



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God  
December 31, 2023

### The First Sunday of Christmas

*\*Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow (Hymn 50)

African-American Spiritual  
arr. Callahan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Christ Child, the newborn Prince of Peace.  
We have been redeemed. We are no longer troubled.

**Praise to God who has come to us in the flesh.**

We are being created. We are no longer worried.

**Praise to the Spirit who calls us together to serve.**

We will be sustained. We are no longer fearful.

**Come, let us worship God.**

\*HYMN 41 (V. 1-3)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

CAROL REQUESTS FROM THE CONGREGATION

A RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Let us pray to God saying: **Gracious God, bind us together in perfect harmony.**

As we gather in the waning hours of 2023, hear us as we draw near in your name to pray to those concerns on our hearts and minds today.

**Gracious God, bind us together in perfect harmony.**

We pray for all those who are traveling to visit families during this season of Christmas.

Keep safe all those who travel on roads, rails and in the air.

Give students and teachers and all school workers among us the rest they need before starting the new school year.

Be with those who are journeying through the holidays for the first time without a loved one who was lost this year.

**Gracious God, bind us together in perfect harmony.**

We pray for all the men and women serving in our armed forces and for all first responders in our midst.

May your hand of mercy and compassion rest upon all of them as they do the difficult work of providing security and safety for all of us.

**Gracious God, bind us together in perfect harmony.**

We pray for all our health care workers, for doctors, nurses, assistants, and all members of staff who administer tender care around the clock to our special and specific needs.

**Gracious God, bind us together in perfect harmony.**

As we turn to a new year, we pray that the citizens of our nation and of all nations might learn from the violence and division of the past year and that 2024 would be a year of kindness, compassion, equality, justice and peace.

**Gracious God, bind us together in perfect harmony.**

We pray for the politicians who have been elected and will start their terms in the New Year.

May they conduct their work with humility, honor, decency and righteousness.

We pray especially for Bill Bartlett and Victoria Ophhof-Cordaro and give special thanks for their willingness to serve their communities.

**Gracious God, bind us together in perfect harmony.**

We pray for this congregation as we enter a new year of ministry to this community.

We pray for guidance, vision, courage, imagination, enthusiasm, hope and mutual love, as we labor together to discern and forge a future for our place in this community and in the world.

**Gracious God, bind us together in perfect harmony.**

We pray for those on our hearts and minds this day for your loving compassion and mercy, whom we lift up to you in silence.

*Silent prayer*

**Gracious God, bind us together in perfect harmony.**

Hear us now, O Mighty Counselor, as we pray the prayer taught to us by Jesus, saying:

**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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God's ministries through Christ's church.

*Please leave your offering in the boxes at the front and rear of the sanctuary  
or make your gifts online or via mail.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to witness to Christ's ministry in your world. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

CAROL REQUESTS FROM THE CONGREGATION

\*HYMN 40 (V. 1-4)

Joy to the World!

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

French 16<sup>th</sup> century Carol  
arr. Callahan

Worship Leaders

Rev. Larry Van Hise

Gloria Snyder, Pianist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed

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