

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017 · 10:00 AM

1st Sunday After Christmas / New Year's Eve

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

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS David Kolb

[PRELUDE](#) "In Dulci Jubilo" Held

CALL TO WORSHIP David Kolb

Leader Before we speak, God is here,
within us and among us, knocking at our door.

**People.... Living God, open what is closed
that the Spirit may come in.**

Leader Open our hands, to give, and to greet.
Open our minds to new truth and old wisdom.
Open our hearts to new hope and old assurance.

All Open what is closed that the Spirit may come in.

*HYMN "Joy to the World" # 40

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION Leader: Monica Taylor

Invitation

Unison Prayer

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children.**

We have kept silent in midst of prejudice and hatred.

We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice.

**We have not been a light to the nations,
and our lives have not revealed your glory.**

Forgive us, Merciful God.

**Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore us in your beauty
and grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Pardon

Sharing God's Peace

Response "O Little Town of Bethlehem" # 44 (v4)

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
o come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Psalm 148*) Mary Grow

Leader.....Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

People.... Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

**LeftPraise him, sun and moon; praise him,
all you shining stars!**

**Right.....Praise him, you highest heavens, **
and you waters above the heavens!

LeftLet them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.

Right.....He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

LeftPraise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

Right.....fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

LeftMountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Right.....Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

**LeftKings of the earth and all peoples, princes
and all rulers of the earth!**

Right.....Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Leader.....Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone
is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

**All He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel
who are close to him. Praise the LORD!**

*HYMN "Love Has Come" Insert

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3 Don Hanson
"The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God!**" OT Page 536

*HYMN "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" # 31

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:22-40 Don Hanson
"The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God!**" NT Page 45

LITANY OF PRAISE (Congregation Response in Bold) Sue Hanson

Living Christ, hinge of history, center of hope, human face of
holiness, executed by the powers of this world, raised beyond
mortality, alive among us: *with heart and mind and voice*

we praise you! "Hallelujah!"

Before all worlds, before time and space exploded into being,
before there was a "before," you shine, offspring of the Origin,
expression of eternity: *with heart and mind and voice*

we praise you! "Hallelujah!"

Before we were born, you grew inside your mother's womb, were
delivered, cradled, nursed, experienced childhood and youth, were
baptized, filled with the Spirit, and proclaimed the good news of
God's new world: *with heart and mind and voice*

we praise you! "Hallelujah!"

Before we were schooled in dominance and submission, you
washed your disciples' feet. Before we absorbed the worship of
force and the praise of revenge, you practiced forgiveness and
peace. Before we learned the ways of the world, you walked in the
light of new creation: And so, *with heart and mind and voice*

we praise you! "Hallelujah!"

Before we knew your name, your Spirit sighed through our
longings, moved us to seek you, and guided our search: *with heart
and mind and voice*

we praise you! "Hallelujah!"

Somewhere on our journey you met us. With a whisper or a shout
you call us. You are our hope and our joy, and nothing in death or
life, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, nothing in all
creation can separate us from your love. And so, *with heart and
mind and voice*

we praise you! "Hallelujah!"

[READINGS FOR MEDITATION](#)

Kevin Taylor
Bill Nee, David Kolb

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

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Responsive Creed
Bill Nee

Leader Today, as we affirm our faith, let us remind ourselves of
the promises of God and the foundation of the life of
faith. The world says, "Evil has always existed, and only
force can overcome it," but faith in Christ declares,

People.... In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. But sin came into the world and death came through sin.

Leader The world says, "Let the righteous destroy the wicked, that justice may be done," but faith in Christ declares,

People.... There is no one who is righteous, not even one. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Leader The world says, "Violence is necessary when it is used to put evil down," but faith in Christ declares,

People.... The Living God tests the righteous and the wicked, and . . . hates the lover of violence. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, but violence takes away life.

Leader The world says, "Lock them up and throw away the key," but the risen Christ declares,

People.... Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Living God."

Leader The world says, "We have to kill and to destroy to preserve what is good," but faith in Christ declares,

People.... Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Leader Lord, we believe.

All Help us in our unbelief.

OFFERING Mary Grow

Invitation

[Offertory Music](#) "Quem pastores" Drischner

Song of Praise "What Child Is This" # 53 (v3)

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

*Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing Joys & Concerns David Kolb

Prayers David Kolb

*HYMN "God of Our Life" # 275

*BENEDICTION – concluding with Pastor: ... God is good
People: .. All the time!

[POSTLUDE](#) "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" Young

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! Be sure share a cup of coffee with us today during our fellowship time immediately after Worship

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers/Greeters/Acolytes: Carl Longley; Jan 07: George Vickers

Layreader Jan 07: Helen Adsit

Worship Recorder is Valerie Wood. Jan 07: Katrina Schell

Deacon Ramp Duty is Clay Mowry. Jan 07: Bonnie Herter

Coffee Break is immediately after 10am worship in our parlor. Join us for fellowship! Please help pick up if you are able

Weekly Congregation & Presbytery Prayer List: Betty Warren, Mary Lou Talley, Martie Talley, and Presbytery of Utica Vision Group

EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

Mon/Tues Church Offices closed for vacation & holiday

Wed 7:30 pm.....Senior Choir

Sat 9:00 am.....Undecorating

NEXT SUNDAY . Genesis 1:1-5; Mark 1:4-11

Holy Communion & Fair Trade Sales

Undecorating Saturday at 9am – Please help if you are able

PRAYERS FOR A SAFE & BLESSED 2018

