

W CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

3rd Sunday
of Advent
December 16, 2018

The Journey to Bethlehem

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome	Trinity Whitley
Presentation of Bibles to 3 & 4 Year Olds	Mary Steen
Prelude	Adam Ravain
*Call to Worship (<i>responsive</i>)	Oakley Deison

We come to witness a miracle.

We sing the miracle of God's steadfast love.

New life bursts forth in unexpected ways.

We shout the good news: God's covenant endures forever!

The desert blooms; what was barren is fertile!

**With our mouths we proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations: God is the
Rock of our Salvation! Amen.**

*Hymn No. 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Lighting of the Advent Candle	The Evans Family
Response: <i>Wait for the Lord</i>	(hymn no. 90)
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!	
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!	

Call to Confession	Jacob Gooding
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Prayer of Confession

O Holy God of Promise,

We so often place our trust in the things we can see, and touch, and easily believe.

But You did not ask us to believe what is easy; You have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us when we doubt the ways You work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us when we question how You chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. (*silent confession*)

Faithful God,

Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that You sent Your Son, born of a virgin, the One who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of Your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Jacob Gooding

*Choral Response *Angels We Have Heard on High (chorus only)*
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*The Passing of the Peace

Jacob Gooding

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

(During the Passing of the Peace, children are invited to come forward for the time with our young disciples.)

Proclamation of the Word

Prayer With Our Young Disciples

Mary Steen

(After the children's time, K-2nd graders may go with their leaders to Children's Worship. Parents are welcome to take 3-5 year olds to the playground for Children's Enrichment. Please sign in your children at the sanctuary exit door.)

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:26-35 (*pew Bible p. 831*)

Trinity Whitley

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ!

Sermon

The Journey to Bethlehem: Mary, A Joyful Servant

Trinity Whitley

Response to the Word

*Hymn No. 145

What Child is This

Offering

Offertory

Breathe of Heaven
arr. Don Heart

Chancel Choir
Holly Pursino, soloist

Prayer of Dedication (*responsive*)

Oakley Deison

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*Affirmation of Faith *The Apostle's Creed* Brad Clayton

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer Brad Clayton

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.

*Hymn No. 146 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

Sending Out Into the World

*Charge & Benediction Trinity Whitley

*Congregational Response *Amen* Hymnal p. 601

Postlude Adam Ravain

New Member Class

Interested in learning more about Faith Presbyterian Church?
Ready to join us? Attend the next New Member Class on
Sunday, **January 13**, in the Parlor right after worship.
Please RSVP your attendance to trinity@faithpcusa.org.
Lunch and childcare will be provided.

Angel Tree. Thank you for making Christmas brighter for many families in our area this year through the Angel Tree. If you have not yet returned your wrapped gift with the angel on the outside of the package, please do so today if possible.

Wednesday Night Alive. Note that Wednesday Night Alive will resume on **January 9**.

A Christmas Carol. We are excited to present an adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* at Faith on **December 20 and 21** at 7:30 p.m. and **December 22** at both 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This year, performances will be staged "in the round" which means that all of the action will take place in the center of the room, providing every seat with a great view and offers a fully immersive experience as the cast of sixty plus carolers surround the audience with carol singing and holiday cheer. For a full description of the show and/or to select and purchase tickets, please visit www.faithpcusa.org/achristmascarol.

Christmas Breakfast. In lieu of Sunday School next week (**December 23**), please join us at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall for a Christmas Breakfast and Carol Sing. This is an intergenerational event for all ages; invite your friends!

Christmas Joy Offering. Next Sunday, **December 23**, we will have the opportunity to participate in this special offering to support students at Presbyterian related schools and colleges and for current and retired church workers and families with critical financial needs. To participate in this offering, please use the special envelope in next Sunday's bulletin.

2018 Contributions. Please remember that contributions for 2018 need to be postmarked by **December 31**. It is also not too late to turn in a pledge card for 2019 so we can finish planning the 2019 budget. Thanks for your help!

Church Office Holiday Hours. The church office will be closed from **December 24 through January 1**.

Christmas at Faith

Sunday, December 23, 9:30 a.m. Christmas Breakfast in Fellowship Hall, with singing of Christmas carols.

Monday, December 24, 5:00 p.m. Christmas Family Service. Children are invited to select a costume as they enter the sanctuary to participate in the Christmas story. The nursery will not be open for this service.

Monday, December 24, 7:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Communion Service. Christmas Poinsettias may be picked up at the conclusion of this service. The nursery will be open for this service.

December 24 - January 1. Church Office Closed.

Sunday, December 30, 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary. No Sunday School.

Stewardship Update

Budget YTD: \$1,184,234
Received YTD: \$1,093,268
Spent YTD: \$1,065,887



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