

**\*DOXOLOGY # 607**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*For gifts abundant and for grace abounding, we give you thanks, generous God.  
Bless the gifts we bring today.  
Use these gifts and our lives to be your gift of grace to others. Amen.*

— Sending —

**\*HYMN #122**

**Silent Night, Holy Night**

**\*CANDLE LIGHTING**

*Beginning with the Christ Candle, Rev Michele will pass the light from candle to candle along the aisle, moving from the front of the sanctuary to the back. The light will grow outward as we all share the light of Christ, just as Christ's love is shared in the world. Please keep your candles lit for the remainder of worship.*

**\*LITANY FOR LIGHT**

In the beginning and in the midst of darkness, God spoke. **Let there be light.**  
... May our actions and generosity shine in the world. **Let there be light.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE O Holy Night (refrain)**

*Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise his holy name. Christ is the Lord!  
O praise his name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim; (repeat)*

**\*BLESSING AND CHARGE**

The loving kindness of the Lord our God, the grace of Jesus Christ our Savior,  
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Alleluia!**  
Go and tell this good news of great joy: to us a Savior is born. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

**Go, Tell it on the Mountain**

*You may sit after the light passes you in the aisle.*



**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**  
Henderson, Texas



*Serving God,  
Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences*



Rev. Michele R. Goff.....Pastor  
Joshua Allen.....Music Director  
Debbi Ricci.....Admin. Assist.



(\* Please rise in body or in spirit  
Bold Italic Letters indicate congregational response

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## HENDERSON, TX

Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2022

—Gathering—

Once in Royal David's City

Joshua Allen

PRELUDE

WELCOME

\*CANDLE LIGHTING

Liturgist: Carol Scoggins

As we light the Christ candle, *we watch for the Christmas story around us.*

Emmanuel has come and is coming. *Come, all ye faithful, and worship God.*

\*CANDLE LIGHTING Hymn #314 (Chorus)

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

\*OPENING SENTENCES

In the holy darkness of this night, *amid labor pains and newborn cries,*  
angel songs and tremors of fear, *tears of relief and looks of amazement,*  
our Savior takes his first breath. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has come to us.*

\*HYMN #134

Joy to the World

CONFESSION

Let us confess the ways we have done harm, that we may be part of the healing.

*Emmanuel,*

*you have given us a gift that we can never deserve.*

*You do not ask us to be worthy.*

*You do not ask us to earn your love.*

*Yet the ways we have fallen short threaten to overtake us.*

*But we know we can come to you, even on this holiest of nights,*

*to seek the forgiveness you offer so freely, grateful for your mercy.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to us all!

With Christ's birth comes forgiveness and redemption.

*Glory to God in the highest heaven,*

*and on earth peace among all humankind!*

\*GLORIA #113 (Chorus)

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

— Word —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Bible p. 600, LG p. 780-781

Treasure these words and ponder them in your heart.

SECOND TESTAMENT READING

Titus 2:11-14

Bible p. 202-203, LG p. 262

Hear God's word for us.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us. *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

Bible p. 54-55, LG p. 71

Hear God's wisdom for us.

The wisdom of God for the people of God. *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

The Insistence of Miracles

Rev. Michele Goff

ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

— Response —

\*HYMN #115

Away in a Manger

\*Affirmation of Faith

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.27*

*The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ,  
the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit  
bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures,  
which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remember God's message: Do not be afraid! Therefore we pray with hope and joy.

O Christ, our light, *hear our prayer.*

... We ask these things with joy, O God, confident in the knowledge of your goodness;  
and we ask these things with hope, knowing that our redeemer is here—  
for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord, Jesus Christ,  
in whose holy name we pray. *Amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,*

*thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as 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.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly