

# Christmas Eve Communion Service First Presbyterian Church Chattanooga December 24, 2017

*Nursery is available for infants through three years.*



**Prelude** (*Silent Prayer of Preparation*) Adult Choir with Susan Whitacre & Nathan Francisco  
“Blessed Is the Lord” by Dan Forrest, lyrics by R.C. Sproul  
William Reynolds, Stuart Brown, and Ian Hassevoort  
“Silent Night”

**Introit** Adult Choir  
“The Sound of the Round” by Annie Herring, arr. by Gardner and Knight

**†Call to Worship** Rev. Tim Tinsley

Leader: Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, eternal light.

**People: Lord, we praise You!**

Leader: Jesus, King of glory, sun of justice, son of the virgin Mary.

**People: Lord, we praise You!**

Leader: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, everlasting Lord, Prince of Peace.

**People: Lord, we praise You!**

Leader: Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, our help and our refuge.

**People: Lord, we praise You!**

Leader: Jesus, God of peace, friend of sinners, source of life and of holiness.

**People: Lord, we praise You!**

Leader: Jesus, brother of the poor, goodness without measure, unending wisdom.

**People: Lord, we praise You!**

Leader: Good shepherd, true light, our way and our life.

**People: Lord, we praise You!**

## †Hymns

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

No. 208 (vv.1,3,4)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

No. 201 (vv.1-4)

## Prayer of Adoration

Rev. Chris Bowen

## The Lord's Prayer

**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

“What Child Is This?”

No. 213 (vv.1-3)

## †Affirmation of Faith (*To be read in unison*)

Rev. Chris Bowen

*Colossians 1:15-20*

**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.**

## Prayer for Christ's People/Offertory Prayer

Rev. Tim Tinsley

## Offertory

Adult Choir

“Breath of Heaven” arr. by Craig Courtney

I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe inside.

And I wonder what I've done. Holy Father, You have come

and chosen me now to carry your Son.

I am waiting in a silent prayer. I am frightened by the load I bear.

In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?

Be with me now, be with me now.

*Chorus:* Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.  
Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me Your holiness, for You are holy,  
Breath of heaven.

Do you wonder, as you watch my face, if another should have had my place?  
But I offer all I am for the mercy of Your plan.  
Help me be strong, help me be, help me.  
*Chorus*

### †Greeting of Peace

Rev. Chris Bowen

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

### †Gloria Patri

No. 734

**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.**

### Lighting of Advent Candle

Hill Family

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Emmanuel, God with us, a promise kept, a child. This child was a King. A King in a dirty stable, wrapped in rags—but a King with a plan. This child would bring hope. Not just a wish, but the confidence that God would defeat Satan, that good would win over evil and light would expel the darkness. This child would bring peace, even in the midst of great suffering and trials—a peace that assures His followers that He is in control even when it feels like nobody is. This child would bring love—a love that would never be taken away, a love that is beyond our understanding. And this child would bring joy, for He would deliver us from the judgment for our sins and present us faultless before the Father with great joy.

### †Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20 (pg. 855 in pew Bible)

Leader: Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.**

### Sermon

Rev. Tim Tinsley

“Mary Points Us to Jesus”

### †The Ministry of the Table

Rev. Chris Bowen

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

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

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Chris Bowen

### Words of Institution

Rev. Tim Tinsley

Please hold the elements until everyone has been served. The pastor will lead us to partake together, symbolizing our unity in Christ with God and one another.

### †Closing Hymn

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

No. 210 (vv. 1-4)

### †The Benediction

Rev. Tim Tinsley

### Postlude

“How Great Our Joy!” arr. by Ron Huff

Adult Choir

†The Congregation will please stand.

*Our church warmly welcomes all members of any branch of Christ's Church to the Communion Table of our Lord. On our table tonight is the communion set which was used at the first communion of our church in 1840. The chalice, paten, and flagon were made in England between 1087-1100 AD. The set was also used by Brainerd Mission Missionaries (1838) to minister to the Cherokee Indians before the “Trail of Tears.”*