First Presbyterian Church
December 24, 2015
4:30 and 10:30 p.m.

Blessed with God’s love and grace, we celebrate gifts of diversity.

By Jesus Christ’s example, we welcome, in love, all who rejoice and worship with us.

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God’s spirit, given by Christ, flows through us as living water to wash, heal, and satisfy.
As a congregation we become a fountain, sharing this living water with others.

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Prelude
Welcome

Introit
Let every heart prepare Him room, let every mind be fixed in His wondrous face.
Let every spirit be filled with His holy presence, and every breath be full of His praise.

Lighting of the Advent Candles and Call to Worship
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
*The time we have waited for is here. God’s promise has been fulfilled!*  
The angel said to the shepherds, “To you is born this day a Savior — Christ the Lord.”  
*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!*  
Come now — with hope, peace, joy, and love — let us worship the newborn King!

*Hymn*  
(4:30 p.m.) 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
(10:30 p.m.) 134 *Joy to the World*

Time with the Children

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have neither welcomed the light nor trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, O God, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and reflect the light of your love to others; through the Word-Made-Flesh we pray.  
*(time for silent confession)*

And let God’s people say: *Amen.*

*Assurance of Pardon

*The Peace of Christ

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
*And also with you.*  
Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

*Sung Response

*Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!*
Anthem (4:30 p.m.) Once in Royal David’s City
(10:30 p.m.) On Christmas Night
Hymn 140
Hopson

First Reading
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Second Reading
Luke 2:1-20

Meditation (10:30 p.m.)
Sharon Youngs

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Hymn (4:30 p.m.) 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain
(10:30 p.m.) 144 In the Bleak Midwinter

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
In every time and in every place, it is right that we should give you thanks and honor … we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
Holy God, author of time, one among us … we may live to praise you, O God, holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. For give us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread, Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Elements

4:30 service: Communion is served by intinction. You are invited to come forward to receive a serving of bread (gluten-free), dip the bread into the chalice, and then eat it.

10:30 service: You will be served the elements at your seat. You are invited to hold your portion of bread (all gluten-free) until all are served, then we will eat together to symbolize the unity we share in Christ. You are invited to drink the cup as you receive it to acknowledge the personal nature of God’s grace to each of us.

Prayer after Communion
Offering of God’s Tithes and Our Gifts

Offertory  (4:30 p.m.)  *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella*  
*Pat Parr, guitar*  
(10:30 p.m.)  *Cradle Hymn*  

Prayer of Dedication

*Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ’s presence, that we may see clearly the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for you. As you have given yourself to us, now we offer our gifts and ourselves to you and for the work of your realm in this place and around the world. Amen.*

Lighting of the Candles

*Hymn 122*  
Silent Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
‘Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

*Charge and Blessing*

Postlude

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WELCOME GUESTS!

We are glad you are here! You are invited to join us for refreshments in the fellowship hall (behind the sanctuary) following worship. If you would like to know more about First Presbyterian Church, we would love to share our story with you. Talk with the pastor or give us a call (483-1318).

Things to know—The nursery is located on the first floor of the Education building. Hearing assistance units, large print bulletins, and children’s bulletins are available from the ushers.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

This evening we receive the Christmas Joy offering, one of four special giving opportunities through the year. This offering provides assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church, and supports leadership development and education at Presbyterian schools and colleges. Make donations payable to First Presbyterian Church, indicating “Christmas Joy” on the memo line.

Following the 10:30 p.m. service tonight everyone is invited to enjoy cookies and cocoa in the fellowship hall.

To all who have served in this evening’s services, whether greeting guests, reading, sharing gifts of music, or in any other way—Thank you!

The church office will be closed on Christmas day, as well as Monday, Dec. 28, and Friday, Jan. 1. Sharon will be gone for a few days following Christmas. Meg Tonne, our parish nurse, will be available in the event of a pastoral emergency.

The memorial service for Lily Rose Claiborne will be Saturday, Jan. 2, 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. A reception for the Claiborne family will follow in the fellowship hall.

THIS SUNDAY, DEC. 27

Worship will be relaxed (you are invited to wear your PJs!) and filled with lots of Christmas carols – plus we will tell the story of “The Other Wise Man,” written by Henry Van Dyke. There will not be an activity time for children. They are encouraged to remain in the worship service to hear the story.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 27

Liturgist: Fred Haywood
Sound Guild: Don Spong
Ushers: Andre Darko, George Darko, Louise Dunlap, Sally Haywood, Carolyn Krause, Dave Mullins, Walt Porter
Counters: Lou Dunlap, Fred Haywood
Fellowship Hosts: Kate & Walt Porter
Opening/Closing: Anne Backus, Dennis Strickler

SWINGIN’ IN THE NEW YEAR

Two swing classes/dances are on tap next week: Tuesday, Dec. 29 and Saturday, Jan. 2 at 6:30 p.m. in room 102. This is mostly for high school and college age, but all are welcome.
THIS SUNDAY—

ADULTS
9:00 a.m.

Early Birds class – room 6, Sanctuary building (coffee/treats, Bible study/discussion)

Rise n’ Shine class – parlor, Sanctuary building (coffee/treats, Bible study/discussion)

Please note: Sunday school classes following worship will NOT meet Dec. 27 or Jan. 3.

5:30 p.m. Kerygma class – This class is taking a break for Christmas and will resume Sunday, Jan. 3, in room 102, Activities building.

CLASS ON ISLAM

The first adult education class for 2016 here at FPC will be a five-week study on Islam. It will be an excellent opportunity to separate fact from fiction when it comes to what our Muslim brothers and sisters believe. Dr. Phillip Sherman, assistant professor of religion at Maryville College, will teach the class, which runs from January 10-February 7. The class will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

ONE DAY AT A TIME—MCRRC STUDY

Bob Cantrell, Methodist pastor and friend of FPC, will lead a Bible study based on the Twelve Steps at the Morgan County Residential Recovery Court (MCRRC) in Wartburg, on Sunday evenings, Jan. 3-Mar. 20, from 6:15-7:30 p.m.

A meeting for all who are interested in learning more about the study (using Trevor Hudson’s book One Day at a Time) will be held following worship on Dec. 27 in Room 6. Please note: Participants are encouraged to commit to attending 6 or more of the 12 study sessions. Please call the church office (483-1318) for more information.

2015 has almost come to an end. Please take a moment to review whether you need to finish your pledge for this year. Any contributions to be credited to this calendar year need to be in the church office by noon on Thursday, Dec. 31 at the latest. Thank you.