



We welcome all who gather to worship on this holy night. In the moments before the service begins, we invite you to sign the attendance sheets located at the end of the pew. Also, we hope you take this time to look around the sanctuary to see the many symbols of this season, the artwork, the banners, the light, the colors, the Chrismons. As we celebrate the birth of our savior, may God fill your hearts with peace, love, joy and hope.

Prelude

Dr. Marina Veiler

Introit

Go Tell It On the Mountain Chancel Choir and Children

Welcome

Opening Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*O Come All Ye Faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come Ye, O come Ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels!*

*(Refrain) O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

*O Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!
Sing, all Ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!
(Refrain)*

Lighting the Christ Candle

The McQuilkin Family

Good news! Great joy! **Jesus Christ is born!**

Good news! Great joy! **O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Candle Litany

“Good news of great joy,” the angel said, “for to you a savior is born.”

“Peace on earth,” the choir sang, “for God reigns in the highest.”

“Follow me,” the star beckoned, “For Hope was born in Bethlehem.”

As we light the Christ candle, **we watch for the Christmas story around us.**

Emmanuel has been born and God is with us now. **We are faithful and have come to worship!**

Carol Medley

Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay*

*The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my side till morning is nigh*

Hark the Herald

*Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"*

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

*It came upon a midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.*

*For lo!, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.*

Invitation to the Helping Hand Offering

Offertory

All Is Well

Chancel Choir

Prayer of Dedication

Words of the Prophet

Isaiah 11:1-4a

Lori Wolford

Hymn

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

The Angel and Mary

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

Lou Ellen Hartley

Carol

Prepare the Way, O Zion (verses 1 & 2)

*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley, a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
Oh blest is Christ that came, in God's most holy name.*

*He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
Oh blest is Christ that came, in God's most holy name.*

The Child Is Born

Luke 2:1-7

Amanda Morrison

Anthem

For to Us a Child Is Born

Chancel Choir

Angels and Shepherds

Luke 2:8-14

Alicia Downing

Carol

The First Noel

*The first Noel the angels did say, Was to certain poor shepherds
In fields where they, Lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night, That was so deep.
Noel Noel Noel Noel! Born is the King of Israel!*

*They looked up and saw a star Shining in the East beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night.
Noel Noel Noel Noel! Born is the King of Israel!*

The Shepherds

Luke 2:15-18

Bruce Cook

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see Thee lie
Above Thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years, Are met in Thee tonight*

*For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

Carol

We Three Kings

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

Refrain:

*O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.*

Refrain:

The Light of the World

John 1:1-14

Lou Ellen Hartley

Homily

Carol

Silent Night

George Schumacher, guitar

*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!"

*Benediction

***Closing Carol**

Joy to the World!

Antioch

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let Earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the World! The Savior reigns!
Let us our songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make, His blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of, His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, And Wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His Love!*

***Postlude**

A word about our offering. Tonight all funds collected go to support Helping Hands. This fund is used for people in need in our community and congregation. Through this offering we are able to help people in a variety of ways including transportation, hurricane clean up, utility shut-off prevention, and more. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you to those who facilitated our service this evening.
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley, Pastor
Lori Wolford, Director of Christian Education and Outreach
Dr. Marina Veiler, Pianist
Lesa Shelton, Choir Director
Chancel Choir
Danny Birstler, Sound and Light Technician
Gary Oorbeck, Custodian
Vickie Oorbeck, Nursery Attendant

**Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 am.
For more information contact fpcinoffice@gmail.com or our website at
www.firstpresinverness.org or find us on Facebook.**

