

New Year's Eve Combined Service
Sunday, December 31 ~ 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Center

Holiday Schedule

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25 - Tuesday, December 26 and Monday, January 1. The Clothes Closet will be closed on Tuesday, December 26 and Tuesday, January 2.

Poinsettias

If you placed a poinsettia in the church in memory or honor of someone this Christmas season, we thank you for adding to the beauty of our church. Those who purchased poinsettias may take them home after the service.



First Presbyterian Church
100 West Church Circle
Kingsport, TN 37660
(423) 245-0104
Email: office@firstpreskingsport.org
www.firstpreskingsport.org

First Presbyterian Church

Kingsport, Tennessee

Seeking to see the face of Christ...

Striving to be the hands of Christ



Readings & Carols ~ A Service of Communion & Candlelight

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023
5:00 p.m.

PIANO MEDITATION Guest pianist, Donna Hathaway

SUNG INVOCATION “For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits”

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world.

All: In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call to open our hearts to his presence.

Readings & Carols

POEM “A Clearing” Christine Rodgers

SUNG PRAYER “While We Are Waiting, Come” (Choir, then All join)

SCRIPTURE READING (from Isaiah 7 and 9)

CHORALE “Immanuel” M. Card; arr J. Purifoy

POEM “Veiled Majesty”

*CAROL “The First Nowell” (vs.1,6)

POEM “Emmanuel”

CAROL “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (vs.1,3)

POEM “Gloria”

*CAROL “Angels We Have Heard on High” (vs.1,3)

POEM “Pondering the Winter Mystery”

CAROL “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs.3,4)

POEM “Covenant”

CAROL “What Child Is This?” (vs.1,2*)

POEM “Nativity”

CHORALE “Christmas Sanctus” L. Dengler

POEM “The Mighty Pilgrimage”

*CAROL “We Three Kings” (vs.1,5)

POEM “Song on the Feast of the Epiphany”

The Word Proclaimed

SCRIPTURE READING (Luke 2)

MESSAGE “The Real Christmas” Mike Shelton

*CAROL OF RESPONSE “Joy to the World” (vs.1,4)

Communion & Candlelight

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served by intinction. Worshippers are invited to come forward by rows, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and partake. If you prefer, individual cups are available from the elder closest to the outside aisle. If you have difficulty coming to the front of the sanctuary, an elder will be happy to serve you in your seat.

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSICAL MEDITATION (Chorale: “Cradle Song*”; ”O Holy Night”, Lynetta Johnson, handbells)

PRAYER

A LITANY OF HOPE

Leader: He was born in a stable, but at his birth angels sang, plain people knelt to worship, great men rose to pay homage.

People: **He grew up in obscurity, but when he declared himself, it was as if a new sun had risen.**

Leader: He lived a life of love and died a death of shame.

People: **The life he lived and the death he died were for our salvation.**

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

People: **We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell. Come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

POEM “Luminous Night”

*CANDLE LIGHTING CAROL “Silent Night, Holy Night” (vs.1,3,4) arr. H. Hopson
(Candles will be lit at the end of rows; please light your neighbor’s in turn.)

THE BENEDICTION Mike Shelton
(Please extinguish candles and place in the containers provided at exit)

Tonight’s Offering will benefit the Kingsport City Schools Homeless Education Program

Christine Rodgers, poet

Christine Rogers is an actor and poet living in San Francisco. Her poetry has appeared in *America*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *Fellowship*, *Radical Grace*, and on a variety of websites. She has published three collections of poetry, *Into the Green Heart of God*, *Upon a Luminous Night*, and *Embracing the Sacred Journey*. Christine has facilitated poetry circles in a variety of settings – including The Healing Well in the Tenderloin. She is an advocate for the full expression of women in the Catholic tradition.

* “What Child Is This?” (original vs.2 – Heather Garland)

* ”Cradle Song” (original text – Mark Davis)

*Those who are able please stand