

December 31, 2023
The First Sunday of Christmas

PRELUDE “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” Zachow
 “Es ist ein Ros Entsprungen” Brahms

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL HUNGER OFFERING

OPENING SENTENCES

There is good news of great joy for all! *Luke 2:10-11*
Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.
Now we have seen the saving love of the Lord, *Luke 2:30-32*
the glory of God’s people and a light to all.
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; *Col. 3:15, 16*
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

+**HYMN: GTG #140** “Once in Royal David’s City” IRBY

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 not welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.

Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

... In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN: GTG #128 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Children are dismissed to Kids’ Church

HYMN: GTG #117 WINCHESTER OLD
 “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

INVITATION TO OFFERING *Isa. 9:6; Luke 2:11*

OFFERTORY “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” arr. Praetorius

+**HYMN: GTG #136** “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” GO TELL IT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 61:10-62:3 O.T. page 527

PSALM Psalm 148
Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law which will not pass away.

Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;

mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

young men and maidens,
old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

The LORD has raised up strength for the people
and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel,
a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Galatians 4:4-10 N.T. page 146

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:22-40 N.T. page 45

RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE *Heb. 1:2*

Now God has spoken to us
through Jesus Christ the Son.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “Mary, Did You Know?” Lowry/Greene/Schrader

SERMON “From Lost to Found” Rev. Tony Patrick

+**HYMN: GTG #151** “We Three Kings of Orient Are” KINGS OF ORIENT

+BLESSING AND CHARGE

POSTLUDE “Fanfare in D” Lemmens

*You are invited to join us
for fellowship and refreshments
after worship in the Memorial Room.
It is not necessary to remain seated during the postlude.*

SERVING US TODAY

Guest Organist: Caitlyn Brown

Liturgist: Monte Shuck

Greeters: Ron Dlouhy and Jane Hamelink

Sound: TBA

Livestream: Tami Chapman

Security: Doreen Chapman

CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

#66. Philemon:

Paul probably wrote his brief letter about Onesimus (a slave) to Philemon (a wealthy Christian and church leader) while under house arrest in Rome. (c. AD 60-62)

THE STUDY CATECHISM

Question 121. What is the purpose of prayer?

Prayer brings us into communion with God. The more our lives are rooted in prayer, the more we sense how wonderful God is in grace, purity, majesty and love. Prayer means offering our lives completely to God, submitting ourselves to God’s will, and waiting faithfully for God’s grace. Through prayer God frees us from anxiety, equips us for service, and deepens our faith.

CREDITS

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Mason First Presbyterian Church

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MINISTERS

All Members

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Bill Pinches
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Charlie Herrick
Spiritual Growth Director: Lori Filka
Office Manager: Sheren Wright
Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director: Deb Melse
Choral Music Accompanist / Organist: Feng Kang
Office Assistant: Nancy Sue MacDonald
Sexton: Eric VanDyke
Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Michelle Mackey
Child Care: Jill Castle, Aimee Cruickshank, Isaiah Hawkins, Hannah Koutz, Jasmine Leffew, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons

ELDERS

Class of 2023: Bruce Archer (clerk), Tim Hammond, Mary Ozee, Steve Sowles.
Class of 2024: Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.
Class of 2025: Doreen Chapman, Anita Cote, Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck.
Elders-Elect: Bruce Archer, Ginnie Gibson, Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

DEACONS

Class of 2023: Lisa Castle, Jay Harkness, Vern Schrock.
Class of 2024: Donna Hujsak, Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.
Class of 2025: Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timothy Pinches, Tom Seely.
Deacons-Elect: Ron Dlouhy, Sandy Leutscher, Nancy Sue MacDonald

DAILY PRAYER

Book of Common Worship: Daily Prayer (2018)

EVENTS THIS WEEK

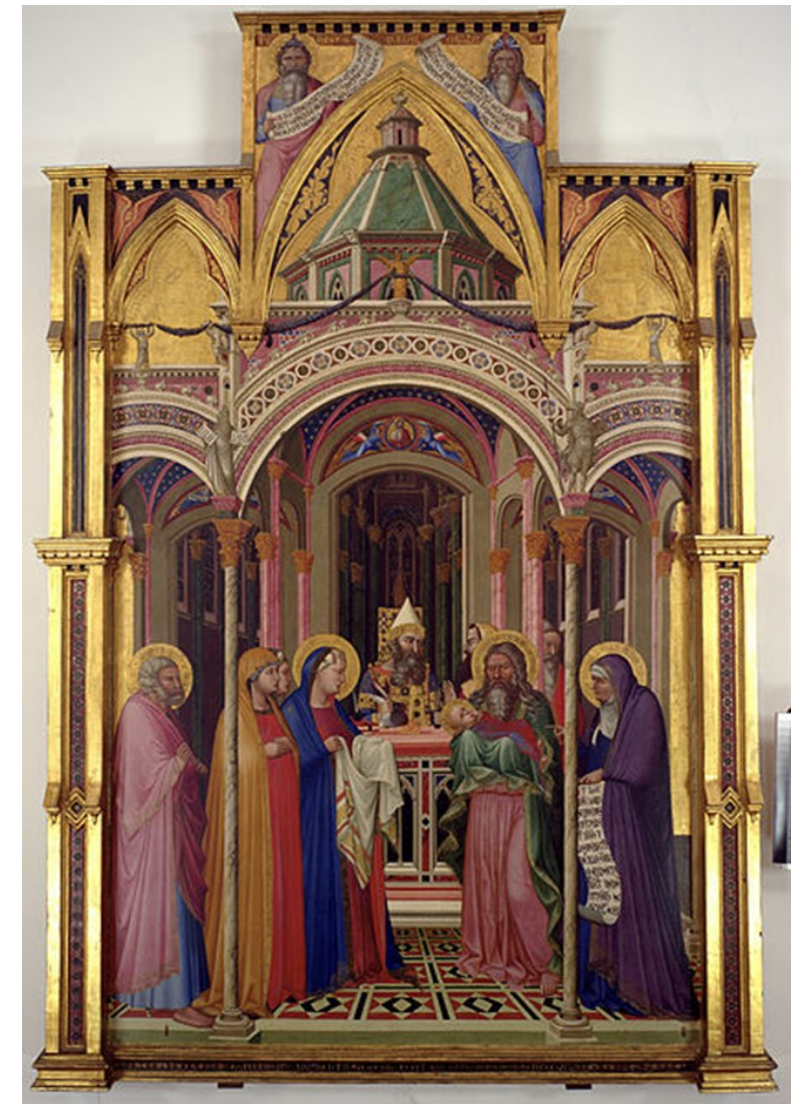
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|------------------|---|----------|
| Monday | Church Office closed (<i>Happy New Year!</i>) | |
| Wednesday | Lunch Packing for Advent House | 10:30 am |
| | Bell Choir Rehearsal | 6:30 pm |
| | Choir Rehearsal | 7:10 pm |
| Thursday | Administration Committee | 7:00 pm |
| | Board of Deacons | 7:00 pm |
| Friday | Church Office closed / Pastor’s Sabbath | |
| Saturday | Epiphany of the Lord | |
| | Yarners | 10:00 am |

BIRTHDAYS

Rod Guy Jan. 5

**Mason
First Presbyterian Church**

**December 31, 2023
First Sunday of Christmas**



Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
Ambrogio Lorenzetti, 1342

*The fruit of the Spirit
is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
(Galatians 5:22-23)*