



Song of the Angels



**Morning Worship**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**‡ December 24, 2023 ‡ 10:30 a.m. ‡**

*Please complete the Red Friendship Book and pass it to others in your pew.  
Please note any concerns on the yellow prayer cards and place those in the offering plate.*

*Where indicated by the asterisk (\*), please stand if you can do so comfortably.*

Prelude: “*Prepare The Way*”

Praise Team

Welcome

Rev. Doug Hagler

Passing the Peace

Announcements

Sarah Shulman

The Candle of the Song of the Angels

Randy & Sandy Schrack

*Psalms 96*

- <sup>1</sup> O sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.  
<sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

Call to Worship (leader, **people**)

Terri Camilari

*From the Book of Common Worship*

The Lord will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child.

**She shall bear a son,**

**and name him Emmanuel: “God is with us.”**

O Wisdom,  
coming from the mouth of the Most High,

pervading and permeating all creation,  
you order all things with strength and gentleness:  
**Come now and teach us the way of salvation.**

O Radiant Dawn,  
splendor of eternal light,  
Sun of justice:  
**Come, shine on those who live in darkness  
and in the shadow of death.**

O Emmanuel,  
our Sovereign and lawgiver,  
desire of the nations and Savior of all:  
**Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

God of grace,  
ever faithful to your promises,  
the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's arrival  
and looks forward with longing  
to his return at the end of time.  
Prepare our hearts to receive him  
for he is Lord forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

Hymn # 133: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*(see page 15)*

*(Please be seated.)*

Prayer of Confession **(unison)**

**This is the covenant God made with us: that God would put the law within us, and write it upon our hearts, and would be our God, and we would be God's people. God forgives the wrong we have done, and the good we leave undone. In penitence and faith, let us silently confess our sins to God.**

*(Silent prayer and reflection)*

Assurance of Pardon (leader, **people**)

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone;

a new life has begun.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Amen.**

\* Gloria Patri (*Children are dismissed to prepare for the pageant.*)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,**

**world without end. Amen, amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

Call to the Word: *“Listen You Nations of the World”*

R. Hillert

Prayer for Illumination

Terri Camilari

Leader: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

Listen for what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Reading: Psalm 96:1-13

- <sup>1</sup> O sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- <sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- <sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
- <sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.
- <sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.
- <sup>6</sup> Honor and majesty are before him;

strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.  
<sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
 ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
<sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
 bring an offering, and come into his courts.  
<sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in holy splendor;  
 tremble before him, all the earth.  
<sup>10</sup> Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!  
 The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.  
 He will judge the peoples with equity."  
<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
 let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
<sup>12</sup> let the field exult, and everything in it.  
 Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
<sup>13</sup> before the LORD; for he is coming,  
 for he is coming to judge the earth.  
 He will judge the world with righteousness,  
 and the peoples with his truth.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Lighting the Christ Candle

Randy and Sandy Schrack

*Luke 2*

<sup>12</sup> "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child  
 wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly  
 host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

## **Pageant: The First Christmas**

*Mother, Father, Joseph, Mary, Readers, Angels, Shepherds, Sheep*

Bethlehem

Song: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Oh little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in the dark street shineth  
The everlasting Light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

The Angels

Song: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains;  
Gloria In Excelsis Deo;  
Gloria In Excelsis Deo.

The Shepherds

Finale: "What Child is This?"

What child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are  
keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary.

## The Cast

Dahlia, Tim, Evan, Grant, Travis, Luke, Abigail, Poppy, Jeffrey, Linnea, Fenner, James, Liam, Noah, Pierce, Shane, Audrey, Beatrice, Owen, Elena, Eva, Morgan, Sadie

## Stage Managers

Special thanks to our Sunday School teachers and parents

Written and Directed by Jeff McLaughlin

## Offering Prayer

With what shall we come before the Holy One,  
and bow ourselves before God on high?  
God has shown us what is good.  
Let us present ourselves to God  
as those who have been delivered  
from death to life.

Offertory: *“Born Is The King (It’s Christmas)”*

Praise Team

## \* Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

Prayer of Dedication

Elder: Karin Goodman

The Lord’s Prayer (unison)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is 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.**

\* Hymn # 134: “Joy to the World” *(see page 16)*

\* Benediction Rev. Doug Hagler

Postlude: “*Welcome To Our World*” Praise Team

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**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Joys:**

**Concerns:**

Helen Harrop, Kaitlyn, Cheryl, Family & Friends of Muriel Rowlands

**PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE:** Please send any prayer needs to this new address, [fpcprayerchain2@gmail.com](mailto:fpcprayerchain2@gmail.com). Your request will be distributed to FPC's prayer angels. Their silent efforts will be put to work to lift you up. The same email address can be used for anyone wishing to join the prayer team.

**UPCOMING SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Luke 2:22-40

Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>: Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

**STAFF VACATIONS**

Dec. 31: Pastor Doug, Diane Legnini

Jan. 7: Pastor Doug

**GUEST CELEBRANTS**

Dec. 31: Rev. Bob Larson

Jan. 7: Rev. Don Lincoln

**ALTERNATIVE GIFT GREETING CARDS:** Do you need a unique, last-minute Christmas card for a special person on your list? The MAC shop is open with Alternative Gift Greeting Cards. Purchase a card and support a cause. This year's choices are as follows:

- Heifer International – bees & training for a family in need
- PACS – providing nutritious food to those experiencing food insecurity in our area
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – aiding those experiencing a disaster
- CWS Blankets – responding to those affected by war, hurricanes, earthquakes
- Citizen Advocacy – building relationships with people with disabilities

The cards are \$5.00 each and can be purchased before and after church in the narthex, and in the church office during the week.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE STUDY:** There will not be an Adult Sunday School/Bible Study session next Sunday, **December 31st** - Sessions will resume on **January 7th** at 8:30 AM. New learners are always welcome. If interested, please contact [Sue Casey](#) for a book and the Zoom link.

**SCRIP GIFT CARDS:** We would like to thank everyone who supported the Scrip Gift Card Program in 2023. Now it's time to begin a **New Year...2024!** We are placing orders for gift cards every other Wednesday in January (**Jan. 3, Jan. 17, & Jan. 31**). Know that a percentage of each card ordered is donated to the church. If you would like to place an order, please call or text Lynne Williams at 610-415-1581 (home) or 610-955-4749 (cell) or send an email ([brettdrew@comcast.net](mailto:brettdrew@comcast.net)). We will complete the order forms for you. Orders and checks must be received by the day before the orders are placed (**Jan. 2, Jan. 16, & Jan. 30**) Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church DR". Thank you for continuing to support this program! **Have a Happy New Year!**

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** 2024 Offering envelopes are ready for pick up. Please check the table in the narthex for your box. Please contact Maggie in the main office if you need a box—610-933-8816, [secretaryfpc145@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryfpc145@gmail.com).

**PLEDGE FULFILLMENT:** This is the time of year that our Finance Committee works to balance everything and close the books for the year as we look forward to 2024. Know that we appreciate your financial commitment to First Presbyterian Church throughout this past year. We ask that you please take a moment to reflect on your giving and prayerfully consider fulfilling your 2023 pledge. Thank you for all that you do and for your faithful support. - *The Stewardship Committee*

**2024 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN:** The 2024 Pledge Campaign - The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who has completed and returned their pledge card for 2024. If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please know that it is not too late! We ask that you take a moment to reflect on your giving for the coming year. Your generous and faithful offerings help to support the ministry and the many good works of FPC. By completing your pledge card, you are helping the Finance Committee as they plan for 2024. Completed cards may be returned by mail, dropped off at the church office, or placed in the offering plate on Sunday morning. If you need a pledge card, please call the church office at 610-933-8816.

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS:** As we near year end, please see that pledge or other contributions to the church are received by Sunday, December 31st. Funds received after that date will be credited to your 2024 contribution statement. The Stewardship and Finance committees thank you for the continued support of FPC Phoenixville.

**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CLOTHING MINISTRY:** People to People clothing sorters will be taking time off to enjoy the holidays. Please hold all donations until Thursday, January 11, 2024. Thank you for understanding.

**GRATITUDE JOURNAL:** During our year-long journey of gratitude, we invite you to record your responses in a journal so you can reflect at the end of the year. This week's prompt is: **How will you live out the gift of Jesus?** If you would like to share your reflection (1-2 minutes) after a specific prompt or something you are grateful for, please let us know and we can let you share! *The Church Growth Committee*

**RESTROOM ACCESS DURING WORSHIP:** You are welcome to use the doors on either side of the chancel to go to the restrooms at any time during worship. If you have a mobility concern, then an usher in the Narthex will accompany you down the outside ramp and let you in through the glass door. For security reasons, we will be keeping the glass door locked during worship.

**NURSERY NEWS:** Children of all ages are welcome in both services today while our childcare staff and volunteers take a Christmas break. Childcare will resume next Sunday, December 31st.

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**This Week in the Life of the Church**

**Sunday, December 24**

*(\*Children remain with families. Childcare not available.)*

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

10:30 a.m. \*WORSHIP – Pageant Service with Rev. Doug Hagler, in-person and on [YouTube](#)

9:00 p.m. \*WORSHIP – Candlelight Communion Service with Rev. Doug Hagler, in-person and on [YouTube](#)

**Monday, December 25**

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

No events scheduled. The office is closed.

No events scheduled.

No events scheduled.

10:00 a.m. People to People Food Ministry (Kitchen)

Office is closed.

No events scheduled.

10:30 a.m. \*Worship – Rev. Bob Larson, in-person and on YouTube

10:45 a.m. Sunday School (Parlor)

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**Nursery & Sunday School:** The church nursery is located on the 2nd floor of the main building in room 209 and is available for children ages infant-3 years. All children 3 years and older are invited to attend Sunday School during worship (children will depart fellowship hall for their classrooms immediately following the Children's Sermon), with ages 3-5 in room 210, ages 6-8 in room 208, and grades 5 and older in the third-floor class-room. Sunday School is from 10:45am–11:45am.

**Restrooms:** The church restrooms are located on the first & second floors of the main building. Ushers can help direct you to the restrooms.

**For Hearing Assistance:** If you wish to use a wireless assistive listening device to better hear the service, see one of the ushers.

***Large Print Bulletins*** are available from an usher.



## **Christmas Poinsettias 2023**

### **In Memory Of:**

|                                                               |                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Steve Pilotti                                                 | by Sarah, Noah, & Shane Pilotti         |
| Robert Mucklow                                                | by Richard, Rebecca, &<br>Sarah Barkley |
| Jack Giebler                                                  | by Gary & Barbara Giebler               |
| Helen & Dick Schnaedter,<br>Marian & Don Meckstroth           | by Gail & Rick Schnaedter               |
| Our Family members celebrating<br>Christmas with us in spirit | by Randy & Sandy Schrack                |
| Abe & Pat Hostetter,<br>Andrew J. Hostetter                   | by Becky Sinapius                       |
| Karen & Larry                                                 | by Lucinda Parrish                      |
| My parents: Louise & Chet Hain                                | by Jewell Baker                         |
| Ann Miller                                                    | by Jen Johnson                          |
| Victor & Dorothy Johnson;<br>Paul & Marge Anguish             | by Jen Johnson                          |

### **In Honor Of:**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| David, Paul, & Jay Parrish | by Lucinda Parrish |
|----------------------------|--------------------|

### **In Appreciation For:**

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Deborah Williams | by Lucinda Parrish |
|------------------|--------------------|



# FPC Phoenixville

Rev. Douglas Hagler, [Pastor145@comcast.net](mailto:Pastor145@comcast.net); 415-300-7912 (cell)

Diane Legnini, Director of Music

Sarah Shulman, Praise Team Leader

Maggie O'Malley, Office Manager & Communications Coordinator,

[Secretaryfpc145@gmail.com](mailto:Secretaryfpc145@gmail.com) & [FPCcommunications@comcast.net](mailto:FPCcommunications@comcast.net)

Jeff McLaughlin, Children & Youth Coordinator,

[fpcchildrenandyouth@gmail.com](mailto:fpcchildrenandyouth@gmail.com)

Church Treasurer: [fpctreasurer145@gmail.com](mailto:fpctreasurer145@gmail.com)

Church Telephone: 610-933-8816

Website: [FPC-Phoenixville.org](http://FPC-Phoenixville.org)

## **Elders on Session**

Ken Brown

Kevin Carrabine

Kathryn Grocki

Roger Warwick

Jewell Baker (Clerk)

George Cockerill

Jeff McLaughlin

Adam Smith

Karin Goodman

Cassy Gulden

Jill Kleppinger

Jeanie Osterhoudt

## **Deacons**

Jen Johnson

Kathy Thais

Gail Schnaedter

Ellen Williams

Kristin Craven

Gail Landazuri

Mona Sabia (Chairperson)

Paulette Mark

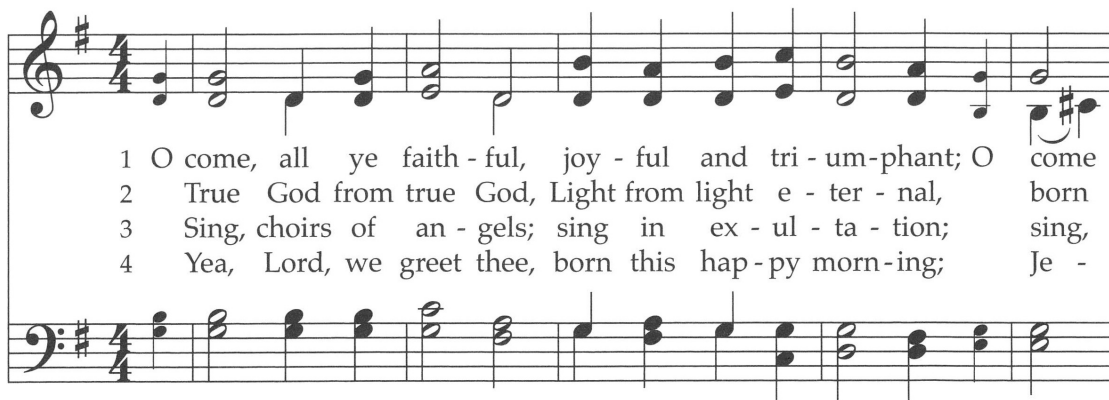
Lucinda Parrish

Lynne Williams

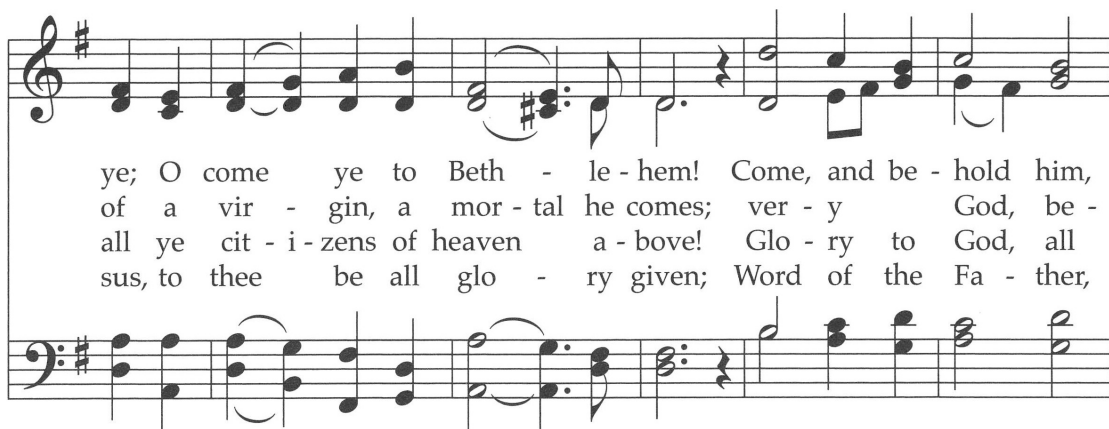
Bob Wittrock

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

133



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

*Refrain*



born the King of an - gels!  
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed!  
 glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

## Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.