

Therefore we pray, God-with-us, *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, God-with-us, 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 Manger Throne Stefen Kane, soloist

***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**

God-with-us on this long, dark night, like visitors to a newborn baby, we bring our gifts to our faith community this evening. We know new birth gives us a glimpse of heaven, of eternity, and we participate in that eternity when we release our treasures for works of love and justice. Bless the gifts that your people have brought today. Amen.

***CANDLELIGHT VIGIL**

***HYMN #122** Silent Night, Holy Night!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE It Came Upon a Midnight Clear Joshua Allen

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



First Presbyterian Church
Henderson, Texas



*Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences*



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Peace Joy



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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HENDERSON, TX

Christmas Eve ~ December 24, 2023

—Gathering—

EXTENDED PRELUDE

SELECTED

Joshua Allen

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #133

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL (V 1-3)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Steve Lowe

People of Henderson, come and see what is happening as the stars are shining over Bethlehem.

To you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

How shall we know him? What will be the sign?

You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

How shall we find him? Where shall we go?

Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.

Let us praise and worship with the angels saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CANDLE LIGHTING

Candle Lighters: Lynn and John Tieken

(AFTER THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE)

Now watch and wait, for soon the Christ Child will be born, bringing joy and deliverance to us all. Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING RESPONSE

O Holy Night

Joshua Allen

CONFESSION

Open our hearts and minds to his call as we make our confession together:

God-with-us on this long, dark night, today as we approach the holy child, wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger, we are aware of our own frailty.

We have been insecure about your plans like Joseph,

greedy and demanding like Caesar, afraid of your presence like the shepherds,

envious of power like Herod, and unprepared for our neighbors like Bethlehem.

But in your abundant grace and love for us all, you sent Jesus anyway

to diminish our insecurities, calm our anxieties, and call us to a better way

of love and justice. You take our very humanness and create life and love around us.

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As we look to your Son on this long, dark night, call us to a deeper understanding of what it means to love one another. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Be assured that when you bear your frailty before God, God is faithful to receive you with grace. ***Thanks be to God!***

*GLORIA #113 (Refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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

A voice is crying in the wilderness: Listen to the word of the Lord.

SECOND TESTAMENT READING

Titus 2:11-14

Bible . 202-203, LG p. 262

Hear the word of the Lord.

Heaven and earth will pass away but the word of the Lord stands forever.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

Bible p. 54-55, LG p. 71

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

SERMON

Ordinary

Rev. Michele Goff

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

— Response —

*HYMN #115

Away in a Manger

*AFFIRMATION OF CHRIST'S BIRTH

Siblings in Christ, let us proclaim the power of Christmas with these words from Mary's song: 'Our souls magnify you, God, and our spirits rejoice in our Savior.

You have looked with favor on the lowliness of the humble. Like Mary, mother of Jesus, we are blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for the whole world, holy is your name.

Your mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm;

you have scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

You have brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

You have filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

You have helped your servant Israel, in remembrance of your mercy, according to the promise you made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God-with-us on this long, dark night, our hearts are filled with hope and joy because you loved us enough to become one of us.