayer of Adoration and Confession: **The Lord's Prayer**

Assurance of Pardon: **Unison Reading**
Merciful and gracious Light of the World, I have obeyed your Word and humbly approached you with praise and adoration. On this Christmas Eve I ask for your forgiveness and for an awakening to the miracle of your birth. By faith in you and your mercy and grace, I am forgiven and pardoned from my sins. In Jesus name, Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Leader: On this wondrous Christmas Eve we sincerely approach the Lord's Table with awe, praise and gratitude. It is a marvelous experience to approach the Lord's Table and celebrate Holy Communion with all of God's people in the church universal. We express genuine gratefulness to our Savior for His love, compassion, and sacrifice so that we have pardon from sin. On this blessed Christmas Eve, all of God's people are invited to commemorate Holy Communion with hearts filled with joy so that we can show the world that Jesus is Savior.

People: In this hour of anticipation, as we wait to celebrate Christ's birth, we enter holy communion with thankfulness that Christ has made us worthy to approach the Lord's Table in obedience to God's Holy Word. We remember the great sacrifice that Jesus made to provide us grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

Unison: We eat this bread and drink this cup with love and gratitude as we proclaim Christ's saving power to the world. We lift up our hearts and voices to Christ the Lord and offer thanks for His sacrifice that has granted us salvation.

Blessing of the Bread and Cup

Receiving of the Holy Communion coming forward

Prayer after Communion **Unison Prayer**
Most loving God, thank you for allowing us to be worthy to celebrate Holy Communion with all of your people in the church universal. We appreciate the wonderful opportunity to be renewed through your Holy Spirit so that we can share the good news of salvation to others. Please keep us steadfast in your holy pathway as we celebrate your birthday during this holiday season. We ask all of these things in your most holy name, Amen.

*Gloria Patri #579

Anthem "Breath of Heaven" Lloyd Larson

*Hymn "Joy to the World" #40

Passing of the Peace

Special music "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Jim Brickman
"The First Noel" Randy Farrar

RECEIVING THE WORD

Scripture: Luke 2:1-14 (KJV)

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of [the house](#) and lineage of David:) ⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST

2090

Advent Song
(Light the Advent Candle)



1. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, one: Now the
2. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, two: Think of
3. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, three: Think of
4. Light the Ad - vent can - dle, four: Think of
5. Light the Christ - mas can - dles, now: Sing of

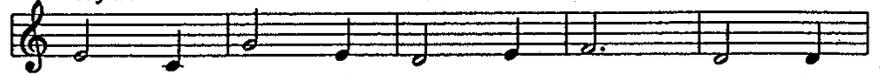


wait - ing has be - gun; we have start - ed
hum - ble shep - herds, who filled with won - der
heaven - ly har - mo - ny; an - gels sing - ing
joy for - ev - er - more; Christ Child in a
don - key, sheep, and cow; birth - day can - dles



on our way, time to think of Christ - mas day.
at the sight of the child of Christ - mas night.
"Peace on earth" at the bless - ed Sav - ior's birth.
sta - ble born, gift of love that Christ - mas morn.
for the King, let the al - le - lu - ias ring.

refrain



Can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, shin - ing



in the cold win - ter night; can - dle, can - dle,



burn - ing bright, fill our hearts with Christ - mas light.

WORDS: Mary Lu Walker (Luke 2:1-20)
MUSIC: Mary Lu Walker
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ADVENT CANDLE SONG
77.77 with Refrain