

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SHARON PA
“FAMILY AND FRIENDS” CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
December 24, 2011– 7 PM

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

THE PRELUDE Burke, Joanna & Ben Roberts

THE WELCOME and GREETING

CHORAL INTROIT Bach
“Beside Thy Cradle Here I Stand” from **The Christmas Oratorio**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 9:2, 6
LEADER: 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.
ALL: 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.

*CAROL #41 **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”** *Adeste Fideles*

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING
The Offertory **“O Holy Night”** Adolphe Adam
Justin Ray
*Carol #56 v. 6 **“The First Nowell”** *The First Nowell*
*Prayer of Dedication and **The Lord’s Prayer**

THE SHARING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7 (p. 53)
ANTHEM **“Chill of the Nightfall”** K. Lee Scott

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-14 (p. 53)
CAROL #53 **“What Child Is This”** *Greensleeves*

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:15-20 (p. 53)
CAROL #31 **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”** *Mendelssohn*

(2)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:
HOPE/LOVE/JOY/PEACE/CHRIST
*CAROL #40 **“Joy to the World!”** *Antioch*

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-11 (p. 1)
SOLO **“Little Drummer Boy”** Davis, Onorati & Simeone
Alexis Pyle

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
(The sanctuary lights will dim as the candles are lit. When all candles are lit, please stand and sing “Silent Night.”)

*CAROL OF CHRISTMAS HOPE #60 **“Silent Night”** *Stille Nacht*
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.

*GOD’S BLESSING ON GOD’S PEOPLE

(3)

*POSTLUDE

“Silent Night”

Improvisation

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING – This year’s special offering will be given to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund (to help FPC members in need) and to the Sharon Salvation Army.

CANNED FOOD DRIVE - Please place your canned food by the hay bales in the front of the sanctuary. As the Magi brought their gifts to the Christ Child, so we bring our gifts this evening. All food collected will go to the Community Food Warehouse.

SPECIAL THANKS to our caregivers in the nursery this evening, Brenda Hall,

THANK YOU to The Roberts Family, Justin Ray, Alexis Pyle, Beth Pyle, PJ Nespor, and the Sanctuary Choir for the lovely music this evening.

SPECIAL THANKS to everyone helping with this Christmas Eve service: Musicians, greeters, ushers and sound and lighting techs.

PLEASE DEPOSIT YOUR EXTINGUISHED CANDLES in the red baskets by the exits from the sanctuary as you leave.

SPECIAL THANKS to those participating in the Nativity Pageant this evening:

Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus: Corey, Larry & Adalyn Jones

Shepherds: Liam Hall, Lukas Jones

Gabriel: Patricia McQuiston

Angels: Abby Snyder, Grace Snyder, Alivia Jones, Briana Grattan

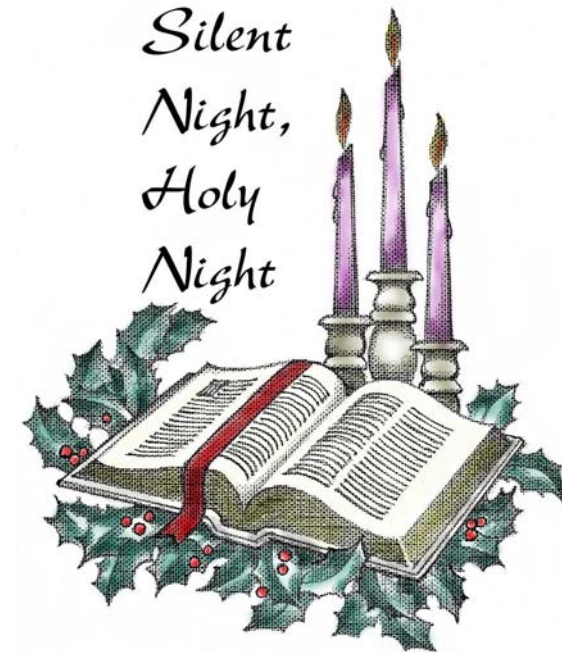
Magi: Bryce Snyder, Clark McQuiston, Branden Grattan

THE HOLY NIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE worship service will be at 11 PM. This quiet, reflective service will include candles, carols, a Christmas meditation and communion.

THE BOAR’S HEAD AND YULE LOG FESTIVAL will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2012, at 3:30 PM. A “meet and greet the cast” reception will be held following the Festival. Please join us for this beautiful celebration of Jesus’ Epiphany.

May your Christmas be filled with joy, hope and wonder, as we rejoice in Emmanuel, “God with us,” now and forever.

Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Hink, and the FPC Staff



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SHARON

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Rev. Dr. Glenn Hink, Senior Pastor

Rev. Pam Maloney, Associate Pastor

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Andrew Kraus, Dir. of Youth Ministries

“Real people, committed to Christ, living the Great Commandment.”