

PRELUDE

Brass Ensemble

“Chorale From Sleeper’s Awake,” “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME & SHARING OF CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

*Please stand as you are able.

Bold text is spoken or sung by everyone.

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

INTROIT “Hope Is a Star” by Joel Raney, Brian Wren Chancel Choir

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

For those who are forsaken and alone,

Christ is coming to bring us love.

For those who are angry and hostile,

Christ is coming to bring us love.

For those who have turned away from personal interaction,

Christ is coming to bring us love.

For those who are pariahs, touched by scandal,

Christ is coming to bring us love.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Jim & Dolores Aue

A: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, “What makes you feel connected; what makes you feel loved?” From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

B: Handwritten notes.

A: Casseroles.

B: Being invited in.

A: The passing of the peace.

B: Family walks.

A: Youth group.

B: When I see my friends at preschool.

A: Surprise phone calls.

B: Making music with other people.

A: Home-cooked food.

B: Eye contact.

A: Dinner parties.

B: Hugs.

A: Today we light the candle of love as a reminder that from the very first generation, God has surrounded us with love. May this good news – these threads of love – not only weave deeper connections between neighbors, but shape our actions and allow us to see God more clearly. Amen. (*Light Fourth Candle.*)

B: In a lonely world, let this light shine bright. From generation to generation, we are held in God’s love. Thanks be to God for that good news.

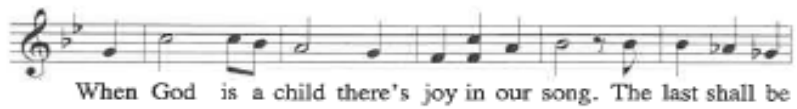
CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL RESPONSE – “Hope Is a Star”

Congregation & Choir sing together:

Hope Is a Star Congregational Part

Words by BRIAN WREN

Music by JOEL RANEY



© 2022 Hope Publishing Company, www.hopepublishing.com
All rights reserved.

The Publisher grants permission to reproduce this part for Congregational singing.

UNISON ADVENT OPENING PRAYER

O Lord God, there is nothing greater than the love you showed us when you gave your only Son to our broken world. Help us to accept this love freely into our hearts so we can become more faithful vessels of your hope and healing. Amen.

***HYMN #88** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (*Stanzas 6 & 7*)

CALL TO CONFESSION

One of the greatest gifts *and* challenges of faith is that we cannot be Christian alone. We *need* one another. We need one another to grow. We need one another to love. And we need one another to see God more clearly. So together, let us lift our voices in unison. Let us lean into the ties that bind and pray to our merciful God.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of today and tomorrow, when Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth’s house. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her. How often do we have that same opportunity? How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy? Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor.

SILENT CONFESSION TO GOD

Silence is held for personal confession.

Lord, hear our prayer, and change our lives until we illustrate the grace of the God who makes all things new. **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

Friends, this is what I know – God delights in us. God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says, “Come on home. There is room for you here!” And in that moment, we are seen, healed and welcomed home. So rest in this good news: you are saved by grace. Let us respond together, using the words from Mary’s song: **“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely from now on, all generations will call me blessed.”** (Luke 1:47-48)

***SONG OF ASSURANCE #583** “Gloria, Gloria”

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. To this peace we were called as members of a single body. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with those around us.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of all, we are a mixed bag of distracted and forlorn, eager and anxious. We hope that you might move through the obstacle course we build up around our hearts – made out of questions and defenses – and douse us in good news. For at the end of the day, all we want is to know that we are not alone, that you are always near. So knock on our door, sweet-talk the guard dog we place in front of our vulnerable hearts, and come right in. Make yourself at home. Pull us close and tell us your story of unbelievable good news. We are listening. We are grateful. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-45, 56-58

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’ And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home. Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

RESPONSE

Heaven and earth will pass away but the word of the Lord stands forever. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM "See, Amid the Winter's Snow" Brass Ensemble

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:46-55
And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'

RESPONSE
For your words that tell stories, your words that make us laugh and cry, your words that make us think,
Thank you, God.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY "The Christmas Hedgehog"
SEE INSERT

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN #110 "Love Has Come"

JOYS AND CONCERNS
In order to preserve confidentiality, the sharing of joys and concerns portion of our service is limited to only those present in the sanctuary.
We pray to the Lord...**Lord, hear our prayer.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION Christmas Joy Offering Dan Burk

A TIME FOR GENEROSITY
All that we have is the Lord's. All that we may become and receive is in God's hands. For the sake of the joy that is ours when our bonds grow deep with others, let us give generously for the well-being of the world with our regular and our special Christmas Joy Offering this day.

OFFERTORY "Il est ne le Divin Enfant" Brass Ensemble

***DOXOLOGY #123** "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" (St. 5)
For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old. When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold. When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling. And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR REGULAR & CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**
Holy God, you bless us with many gifts, you retrieve us from despair and fear, you visit us with surprising proclamations, and you intend for us good things. We thank you for your steadfast love, for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring comfort, justice and joy to those in need, reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: #100 "Canticle of the Turning" (Stanzas 1 & 2)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**
***LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES WITH US**
We carry the Christ Candle out of the sanctuary as a reminder that God's love is with us, even as we go out in peace, guided by the Spirit to bring healing and hope to a broken, hurting, and grieving world.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE "Christmas Concerto IV" Brass Ensemble

PARTICIPATING IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Laurie Brubaker Davis
Guest Preachers	All the children in the play
Lector	Dan Burk
Advent Candle Lighters	Jim & Dolores Aue
Piano/Organ	Dan Kayhart
Choir Director	Greg Reiersen
Brass Ensemble	Trombone: Dave Carroll, Dan Kayhart, Zach Kayhart, Kathy Phillips Tuba: Mark Peterson
Video Technician	Greg Walsh
Deacons	Jennifer Lurvey, Danielle Redding, Janet Singer
Greeters	Toney Bookhart, Ron Rank
Nursery	Therese Brooks

**Prayers in this liturgy are written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed/A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctified art.org*



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Advent Candle Lighting
Children's Christmas Play
December 18, 2022

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS! We would be delighted if you would fill out our quick and easy green VISITOR CARD in the center pocket of your pew. Please place it in the offering plate or give it to the pastor after worship.

WELCOME TO FAMILIES with children and infants for worship. The staffed nursery is available for infants through three years old. Worship Bags, on a stand at the entrance to the sanctuary, are available to enhance kids' worship experience.

CHRISTMAS EVE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER! All are invited to attend our **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** on Saturday, December 24. Prelude Concert begins at 6:45 P.M. with instrumental and vocal solos, and handbells. The Service of Lessons & Carols will begin at 7:00 P.M. with the music of organ, piano, handbells, brass and string ensembles, followed by Holy Communion. It will culminate with the lighting of the Christ Candle, and everyone singing "Silent Night, Holy Night" by individual candlelight (glow sticks for children). The Chancel Choir will sing. Bring your extended family and friends visiting for the holiday.



HEARING & VISUAL ASSISTANCE Ask an Usher for help: Switch hearing aid to T-Coil Loop Listeners. Magnifiers are available

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: First Presbyterian Church, Marshfield, Wisconsin seeks to welcome all to join us on our journey of faith, denying no one, based upon his or her particular human condition, participation in the life of the church. We want to be a safe place, a sanctuary where people are accepted, included, and cared for as they are. We will be agents of God's transforming power, aligning ourselves with the Holy Spirit as we pray, worship, learn, share fellowship and serve together. By attending to the love of Jesus Christ in our midst, we discover a deepening faith that makes a difference in our lives. As a community based on God's love, we strive to be of service to our neighbors and to the world.

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.... GOD DWELLS WITH US

is our theme for Advent 2022. The stories, scriptures and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday holds. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched in the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let you go.

IN OUR PRAYERS: The family & friends of Sandy Christensen, Betty Pratt, Adele Heller, Diane Mueller, Cathy Sutterer, Don & Lyn Zais and family and Terry Bernick. Please give names for the prayer list to the church office. Names will be kept on the prayer list for two months.

OUTREACH TO THE HOMEBOUND, RECOVERING AND ON OUR

HEARTS: Each week we list one of our members or friends and encourage you to send a card or note. This week we are thinking of: **Meda Heywood, 1047 Hill St., Apt 2565, Watertown, WI 53090.** Please reach out to anyone you think needs a little encouragement with a friendly chat. Lift a spirit with a phone call, email, FB message, etc.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: The Christmas Joy Offering will be received today. The envelopes will be in the pews and in your bulletins. If you would like to give on a different date, we will be accepting the offering from now until mid-January. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

JESUS'S BIRTHDAY PARTY: Please come to the Fellowship Hall immediately after today's worship to celebrate Jesus's Birthday with cupcakes, coffee, and juice. The Youth Group will have their Christmas Cookie Plates available for purchase there. And you will have an opportunity to greet the cast members from the Christmas play.

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.... GOD DWELLS WITH US

is our theme for Advent 2022. The stories, scriptures and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday holds. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched in the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let you go.

IN OUR PRAYERS: The family & friends of Sandy Christensen, Betty Pratt, Adele Heller, Diane Mueller, Cathy Sutterer, Don & Lyn Zais and family and Terry Bernick. Please give names for the prayer list to the church office. Names will be kept on the prayer list for two months.

OUTREACH TO THE HOMEBOUND, RECOVERING AND ON OUR

HEARTS: Each week we list one of our members or friends and encourage you to send a card or note. This week we are thinking of: **Meda Heywood, 1047 Hill St., Apt 2565, Watertown, WI 53090.** Please reach out to anyone you think needs a little encouragement with a friendly chat. Lift a spirit with a phone call, email, FB message, etc.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: The Christmas Joy Offering will be received today. The envelopes will be in the pews and in your bulletins. If you would like to give on a different date, we will be accepting the offering from now until mid-January. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

JESUS'S BIRTHDAY PARTY: Please come to the Fellowship Hall immediately after today's worship to celebrate Jesus's Birthday with cupcakes, coffee, and juice. The Youth Group will have their Christmas Cookie Plates available for purchase there. And you will have an opportunity to greet the cast members from the Christmas play.

PASTOR LAURIE WILL BE ON VACATION December 26-January 2, returning to the office on January 3. If you have a pastoral emergency during her absence, please contact Rev. Janet Wolfe at 715-486-9307.

PLEASE NOTE THE FPC OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2, to observe the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays.

DO YOU KEEP FORGETTING TO TURN IN YOUR 2023 PLEDGE? Good news: It's not too late. Pledge Cards are available in the Narthex or online through our website. Easy Giving forms are on the table by the church office.

WE CHOOSE WELCOME: We at FPC have embraced the "We Choose Welcome" awareness campaign of the PC(USA) which expresses our personal and church-wide commitment to welcome refugees and immigrants into our communities. The phrase comes from Gradye Parsons, former Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in which he urged us to "Choose Welcome, Not Fear." In the midst of: fear of terrorism and radicalism; hate speeches and hate crimes, anxiety about our own economic prosperity, and political debates which seek to divide us between those who were born here and those who were not-we choose welcome for all children of God, proclaiming one household.

FPC REVISED COVID PROTOCOLS POSTED ON ENTRY DOORS
IF YOU HAVE ANY COVID SYMPTOMS, PLEASE WORSHIP ONLINE OR BY CABLE TV. OUR SERVICE IS AVAILABLE ON THESE PLATFORMS.

- **MASKING PROTOCOLS WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT CDC WOOD COUNTY THREE-TIERED THREAT LEVEL: LOW, MEDIUM, OR HIGH.**
- **CURRENT THREAT WEEKLY LEVEL IS UPDATED BY THE CDC ON THURSDAY EVENINGS AND IS INDICATED BY THE ARROW ON THE SIGNS ON OUR OUTSIDE DOORS.**

PASTOR LAURIE WILL BE ON VACATION December 26-January 2, returning to the office on January 3. If you have a pastoral emergency during her absence, please contact Rev. Janet Wolfe at 715-486-9307.

PLEASE NOTE THE FPC OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2, to observe the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays.

DO YOU KEEP FORGETTING TO TURN IN YOUR 2023 PLEDGE? Good news: It's not too late. Pledge Cards are available in the Narthex or online through our website. Easy Giving forms are on the table by the church office.

WE CHOOSE WELCOME: We at FPC have embraced the "We Choose Welcome" awareness campaign of the PC(USA) which expresses our personal and church-wide commitment to welcome refugees and immigrants into our communities. The phrase comes from Gradye Parsons, former Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in which he urged us to "Choose Welcome, Not Fear." In the midst of: fear of terrorism and radicalism; hate speeches and hate crimes, anxiety about our own economic prosperity, and political debates which seek to divide us between those who were born here and those who were not-we choose welcome for all children of God, proclaiming one household.

FPC REVISED COVID PROTOCOLS POSTED ON ENTRY DOORS
IF YOU HAVE ANY COVID SYMPTOMS, PLEASE WORSHIP ONLINE OR BY CABLE TV. OUR SERVICE IS AVAILABLE ON THESE PLATFORMS.

- **MASKING PROTOCOLS WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT CDC WOOD COUNTY THREE-TIERED THREAT LEVEL: LOW, MEDIUM, OR HIGH.**
- **CURRENT THREAT WEEKLY LEVEL IS UPDATED BY THE CDC ON THURSDAY EVENINGS AND IS INDICATED BY THE ARROW ON THE SIGNS ON OUR OUTSIDE DOORS.**

The Christmas Hedgehog

A Christmas Play by Doris Wells Miller

Adapted for FPC by Darlene Berry, Pastor Laurie & Carmen Lawler

December 18, 2022 ~ First Presbyterian Church, Marshfield, WI

Scene 1 Leaving church after choir practice

Jenny's jealousy toward her new baby sister boils over on the playground with her best friend Davy.

Scene 1B In the car on the way home

The children tell their parents about the church Christmas play, and Davy gets an important question answered.

Scene 2 First Dress Rehearsal for the Christmas Play

The rehearsal goes well enough until the shepherd and his sheep, including Jenny, appear on cue.

Scene 2B Right After the rehearsal

A surprise convergence leads to an unexpected ending.

CAST: (in order of appearance)

Grown-Up Derek	Robert Kaiser
Jerry/Dad/Joseph	Elliot Johnson
Elaine/Mom/Mary	Brinley Daul
Deena/Older Sibling/Cow	Kelsey Wray
Davy/Middle Sibling/Hedgehog	Emmett Cooper
Derek/Younger Sibling/Shepherd	Robert Kaiser
Dax/Youngest Sibling/Goat	Noah Schilling
Alice/Mom of Jenny & Baby Ava	London Miller
Jenny/Daughter of Alice/Lamb	Carly Schilling
Mrs. Wells (Play Director)	Arissa Kaiser
Mrs. Malby (Narrator of Play)	Addison Wray
Donkey	James Gear
Dog 1	Dillon Wray
Dog 2	Alice Gear
Baby Brother Lamb	Jude Kaiser
Other Lambs	TBD

BEHIND THE SCENES

Co-Directors:	Pastor Laurie & Darlene Berry & Carmen Lawler
Backstage Mom	Beth Gear
Directors' Assistant	Josette Kaiser
Costume Wranglers	Kristina & Dominic Kaiser, Darlene Berry, Carmen Lawler
Hedgehog Costume	Created by Beth Walsh
Sound Technician & Special Effects	Greg Walsh
Piano	Dan Kayhart
Stagehands	Jon Burnett & Roxie Wetterau

Thank you to all parents, grandparents, siblings and friends who supported our cast and crew in ways too numerous to name.

POINSETTIA PLANTS

Given by:

Toney Bookhart
Lisa Carroll
Melissa & Travis Cooper

Bob & Laurie Davis

Adele Heller
Linda Hitchman
Koehn Family
Lawler Family

Jennifer Lurvey
Sue Nelson
Gil & Kathy Nimm
Diane Saindon
Gerri Toyama
John & Kutzie Wing

In Memory of:

Elaine Bookhart
Gene & Joan Seefeldt; Joan Carroll
Dorance & Joan Gibbs;
Bob & Donna Nimm
Our parents: Ed & Dorie Brubaker
Bob & Fran Davis
My parents
My parents: Joyce & Ken Merriman
Grandpa Koehn
Valerie Lawler, James Reynolds,
Ethan Reynolds, and Alejandra Lawler
Family lost too soon
My parents: Bob & Grace Blair
Our parents: Dorance & Joan Gibbs
Parents: Jerry & Sally Saindon

Ben & Alice Wing

Given by:

Bob & Laurie Davis
Nancy Hindes

Gil & Kathy Nimm

Ellen Stanley

In Honor of:

Our grandchildren
Great grandsons: Dawson Joseph
& Brekken James
Our parents: Bob & Donna Nimm;
Our daughters: Jessica Nimm, Elizabeth
Nimm and Melissa Cooper; our son-in-
law, Travis Cooper and our grandson,
Emmett Cooper
My dear friend, Pam Smith



The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

12136-22-305

WAYS TO GIVE



Through your congregation



Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy

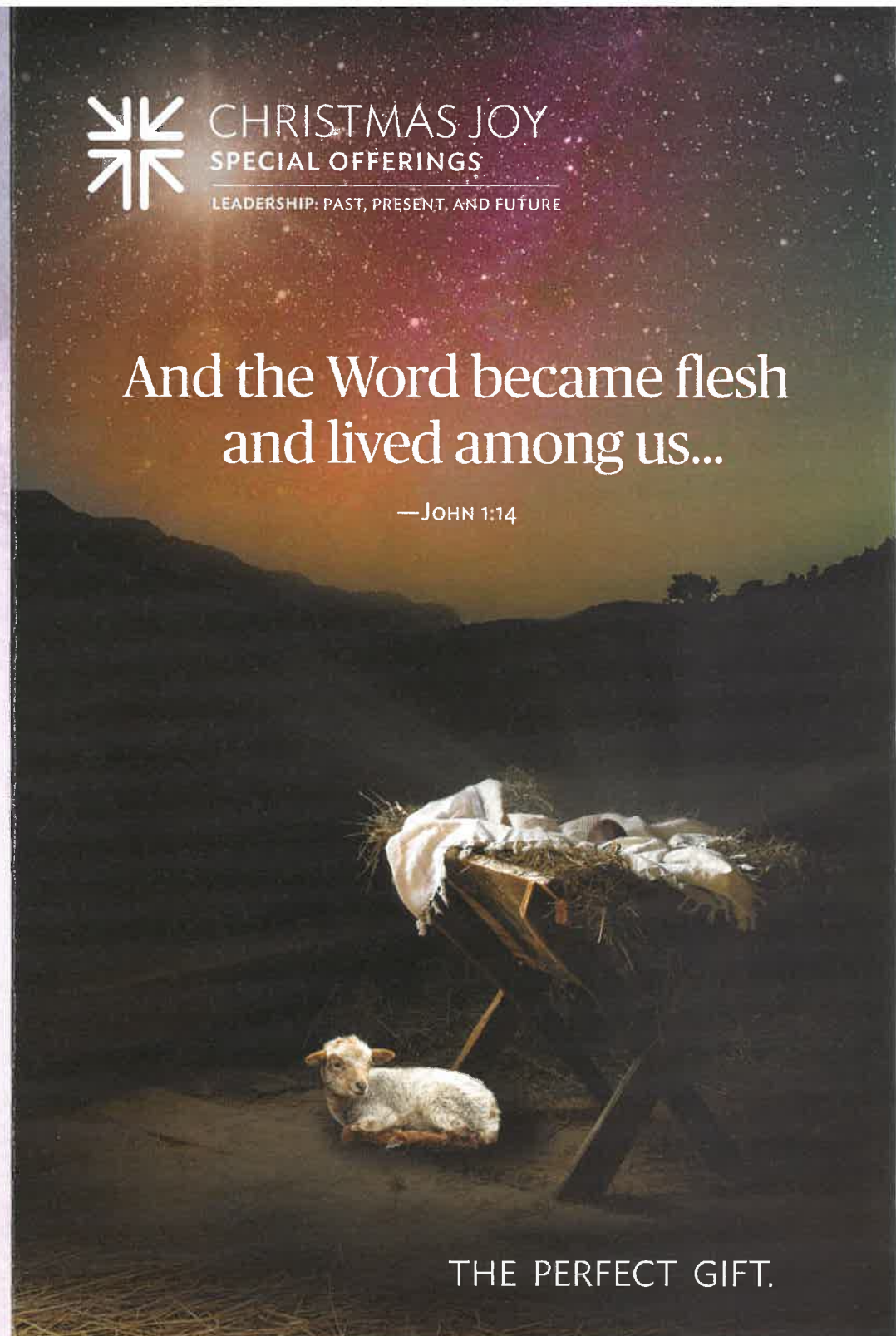


Text
CHRISTMASJOY
to 91999
to give or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy



And the Word became flesh
and lived among us...

—JOHN 1:14



THE PERFECT GIFT.

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future.

50%

of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.



Rev. Sunjae Jung was living in Korea with his family when he was called to serve the Athens Korean Presbyterian Church near Atlanta. Shortly after the family arrived, COVID struck, leading to a severe financial impact on both his congregation and his family. The family found itself struggling to make ends meet. They applied for and received an Emergency Grant split evenly between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and the Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

“I truly believe these programs have met Rev. Jung at a time of real need, and I’m hopeful good momentum is on his horizon so he can continue to lend his gifts towards ministry.”

— Lucas McCool, Assistance Program Operations Manager,
PC(USA) Board of Pensions



50%

of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Samual Polanco credits his experience at the Menaul School as being instrumental in breaking down life’s many barriers. That Jesus broke down dividing walls and welcomed everyone is very much a reality on the Menaul campus, especially during mission week. Samual and his classmates spent five days on the U.S.-Mexico border with the goal of building understanding and relationships.

“We teach that faith is to be lived out in the world. Because so many young people today see the church as building walls to isolate and separate, we at Menaul are all about opening doors to the richness of God’s creation.”

— John Sitler, Teacher, Menaul School

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY...
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!



Prayers for the Journey

CARRYING CHRISTMAS WITH US

Created by Rachel Doboney Benton

A NOTE OF INVITATION

**These daily prayers begin on
Christmas Eve (Dec 24), walk us
through the 12 days of Christmas,
and end on Epiphany (Jan 6).**

If you will be home for the holidays, we invite you to place the prayer cards in a visible spot in your home, such as a kitchen table, for daily access. Or, if you will be traveling, plan to tuck them in your suitcase or in your car so that you can carry Christmas with you wherever you go. May God's presence be near as we celebrate Christ's birth and the gift of the incarnation.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Jesus, you are joy to the world.

With you, we find welcome for all.
With you, we see God's presence
in each other.

With you, we experience a love that
is bigger than we can imagine.

Praise be to God.

AMEN.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Jesus, you are God with us.

Thank you for being beside us,
around us,

with us,
and for us.

With you, we are never alone.

AMEN.

DECEMBER 26

Jesus, you are love.

You are love in the world.

You are love in us.

You are love itself.

Your love matters
more than anything else.

Help us to be a part of your love today.

AMEN.

DECEMBER 27

Jesus, you are good news.

You are good news to people who are sick.

You are good news to people who are sad.

You are good news to people who don't
have enough.

You are good news to us.

Help us to be good news of hope and peace
and joy, too.

AMEN.

DECEMBER 28

**Jesus, you hold us in our tears
and hurt.**

As you wrap your arms around us,
help us to wrap our arms
around others
so that we all may know
your great big love.

AMEN.

DECEMBER 29

*Take a deep, cleansing breath, then inhale and
exhale as you pray these words (silently or aloud)
until they rest in your heart.*

[INHALE]

The way of love,

[EXHALE]

is with us.

AMEN.

DECEMBER 30

Jesus, you remind us God's grace is full of surprises.

You come to earth not as a powerful king, but as a baby.

Not in a palace, but a stable.

Not with signs of power and might, but with gentleness and love.

Help us to live in surprising ways like that, too.

AMEN.

DECEMBER 31

Jesus, you become one with us

So that we might become one with God.

Help us to follow you

with all that WE are

So that we might embody all that YOU are to the world.

AMEN.

JANUARY 1

Take a deep, cleansing breath, then inhale and exhale as you pray these words (silently or aloud) until they rest in your heart.

[INHALE]

Jesus makes,

[EXHALE]

all things new.

AMEN.

JANUARY 2

Jesus, you take what seems ordinary and make it holy.

Help us to see your goodness and blessing everywhere we look.

AMEN.

JANUARY 3

Jesus, you have many names.

We call you Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, Lord, Good Shepherd, Son of God, Messiah, and more!

They are all great names, but sometimes, you are just too wonderful for words.

So, for today, simply know, I am so thankful that You are You.

AMEN.

JANUARY 4

Take a deep, cleansing breath, then inhale and exhale as you pray these words (silently or aloud) until they rest in your heart.

[INHALE]

Good Shepherd,

[EXHALE]

Prince of Peace.

AMEN.

JANUARY 5

Jesus, you open our imaginations to what is possible.

Help us to look for the best in one another.

Help us to see each other with wonder and thankful hearts.

AMEN.

EPIPHANY

Jesus, you are light.

Light that guides us and helps us to know the way.

Light that encourages us and gives us hope.

Help us to shine your light in the world, too.

AMEN.