

## HELLO FUPC FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

In this mailing you'll find the Order of Worship for our Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols. Please join us at 5:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve via zoom by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5739200081> or join us by phone (312-626-6799). If you're joining by phone, enter meeting ID 573-920-0081. If you've not used zoom before, follow the instructions provided at the link. If you need help with zoom, call D.R. Palmer before Christmas Eve. It is so good to see and hear each other! Please plan to join us!

**Christmas JOY Offering** – Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

If you would like to make a monetary offering for the church or for the denominational Christmas JOY Offering, please go to the "GIVE" link on our website (lvpresbyterian.org).

### *Many thanks to the participants in our Christmas Eve Zoom Worship*

Pastor - Rev. Katie Palmer Zoom Host – D.R. Palmer

Director of Music – Karyl Lyne Visuals – Tegan Palmer

Readers – Chad Boliek, Tom Trigg, Beth Urech Pianist - Em Krall

Singers – Pam Abreu, Christie Baskett, Deb Allen-Reid, Erin Gilland, Mark Gillingham,

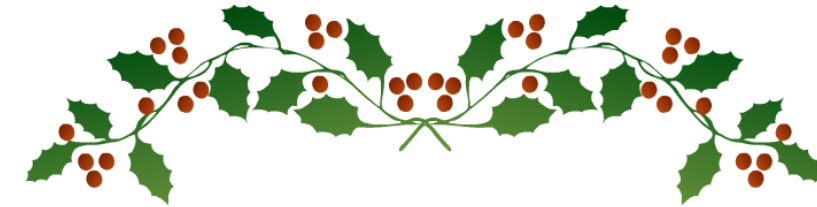
Judy Long, Karyl Lyne, Rosalie Masoero, D.R. Palmer, Tegan Palmer, Kent Reid

Potter – Felicia Flanagan



First United Presbyterian Church  
1000 Douglas Avenue  
PO Box 37  
Las Vegas NM 87701

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP



**Christmas Eve – 2020**  
**First United Presbyterian Church**  
**Las Vegas, New Mexico**

## A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

**MEDITATION:** *The birth of Jesus made possible not just a new way of understanding life but a new way of living it.* –Frederick Buechner

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Katie Palmer

### PRELUDE

Em Krall

### PREPARING THE WAY



**INTROIT** *Change This Lump of Clay*

### WELCOME

**FIRST LESSON:** Isaiah 52:7-10

Beth Urech

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**CAROL:** *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Kevin Thomas, Soloist

### THE RITUAL OF THE ADVENT WREATH – Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

**CAROL:** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (GTG #133, v. 1, 3, 4)

**SECOND LESSON:** Matthew 1:18-21

Tom Trigg

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

**CAROL:** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (GTG #82)

**GATHERING PRAYER**

Rev. Katie Palmer

**GOD COMES INTO THE WORLD**

**THIRD LESSON:** Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Chad Boliek, HR

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

**CAROL:** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* (GTG #107)

**FOURTH LESSON:** Luke 2:1-7

Tom Trigg

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**CAROL:** *Away in a Manger*

Pam Abreu and Erin Gilland

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:**

**FIFTH LESSON:** Luke 2:8-18, 20

Beth Urech

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ... The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**CAROL:** *Angels We Have Heard on High* (GTG #113)

**PONDERING IN CANDLELIGHT**

**SIXTH LESSON:** Luke 2:19

Tom Trigg

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

**CAROL:** *Love Has Come* (GTG #110)

*We invite you to light a candle if you haven't already, dim your houselights and allow yourself to be bathed in the light of Christ:*

**CAROL:** *Silent Night! O Holy Night!*

Arr. Patrick M Liebergen, from *Carols for Two*  
Christie Baskett and Karyl Lyne, Vocals  
Billie Matthews, flute

**CAROL:** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (GTG #121)

**GIVING JOYFUL THANKSGIVING**

**SEVENTH LESSON:** Matthew 22:36-39

Rev. Chad Boliek, HR

'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, '“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”'

**RESPONSE:** *The Messiah* by Ann Weems

Look for the Messiah where you will,  
but you'll find him where you live.  
He will not be separated and kept apart  
from those who cry to him.  
He will be found right in the midst of the daily,  
routine, ordinary stuff of life.  
So where you're living, look for him.  
In the ordinary niches of that living  
look for the holy  
that the holy might be found in you.

**MEDITATION**

Rev. Katie Palmer

**THE BLESSING OF JOY**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

*Please share the peace and joy of Christ with one another with wild jazz hands!*

**CAROL:** *Joy to the World!* (GTG #134)

**POSTLUDE**

