

*The child grew
and became
strong, filled
with wisdom;*



*and the favor
of God was
upon him.*

Luke 2:40

Morning Worship
‡ December 31, 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: *“The Sleep of the Infant Jesus”*

G. Martin

Welcome

Passing the Peace

Announcements

Sarah Shulman

Call to Worship (leader)

Rev. Bob Larson

Adapted from Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Let all the angels praise the Lord.

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, shining stars;

praise him, highest heavens.

Let them all praise the name of the Lord!

God commanded, and the universe
was created, fixed in place forever.

Praise God,

Kings and all peoples, princes and all other rulers,
girls and young men, old people and children too.

Let us all praise the name of the Lord,
and worship the Prince of Peace.

* Hymn # 119: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

(see page 13)

(Please be seated.)

Prayer of Confession (**unison**)

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the convicting power of your Holy Spirit, that we may more truly love you and more worthily worship your holy name. Then enable us to go from here rejoicing in your forgiving love and more determined to live as Christ showed us, loving you and one another by the guiding power of your Word and Spirit. We pray in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus the Messiah.

(Silent prayer and reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Bob Larson

Leader: 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.

All: Amen.

* Gloria Patri *(Children may come forward now for the children's message.)*

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.)

Children's Sermon

Jeff McLaughlin

Following the message children may go to the Parlor, to the church nursery room or they may stay with their family in worship.

Prayer for Illumination

Jacqui Busch

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.

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a

sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Sermon: “From a Cradle to the Temple”

Rev. Bob Larson

* Hymn # 148: “Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple” *(see page 14)*

* Affirmation of Faith (**unison**)

Adapted in part from A Declaration of Faith, PCUSA

Jesus, the Messiah, our long-expected Savior, entered into our humanity as a descendant of King David. He was conceived by the power of God and born of a woman named Mary who was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. His parents raised him in keeping with the Law of Moses and the traditions of Israel.

We affirm that in the fullness of God’s timing the Messiah, Jesus, was sent by God to fulfill God’s promises and to rescue the entire human race, Jew and Gentile alike, from sin and death. In the person and life of this Palestinian Jew, God restores the relationship He desires with all who believe and are baptized.

The coming of the Messiah was itself the coming of God’s promised redemption and rule. By the birth, life, death, resurrection, and

promised return of Jesus, we have been saved from the power of sin and given the gift of eternal life.

Glory be the Father, our Creator, the Son, our Savior, and the Spirit, our Guide and Companion. Amen.

(Please be seated.)

Call to Offering

Jacqui Busch

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: *“Light of the World”*

Praise Team
by Lauren Daigle

* 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.

* Prayer of Dedication

Elder: Doug Walker

(Please be seated.)

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Bob Larson

Morning Prayer

Rev. Bob Larson

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 # 110: “Love Has Come”

(see page 15)

* Benediction

Postlude: *“He Is Born”*

L. Koch

Thank you to Rev. Bob Larson for leading worship today!
Thank you to Ken Brown for being our accompanist!

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Joys:

Concerns: Helen Harrop, Sharyn Funderwhite

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE: Please send any prayer needs to the new email address, 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

Jan. 7th: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 14th: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

STAFF VACATIONS

Dec. 31: Pastor Doug, Diane Legnini

Jan. 7: Pastor Doug

GUEST CELEBRANT

Jan. 7: Rev. Don Lincoln

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE STUDY: Sessions will resume next Sunday, **January 7th** at 8:30 AM. New learners are always welcome. If interested, please contact [Sue Casey](#) for a book and the Zoom link.

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.

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). 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!**

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: The newly elected Elders and Deacons will be installed during the worship service on Sunday, Jan. 14th.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES: 2024 Offering envelopes are ready for pick up. The boxes are located on the table in the narthex. Please contact Maggie in the main office if you need a box—610-933-8816, secretaryfpc145@gmail.com.

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.

PUB THEOLOGY: At Pub Theology, experience some engaging conversation of current events and God in today's world. Be social. Be perplexed. Be a part of some fun fellowship! This gathering starts at 7:00 PM on Sunday, January 14th, at The Foodery, 325 Bridge St, Phoenixville.

CONFIRMATION CLASS REMINDER: Confirmands will have their next class on Sunday, January 14th, from 12:00 PM-2:00 PM. Please meet after worship in the third floor classroom for lunch and learning.

STAR TREE THANK YOU: Thanks so much to everyone who participated in this year's Star Tree. With your help eleven children received new PJ's, an outfit, hat and gloves and a toy. Each of the six families also received a throw blanket and a tub full of goodies and groceries for Christmas dinner and some extra love. Thank you!

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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.

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This Week in the Life of the Church

Sunday, December 31 (*Childcare available)

10:30 a.m. *Worship – Rev. Bob Larson, in-person and on YouTube,
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrmNs7JdvZNJpsNjs0Ds8vg>

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

Monday, January 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

No events scheduled. The office is closed.

Tuesday, January 2

No events scheduled.

Wednesday, January 3

No events scheduled.

Thursday, January 4

9:00 a.m. Women, Infants & Children (Fellowship Hall)

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

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Friday, January 5

9:00 a.m. Women, Infants & Children (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, January 6

9:30 a.m. Zumba Class (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, January 7 (*Childcare available)

8:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study – Zoom with Sue Casey

10:30 a.m. *Worship – Rev. Don Lincoln, in-person and on YouTube,
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrmNs7JdvZNJpsNjs0Ds8vg>

10:45 a.m. Sunday School (Upstairs Classrooms)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Jan 4th: Dick Lusch,
Chris Wittrock

Jan. 8th: Sharon Wagner

Jan. 10th: A. J. Blackburn,
Megan Gray

Jan. 11th: Sharyn Funderwhite

Jan. 14th: Evan Lewis,
Joan Wallace

Jan. 16th: Abigail Dove

Jan. 17th: Mark Daly

Jan. 20th: Kristen Mark

Jan. 23rd: Bill Tonkin

Jan. 26th: Timothy Murphy

Jan. 27th: Brian Kennedy

Jan. 29th: Shane Pilotti

Jan. 31st: Jill Kleppinger



FPC Phoenixville

Rev. Douglas Hagler, 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 & FPCcommunications@comcast.net

Jeff McLaughlin, Children & Youth Coordinator,
fpcchildrenandyouth@gmail.com

Church Treasurer: fpctreasurer145@gmail.com

Church Telephone: 610-933-8816

Website: 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

Simeon Recognizes Jesus

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Luke 2:25-26 (NVI)

Based on Luke 2:22-40 (NIV)



J O H I S R A E L D D L E F J
 J M I A A P E H L O E O O M K
 B R P W L H Z V V I I V V C K
 K I K R V J P B E C G Z O E C
 L G Y T A L S I Z A O H H U S
 U H U E T I H I G R L U T F T
 A T S M I I S M M E K E R Z Y
 J E A P O E Q E O E O W D T V
 E O C L N P C G D B O N H F S
 S U R E O J Z R V J T N S M Q
 U S I S P I R I T Z O M Q A N
 S J F E P A R E N T S S H F T
 P L I P P R O M I S E D E J P
 B B C C K Z M A R Y P Y R P U
 R O E M V M C H I L D P N O H

SPIRIT
 CHILD
 PARENTS
 SIMEON


RIGHTEOUS
 DEVOUT
 SALVATION
 PROMISED

PRAISED
 LIGHT
 ISRAEL
 DOVES



COURTS
 JOSEPH
 REVEALED
 SACRIFICE

TEMPLE
 JESUS
 PIGEONS
 MARY



119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing





1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!


Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.




Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"



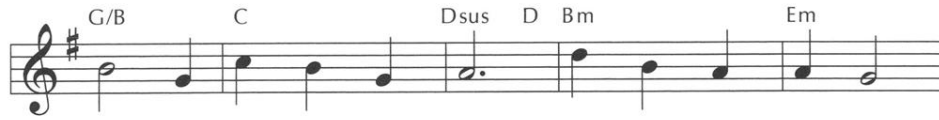
TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

MENDELSSOHN
7.7.7.7.D with refrain

Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple 148



1 Mar-y and Jo - seph came to the tem - ple brought the boy
2 An - na had prayed there, wid - owed, long wait - ing, wor - ship - ing
3 Sim - e - on sings now: God prof - fers bless - ing, bril - liant - ly



Je - sus, of - fered him there. Peo - ple were wait - ing
God by day and by night. Now she is prais - ing,
gild - ing dawn of his day. Light in the dark - ness,



want - ing to greet him; long had they sought him, so - lace for care.
filled with e - la - tion: here is God's prom - ise, Christ is her light.
nev - er ex - tin - guished, Light of all na - tions, light up our way.

This text retells the story in Luke 2:22-39, usually called the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, which took place forty days after his birth. Mary, Joseph, and the Christ-child encounter there two devout people, Anna and Simeon, who identify this baby as the promised Messiah.

TEXT: Andrew Pratt, 1994
MUSIC: David Haas, 1985
Text © 1997 Stainer & Bell, Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing Company)
Music © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

EVENING HYMN
5.5.5.4.D

*God of glory,
you have given us a new name
and robed us in salvation.
May we like Anna find our home in your presence,
and like Simeon recognize Jesus as the Christ,
so that, in joy and thanksgiving
at becoming your children,
we may join with all creation
to sing your praise. Amen.*

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=55>

Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) (Bm7) (Em7) (A)

F Dm7 Gm7 C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C B^b F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 B^b C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C B^b C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

TEXT: Ken Bible, 1996
 MUSIC: French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012
 Text © 1996 LNWymns.com (admin. Music Services)
 Music Arr. © 2012 Eric T. Myers

BRING A TORCH
 9.9.10.9.9.8

Happy New Year