

**First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (PCUSA)**

14391 Minnieville Road Woodbridge, VA 22193

703.670.7834 fupcdc.org LIKE us on Facebook Find us on Instagram @fupcdc



**Christmas Eve Family Service**

**December 24, 2023**

**4:00 PM**

**The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor**

**[Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org](mailto:Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org)**

**828.448.8914**

## WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

### **GATHERING SONG**

*A Weary World Rejoices*

Don Koch, Alley Horner, Arr. Jared Haschek

### **CHRISTMAS WELCOME**

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come to pass.

Let us go with the shepherds:

**Let us go to find the Savior!**

Let us go with the wise ones:

**Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!**

Let us go with the poor and humble:

**Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.**

Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations.

Come, let us worship; come, let us adore him:

**Christ the Lord!**

### **OPENING SONG**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

John F. Wade, Frederick Oakley

Arr. Dan Galbraith (CCLI# 4575979)

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

The Robb Family

*(The Christ candle is lit.)*

Prayer

**We have been waiting for this night, Loving God. We have prepared ourselves for this special time. On this Christmas Eve, let us live as those who let hope, peace, joy, and love reign in our lives. As the candles burn brightly and light our path, let us live as those who have Christ's light burning inside us today and everyday. Amen.**

*Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child*  
Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild;  
new life, new hope the child will bring.  
Listen to the angels sing:  
“Glory, glory, glory!”  
Let the heavens ring. (Repeat)

 **CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

O God of love, you have brought us together tonight and blessed us with your very self. Open our eyes to the light of Christ which glows in the darkness of a world engulfed in apathy, pain, and loss; a world separated from you. Speak to us now that we may hear the good news of your salvation. Bring us into the wonder of your presence. Fill us with that light and carry it out with us into our lives. Amen.

 **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

*(Please share a sign of Christ’s peace with those around you.)*

## **WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God of light and love, you have revealed your very self to us in your son Jesus Christ, your one Word made flesh, who lived among us, full of grace and truth. Open us to your revelation once again, that in the words of your holy scripture we might know your presence and follow in your light always.  
Amen.

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Isaiah 7:14 NRSV

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 2:1-7 NRSV

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**SONG***What Child Is This*

Arr. Sovereign Grace Ministries

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 2:8-14 NRSV

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <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 favours!’

This is the Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**SONG***Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)*

George Frederic Handel, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Gilder (CCLI #5607039)

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 2:15-20 NRSV

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it

were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SONG**

*Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Michael Bleecker, Arr. by Brad Henderson (CCLI #7026028)

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Isaiah 9:2 and Isaiah 9:6-7 NRSV

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE/TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

**INSTRUCTIONS AND INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

*(If you would like to speak with someone about becoming a Christian, about church membership, or about a special prayer need, please speak with Pastor Adam or someone at the Welcome Table right outside the sanctuary. For those worshipping online, please email Pastor Adam at [adam.bowling@fupcdc.org](mailto:adam.bowling@fupcdc.org). Know that ALL are welcome in this place!)*

# WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

## SONG OF RESPONSE

### *King of Kings*

Brooke Ligertwood, Scott Ligertwood, Jason Ingram (CCLI #7127647)

## SERVICE OF GIVING

*(Unless designated, tonight's offering is a Christmas Joy Gift and is not part of regular pledged giving. If your offering is for the church budget, please designate that it is part of your pledge or is a gift to the church on your envelope or check.)*

## MUSIC AT THE OFFERING *Mary Did You Know?*

Buddy Greene, Mark Lowry, Arr. Travis Cottrell

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh.

**Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

**Instructions:** *Please come by way of the center aisle when an usher indicates to receive communion. All the bread is gluten free. Please partake of the elements when you receive them, and dispose of your cups in the baskets provided. You may return to your seats by way of the outside aisles. If you cannot come forward please notify an usher, and a server will bring communion to you in your row, or you may pick up a prefilled communion cup in the Welcome Center. Know that all are welcome to the Table of the Lord.*

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise. . .**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken)*

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

Music during Communion

*He Who Is Mighty*

Rebecca Elliott, Kate DeGraide (CCLI #7031870)

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

## **WE GO IN GOD'S NAME**

### **SERVICE OF LIGHT**

*(We ask that everyone circle up around the worship space. The Pastor will light the Usher's candles with the flame from the Christ candle. Ushers in turn give light to the worshipers, who will pass it on to the others down the circle. Please tip the UNLIT candle toward the LIT candle to avoid spilling hot wax. Children are encouraged to break and use their glow sticks to shine the light of Christ!)*

### **TRADITIONAL CAROL MEDLEY**

*Angels We Have Heard on High (Verses 1,2,3)*

**113**

1 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!

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (verse 1)

128

1 Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* (Verses 1, 3, 7) Open Hymnal Project

1 God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day;  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.

3 From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.

7 Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.



1 In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan;  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen,  
snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

4 What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man,  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

1 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.

2 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!"

3 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.


**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

**EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES**

 **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Arr. Rachel Bradley

 *Please stand, in body or in spirit.*

**When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled**  
**by Howard Thurman, The Work of Christmas**

| When the song of the angels is stilled,  
| When the star in the sky is gone,  
| When the kings and the princes are home,  
| When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
| The work of Christmas begins:  
| To find the lost,  
| To heal the broken,  
| To feed the hungry,  
| To release the prisoner,  
| To rebuild the nations,  
| To bring peace among people,  
| To make music in the heart.

**WHEN LEAVING THE PARKING LOT . . .** for safety, please turn right when exiting the church parking lot and make a U-turn at the traffic light instead of turning left onto Minnieville Road.

**Have a very Merry Christmas!**  
*We invite you to join us for worship on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.  
10:00 AM - one worship service*

**First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City, Woodbridge, VA**

Ministers.....	People of the Church
Pastor.....	Rev. Adam C. Bowling
Parish Assistant.....	Pastor Michael Slayter
Nursery Supervisor.....	Taylor Woods
Children’s Ministry Director .....	Kim Brown
Youth Director.....	Briana Stewart
Chancel Choir Director.....	Dana Van Slyke
Contemporary Worship Leader.....	Rachel Bradley
Pianist/Organist.....	Dr. Nadia Carmichael
Sexton.....	Homer Detrich
Office Manager.....	Kim Parker



\*\*\*\*\*  
Church Office Hours: 10AM -2:30PM, weekdays, 703-670-7834  
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Anything submitted may be altered, edited, or changed for continuity and clarity by the Communications team.

# *Poinsettias were given to the Glory of God by . . .*

*Martin Andrews, in memory of Mark Levy and Jennifer Lewis*  
*Bob and Sandy Chamberlin, in memory of our parents,*  
*Joe and Ruth Chamberlin and Ed and Georgie Stratton*  
*Bob and Sandy Chamberlin, in honor of*  
*our daughters, Jill, Courtney, Katie, and Becky*  
*Gail Cobb and Family, in memory of Norman Cobb*  
*Pam Cox, in loving memory of Lisa Chrzan*  
*The Elliott Family, in memory of Tom Elliott Sr. and Mark Elliott*  
*Pamela Emert, in memory of Craig Emert*  
*Bruce and Betsy Gilbert, in memory of our parents*  
*Peter and Elizabeth Glycer, in memory of Mike Glose*  
*Doug and Sandy Godfrey, in memory of our parents*  
*Curt and Claire Hoagland, in memory of*  
*Nancy Hoagland, Donna Davis, and Trevor Hipkin*  
*Curt and Claire Hoagland, in honor of Adam and Erin Bowling*  
*Joanne and Rodney Willis, in memory of*  
*Josephine and Robert Bradshaw*  
*Joanne and Rodney Willis, in honor of*  
*Audrey Willis and John Scott*



*Your poinsettias may be picked up after the 7:30 PM worship service tonight. Thank you!*