

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

January 1, 2023, at 10:00am

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
GATHERING**

PRESERVICE MUSIC

“The First Nowell”

“There’s a Star in the East”

“Still, Still, Still”

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

“Away in a Manger”

“Love Has Come” (January Hymn of the Month)

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF PRAYER REQUESTS

CHIMES

(The pouring of water invites us to remember and to celebrate our baptism into the body of Christ.)

PRELUDE

“Joy to the World” (Wilson)

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Please exchange these words with your neighbors: “The peace of the Lord be with you.” “And also with you.”

CALL TO WORSHIP

We recount the gracious deeds of God, all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:

Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.

Praise God for the good news of Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation.

Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.

Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.

God’s glory shines in heaven and on earth.

Let us worship God.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Congregational Requests (#108 to #156)
(first and second verses)

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Exalted God, even as the heavenly host sang of your glory in the night skies over Bethlehem; even as the star shone in the heavens, and sheep and cattle gathered in that light, so we gather, young and old together, to recount all

that you have done for us in mercy and steadfast love. No tyrant's threat or deadly act can destroy the dreams and visions you have placed within us, for you have drawn us close. With all creation, we praise you and exalt your name forever and ever. **Amen.**

***GLORIA PATRI #581**

"Glory Be to the Father" (Greatorex)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters, Jesus became like us in every respect so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God. As we confess our sins, we come before One who was also tested by what he suffered, confident that he is able to help us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when the way is hard. We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend. Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence, we fail to recognize our own complicity. Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect children so vulnerable and precious in your sight. Forgive our misuse of power against people, and against your creation. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Do not be ashamed of us, we pray, but strengthen us in our time of testing. Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Christ, who shared our flesh and blood. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Children of God, it is clear that Jesus Christ came to help sinners. He is our Savior in all our distress, and it is his presence that saves us. Declare with me the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, your Word comes to us: Jesus Christ, Immanuel. Holy Word, you cross every border meant to shut you out. Holy Wisdom, speak to us in the word read and proclaimed. Hearing, may we dream your dreams and faithfully follow wherever you lead. In your triune name we pray. **Amen.**

A MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Psalm 148

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 63:7-9

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Hebrews 2:10-18

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospels if you are able)

***READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

Matthew 2:13-23

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Congregational Requests (#108 to #156)
(first and second verses)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Nicene Creed (381 AD)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION

In this gifting season, O God, we are grateful for the gift of your dear Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Receive, we pray, these offerings we bring. May they be used in the service of your grace and truth dwelling among us. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER (See Insert)

OUR 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 and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR THE BREAD AND CUP

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN #110 *"Love Has Come"* (French Melody)
(January hymn of the month)

*MOMENT OF SILENCE TO PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE *"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"*

*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.

Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation. Elements of Worship

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