



First Presbyterian Church of  
**NORTHPORT**

Christmas Eve  
December 24th, 2020



#### Our Mission Statement

First Presbyterian Church of Northport is a welcoming community that invites all people to learn about and respond to the Word of God as found in the Old and New Testaments. Our mission is to be shaped by, proclaim, and live out the good news of Jesus Christ. We are committed to supporting the spiritual development of our congregation by feeding the spiritually and physically hungry, caring for the sick and lonely, nurturing children, and reaching out to those in need in our local and global communities.

FOUNDED 1785

# THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> 2020

Christmas Eve

## ~We Gather in God's Name~

*We regret that we cannot gather in person, but we are grateful to be gathered in spirit. We invite you to spend a few moments in quiet meditation to prepare yourself for worship and allow yourself to be surrounded by the peace of Christ before we begin.*

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“Angels We Have Heard on High”	<i>Vicki Field, viola</i>	French Carol /Arr. By K. Koehlske
“God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen”	<i>Susan Mann, lever harp</i>	Trad. /Arr. by Sharon Thormahlen
“How Far is it to Bethlehem?”	<i>Cindy Corso, soprano</i>	Arr. by T. Fettke & T. Gray
“In the Bleak Midwinter”	<i>James Graziano, baritone</i>	Rossetti/Holst
“What Child is This?”	<i>Ken Gilbert, vocal &amp; guitar</i>	Traditional
“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”	<i>Matt Louis, guitar</i>	Traditional
Christmas Medley: “Away in a Manger, O Little Town of Bethlehem, The First Nowell”	<i>Tim Gladding, flute</i>	

### WELCOME

Rev. Rachel Vione

### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Come, let us go to Bethlehem.

**Let us join the angels in singing.**

We are ready to declare God's glory on this holy night,

**We are ready to join the shepherds in worshipping the Christ child.**

O come.

**O come let us adore Him!**

### \*HYMN NO. 133

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 -*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!*

2 -*True God from true God, Light from light eternal*

*Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;*

*very God begotten, not created!*

*Refrain*

3 -*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation*

*Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!*

*Glory to God All glory in the highest!*

*Refrain*

*4 -Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given,  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing!  
Refrain*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Gracious and merciful God,  
we remember how your Son quietly entered human history on that first Christmas Eve.  
We come before you in wonder, adoration, and humble repentance.  
We are your children, but in need of your healing touch. Forgive our sins and cleanse us, we humbly pray.  
Capture our hearts and minds with the quiet splendor that transformed a manger into heaven's throne.  
Were it a thousand times more fair, it still would be too poor a cradle for you, dear Jesus.  
Holy Child, make for yourself a place within our hearts, that each of us may keep for you a quiet, holy  
chamber. Martin Luther (1483-1546)**

*(Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection)*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\* HYMN NO. 132, v.1

*“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”*

IN DULCI JUBLIO

*Good Christian friends, rejoice,  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before Him bow;  
And He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

**God, we see your light shining in the darkness.  
We hear the Christmas Angels.  
We behold your promises fulfilled  
in the birth of this wondrous child.  
May this magical story become real in our lives.**

**We Hear God's Word~**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

**5** 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." **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** 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.**

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

"The Stranger in the Christmas Pageant"

Rev. Rachel Vione

\* HYMN NO. 121

*"Oh Little Town of Bethlehem"*

ST. LOUIS

*1- 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.*

*2 -For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all on earth!*

*3- How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of the heavens.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still  
the dear Christ enters in.*

4- *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.*

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION HYMN NO. 128

“*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*”

W. ZLOBIE LEZY

*1 -Infant holy, infant lowly, for a bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Child is Lord of all. Swiftly winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!*

*2 -Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new. Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true. Us rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!*

#### THE GREAT 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.**

#### SANTUS

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Partake of the bread first followed by the cup*

#### ANTHEM

“*Wexford Carol*”  
Chancel Choir directed by Dana Warren  
Jon Preddice; cello

Traditional  
Arr. Victor C. Johnson

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE      John 1:1-5, 9-14

Ron Mercer

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**14** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*As the sanctuary light dim you are invited to light your candle at home signifying Jesus as the light of the world*

HYMN NO. 122

*"Silent Night, Holy Night"*

STILLE NACHT

- 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, heav'nly 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.
- 4 - 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

*As your candles are extinguished, remember that you carry the light of Christ out into the world.*

HYMN NO. 134

*"Joy to the World"*

ANTIOCH

- 1 - *Joy to the world the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare Him room  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing*
- 2 - *Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy*
- 3 - *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.*

*4 - 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

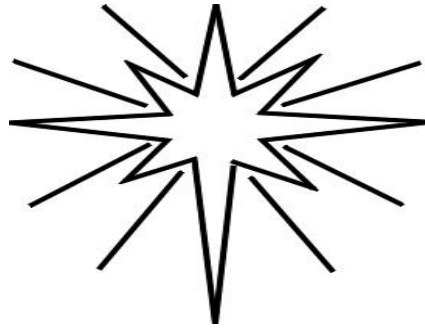
*“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

Dr. Brenda Clark

Arr. D. Bish

*A special thank you to all the musicians who helped make this worship service so meaningful and to Joe & Nancy Winkler and Kevin McKerr for the many hours they spent making this service possible.*

*The staff at First Presbyterian Church of Northport wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in the year ahead!*



Each Christmas, members and friends of the congregation have dedicated wreaths; plants and flowers to beautify our sanctuary in memory of, in honor of or in celebration of loved ones. The Sanctuary Guild would like to express heartfelt appreciation to the volunteers who helped decorate the Church, and gratitude to the congregation for their continued support.

The wreath adorning the balcony

In memory of Timothy Hoyt Duncan given by Leah and Jack Fink

The wreath adorning the Memorial Garden

In memory of all of our loved ones given by Krista (Mellinger) DeRoma and Lenny DeRoma

The single red rose on the organ console is given in loving memory of my husband,  
Robert by Sonia Padgett.

The white roses on the organ console are in loving memory of my Goddaughter, Carolyn-Marie Lemmin Putzer and my brother, her Godfather and Robert William Clark by Jessie Clark Shaw.

Wreaths have been dedicated

In memory of Albert and Andrew Blondrage given by Carole Gandy

In memory of my mother, Emily and my sister, Nancy given by Carole Gandy

In memory of Michael Dunat given by Stephen Dunat

In memory of Michael Dunat given by his Mother-in-law, Pegge Strella

In memory of Victor, Millie and Michael Landi given by Kathleen Landi

In loving memory of Steve given by Linda Siegmann

In memory of Rev. William and Lois Philipp from the Vione Family



Poinsettias have been dedicated

In memory of our children: Dean, Jill and Darrin given by Ron and Marcia Mercer

In memory of Michael Dunat given by the Helene Dunat

In memory of William Strella given by Pegge Strella

In honor of Pastor Rachel given by Carole Gandy

In honor of my family given by Carole Gandy

In memory of Richard and Enrica Huntley given by Richard and Lisa Huntley

In memory of Janice Lynn Huntley given by Richard and Lisa Huntley

In memory of Annette Louise Nataczynski and in honor of Annette Julia Nataczynski  
given by Lisa and Richard Huntley

In memory of Kennard and Jean Kaplan given by Lisa and Richard Huntley

In memory of our parents: John and Phyllis Gladding and George and Frances LaGiusa  
given by Angela and Tim Gladding

In loving memory of my husband, Kenneth Landi given by Kathleen Landi

In memory of William, Anna and Judith Dunphy

## Church Officers:

### The Session:

Marcia Mercer (Clerk)

#### Class of 2019

William Doremus

Carole Gandy

Kim Gilbert

Stephanie Lee (youth)

Cynthia Mies

Anita D'Amico Stambouly

#### Class of 2020

Joan Armet

William Heuer

Lisa Nikrant

Christine Spiller

#### Class of 2021

Dennis Crowley

Marilyn Fox

Dennis Hartin

Florence Ogg

Robert Shevlin

### The Board of Deacons

#### Class of 2019

Shea Contino (youth)

Jim Denniston

Susan Ebert

Vicki Field

Jane Hudson

Carolyn Louis

Jeannie Obrien

#### Class of 2020

Melissa Barasch

Elizabeth Coleman

Rich Lambert

Marjorie Sundquist

Tiffany Thomas

#### Class of 2021

Jim Beyer

Marlena Dentrone

Tim Gladding

Robin O'Neil Gonzalez

Shelley Pierce

### The First Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Rachel Vione,

Pastor

Dr. Brenda Clark,

Director of Music and Organist

Barbara Kaifler,

Administrative Assistant

John Kennedy,

Facilities Manager

Kevin McKerr,

Financial Manager

Christine Mulholland,

Weekday Nursery School Director

Ariana Warren,

Interim Director of

Carol/Westminster Choirs

Dana Warren,

Chancel Choir Director

## Announcements

**Mission Ministries** - On Monday night, December 28th, Mission Ministries will be providing a "dinner in a bag" meal for guests who will be spending the night at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in South Huntington. We have been asked to provide a "breakfast in a bag" meal as well. Adhering to the rules established by the Family Service League in the time of Covid, both of these "bag" meals must consist of a peanut butter & jelly sandwich. It is recommended that fruit, a boxed nutritious drink, and cookies be provided as well. If you or members of your immediate family would like to prepare 10 of these dinner- breakfast bags, or for further information, please E mail Marilyn Fox at zorra2@optonline.net.

**Reopening Task Force Update** - At their November 24 meeting, Session approved the recommendation of The Reopening Task Force, to suspend in person worship until it is safe to do so. The Task Force will continue to monitor the recommendations from the CDC and the Suffolk County Department of Health to determine when it will be safe to resume in person worship.

**Food Pantry News** - The Pantry is open Monday-Thursday from 10:00-12:00. If you would like to make food donations to the Pantry, please place your donations in the "Big Blue Bin" near the parking lot entrance of the church Monday-Thursday from 10:00-12:00. If you would like to make a financial donation to the Pantry, please make your check out to "ELC Food Pantry".

**Online Prayer Service and Check in with Pastor Rachel** - every Wednesday at Noon resuming on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Watch your Tuesday email for log in details for the meeting. Please load the Zoom app on your phone or tablet and log in to the meeting at noon.

**The Zoom information is the same each week:**

**Meeting ID: 776 017 8040**

**Password: Pray20**

Thank you to all who have participated in the 2021 Stewardship Campaign and submitted pledges for 2021. So far 65% has been pledged towards our pledge goal for \$400,000.

If you have not already done so, please submit your pledges in one of the following ways:

Email your pledge to [pledge@fpcnorthport.org](mailto:pledge@fpcnorthport.org)

Mail your pledge card to the church office in the envelope provided.

## **Sunday Memorial Flowers**

Did you know that the beautiful flowers in our sanctuary during worship are sponsored by members of our congregation? If you would like to sponsor the flowers in our sanctuary one week in memory of (or in celebration of) a loved one, please contact the church office. Thank you for considering helping to adorn our sanctuary to the glory of God.

## **Prayers**

Please pray for members and friends of our congregation

For all those who are suffering as a result of the coronavirus, essential employees who go to work so we can be safe and healthy, for those who are working to bring the vaccine, JoAnn Sciortino (friend of Jane Hudson), Maddeline Michitsch (family member of Jane Hudson), Christopher Winkler (Joe & Nancy's son), Tom Poletta (friend of Mary Anne Wetzel), Katie Yoskowitz, Justin Yoskowitz, Hope & Bob Black (Libby Yoskowitz's parents), Ron Landi (Kathy Landi's brother-in-law), Victor Landi (Kathy Landi's brother-in-law), Jerry Phelan, Gustavo Sanchez, Lou Schmidt, Howard Heckman, Jr. (Diane Lobough's cousin), Aaron Thomas, Bob White, Brian Brewer (Faustine White's son), Charlene Cosman, those in Healthcare facilities- Atria: Ann Deery, our partner congregations: Nueva Paz, Cuba and Iglesia Evangelica Presbiteriana Nueva Vida, Malverne; the Presbytery of Long Island and its staff; the Synod of the Northeast, the Presbyterian Church (USA), its Louisville staff, its missionaries worldwide.

## **Cover Art:**

Honthorst, Gerrit van, 1590-1656. Nativity Scene, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=46662>

## **Contact Information**

### **Church Office**

Phone: (631) 261-6434

Email: [office@fpcnorthport.org](mailto:office@fpcnorthport.org)

Website: [www.fpcnorthport.org](http://www.fpcnorthport.org)

### **Food Pantry**

Phone: (631) 261-4357

### **Weekday Nursery School**

Phone: (631) 757-1342

Email: [info@weekdaynorthport.com](mailto:info@weekdaynorthport.com)

Website: [www.weekdaynorthport.com](http://www.weekdaynorthport.com)

- [www.facebook.com/weekdaynorthport](http://www.facebook.com/weekdaynorthport)

To sign up for the church email list send your email address to:  
[office@fpcnorthport.org](mailto:office@fpcnorthport.org)