

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018 · 10:00 AM**

(\* Those who are able, please stand. Large print hymnals, bulletins & wireless hearing aids are available. Ask an usher. Members, please wear your name tag.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Sam

**PRELUDE** "O Holy Night" arr Matt Hyzer  
Kim Nethaway, Piano

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Dunadee Family

Unison Prayer: **Risen Christ, Light of the world,  
shine in our lives & shine in our world. Amen**

\*HYMN "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" # 29

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Emily Turner

Invitation  
Unison Prayer

**We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in  
your ways.**

**We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others.**

**Our feet have wandered from your paths of justice and peace.**

**Renew the Spirit of Jesus within us that we might be stirred to  
acts of compassion and service.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Pardon

Sharing God's Peace

Response "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" # 1 (v1)  
**Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Maryrose Scaccia

OLD TESTAMENT READING "The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God!**"

**2019 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Night Wind: Izzy Turner

Little Lamb: Cailyn Armstrong · Star: Alex Yates

*Twinkle, Twinkle Trio*

Cara Yates Violin · Evie Denton Clarinet · Noah Sexton Piano

Congregation Sings:

**Twinkle, Twinkle little star how I wonder what you are  
Up above the world so high like a diamond in the sky  
Twinkle, twinkle little star how I wonder what you are**

**Twinkle, Twinkle star so bright twinkle twinkle in the night  
God sent you to show the way to the place where Jesus lay  
Twinkle, Twinkle star so bright twinkle twinkle in the night**

**Twinkle, Twinkle holy star, shining brightly from afar,  
Up above the cattle stall, bringing good news to us all.  
Twinkle, twinkle holy star, shine forever where you are**

**Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas star, Over Beth-le-hem you are.  
Up above the stable high you're the brightest in the sky.  
Twinkle, twinkle Christmas star, Now I know just what you are!**

*Shepherd Boy* · Wesley Tucker

HYMN "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" # 31

*Kings* – Jon Denton, Ryan Fish and Isaiah Sexton

*Collecting Gifts for Jesus* – Animals: Faith Turner, Jason Tucker  
Fenna-Rose Tucker, Dylan Dunadee, Leah Sexton

*Holy Family* – The Bak Family –Andy, Bethany, Abby and Ana

UNISON PRAYER FOR PEACE

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much  
seek to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen**

HYMN "Do You Hear What I Hear" Lyrics Follow

**Said the night wind to the little lamb,  
"Do you see what I see?  
Way up in the sky, little lamb,  
Do you see what I see?  
A star, a star dancing in the night  
With a tail as big as a kite,  
With a tail as big as a kite."**

**Said the little lamb to the Shepherd boy,  
"Do you hear what I hear?  
Ringing through the sky, Shepherd boy,  
Do you hear what I hear?  
A song, a song high above the trees  
With a voice as big as the sea,  
With a voice as big as the sea."**

**Said the Shepherd Boy to the mighty king,  
"Do you know what I know?  
In your palace warm, mighty king,  
Do you know what I know?  
A child, a child shivers in the cold.  
Let us bring him silver and gold  
Let us bring him silver and gold."**

**Said the king to the people everywhere,  
"Listen to what I say!  
Pray for peace, people everywhere,  
Listen to what I say!  
The child, the child sleeping in the night  
He will bring us goodness and light,  
He will bring us goodness and light."**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the good news of Bethlehem.  
I believe in the one of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign.  
I believe in the one over whom the kings of the earth  
had no power, and who was not understood by the proud.  
I believe in the one to whom the poor and the outcast  
gave welcome.  
I believe in the one whose love changed the heart of the proud,  
and with his life showed that it is more important to serve  
than to be served.  
I believe in peace, justice among all nations,  
and love among all people.  
I believe in forgiveness,  
and the transforming power of the gospel.  
I believe that Christmas is strength and power,  
and that this world can change if with humility  
and faith we kneel before the manger.  
I believe that I must be the first one to do so.**

## OFFERING

Invitation

[Offertory Music](#)

*"Pastorale"*

Zipoli

Song of Praise

*"On Jordan's Bank"*

# 10 (v4)

**All praise to You, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit, evermore**

\*Prayer of Dedication

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Prayers of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer

*(Lord's Prayer on Laminated Pew Cards)*

\*HYMN

*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

# 38

\*BENEDICTION – concluding with

Leader:..Remember that God is good

**People:..All the time!**

\*SUNG RESPONSE

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way Through this and every coming day,  
That in Your Spirit strong and true Our lives may be our gift to You.**

[POSTLUDE](#)

Toccata on *"Midnight Clear"*

Young

**No Church School, Activity Period or Youth Choir Today**

**Welcome Visitors.** Please leave your contact info on the pink card that you find in the pew rack. Pick up a Visitor's brochure from the back or ask an Usher!

**Mission Statement:** First Presbyterian Church exists to improve our understanding of Christ; to spread His word and teachings; and to reach out to our church family, our community, and the world through acts of compassion, kindness, and love

**A Staffed Nursery & Toddler Care Room** is located on the 1st floor behind the sanctuary. We also offer an optional Quiet Room for parents with small children located in the sanctuary back

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering help to provide brighter educational opportunities at historically Presbyterian ethnic schools and colleges. Gifts to the offering also support the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, a fund that assists retired church leaders and their survivors in difficult times. Together, the Christmas Joy Offering supports the leaders of our church, past, present and future. The envelopes will be in the pews for the month of December. You can go to [www.pcusa.org/specialofferings](http://www.pcusa.org/specialofferings) to learn more.

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today ... 10:00 am.....Worship followed by Coffee Break in parlor

Mon ..... 8:00 pm.....Christmas Eve Worship

Church Offices Closed through 01/02 for Holiday & Vacation

**NEXT SUNDAY** ...Guest Preacher Michelle Dolan

No Church School Classes or Youth Choir

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**Ushers** are led by Ushers are led by Jim Henderson & Pageant Youth

Dec 30: Don Hanson

**Layreader** Dec 30: Kevin Taylor

**Worship Recorder** is John Nethaway. Dec 30: Shari Fish

**Deacon Ramp Duty** is Kiki Hinman. Dec 30: Amy Garcia

**Weekly Congregation & Presbytery Prayer List:** Sybil McDonough, Mary Davis, Betty Warren; Cheryl & Kyle Sexton; Shane, Megan & Paisley Mahosky; and Utica Presbytery Missions

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP at 8:00 PM

**Alternative Gift Giving:** Support A Cause in Honor of Someone You Love: Looking for the perfect gift for the person who has everything? Give a gift that brings hope and a new chance for a healthy and productive life for someone struggling to overcome poverty, & give that gift in honor of someone you love! Table is in between the Bell Choir room & Custodial offices

**Monday, Jan 21: Martin Luther King Day** "Day of Service" – Please join us at church to help organize our new "Mission Closet" and clean the pantry in the downstairs kitchen!!

**Per Capita 2019:** Per Capita has increased for 2019 to **\$41.14 per active member**. For those who receive church envelopes, there is an envelope dedicated to Per Capita, however, it is not necessary for payment. Checks should be made payable to 1<sup>st</sup> Pres Rome noting "per capita" in the memo line. We thank you for paying your share

**Epiphany Event:** The Christmas season doesn't end on Dec 25th. In fact, the 12 days of Christmas are just getting started. They conclude on Jan 6th, Epiphany, and marks the coming of the Three Wise Men. Epiphany falls on a Sunday in 2019. The holiday rush will be over, and we invite you to experience the true meaning of Christmas with your extended church family. We will have coffee hour in our downstairs dining hall and then work together in small pairings and groups of young and old to make a take-home nativity scene.



*First Presbyterian Church*

*108 West Court St - Rome*

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