



# First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + [www.watertownfirstpres.org](http://www.watertownfirstpres.org)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

December 24, 2022 + 7:30 p.m.



*The Holy Family* by Jacqui Miller

*“I want this painting to illustrate the inclusivity of the Christian religion; that Christ came to save not just one race, but all,”* writes artist Jacqui Miller. To accomplish this, Miller has painted each member of the Holy Family as multi-racial, not only in skin tone but also in facial features and hair styles. In the background are palm leaves and Easter flowers that compliment the Good Friday wounds on Christ’s hands.

Dear Friends in Christ,

We welcome you to worship on this Holy Night from places near and far! Through generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure, we are able to broadcast this service on Facebook, YouTube, and through the church's website to places we may never see or visit. This is truly a testament to the power of the Gospel to reach beyond the walls of the church.

As we prepare to hear the good news of great joy for all people, let us ponder the words of Jaroslav Vajda in the poem "Before the Marvel of This Night":

*Before the marvel of this night,  
adoring, fold your wings and bow;  
then tear the sky apart with light  
and with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,  
that fear and death and sorrow cease:  
sing peace; sing peace; sing gift of peace;  
sing peace; sing gift of peace!*

*The love that we have always known,  
our constant joy and endless light,  
now to the loveless world be shown,  
now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love  
that rules our universe above:  
sing love; sing love; sing God is love;  
sing love; sing God is love!*

*Awake the sleeping world with song:  
this is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng,  
in royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss,  
a teasing taste of what they miss:  
sing bliss; sing bliss; sing endless bliss;  
sing bliss; sing endless bliss!*

Peace be with you,  
+ Andrew

**If you are new here**, please fill out the card in the pew and place it in the offering plate, so that we can get to know you better.

**Hearing help** is available during all worship services - please see an usher for assistance.

**Nursery Care** is available for children to age 4 during all worship services. You can find the nursery in the education wing of the building. A restroom and quiet room can be found in the narthex.

**If you are in need of prayer**, please see our Pastor before or after worship, or write your prayer requests in the green book at the front of the sanctuary (by the flags)

## **Prelude Music**

Molto Brass and Organ

“Ding Dong! Merrily on High”

“Christmas Fantasia”

“Sussex Mummers Christmas Carol”

“Pat-a-Pan”

“Here We Come a-Wassailing”

“The Huron Carol”

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

“I Saw Three Ships”

“Sussex Carol”



## **The Liturgy of The Word**



## **Greeting**

### **\*Litany for Christmas**

The grace of God has appeared,  
bringing salvation to all.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

For a child has been born for us,  
a Son has been given to us.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Glory to God in the highest!**

To us is born in the city of David a Savior,  
the Messiah, the Lord.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

Christ is born! Give him glory!

**Christ has come down from heaven!**

Receive him! Christ is now on earth!

**Exalt him! O earth, sing to the Lord!**

O you nations, praise him in joy,  
for he has been glorified! **Amen.**

**\*Processional Hymn #249**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**Prayer of Adoration**

**The Prophecy Lesson**

Isaiah 9:2-11

**The Christmas Offering**    *The Women of Grace Widow's Fund*

**Offertory Anthem**

“Little Wonder Child”

Lani Smith

Little wonder child, sweetly sleeping  
on a bed of straw while the stars shine down.

Will exotic lands be in your keeping?  
Will you own a throne or a marble hall?  
Will you wear a crown?

Little wonder child, bells are pealing,  
angels sing the news to the world below.  
Will you be the one to bring us healing?  
Will you teach us love and the ways of peace?  
Will you make it so?

Little wonder child, while you slumber  
there are those who plan to impose you harm.  
Could it be that they and all their number  
need to know the truth;  
that your loving word  
frees them from alarm.

Little wonder child, when you waken,  
you will find a world that has waited long.  
For the hope you bring; no more forsaken,  
with your gift of love we will be made strong.  
Little wonder child you will make us strong.

## The Psalm Lesson

Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

**His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.**

The Lord has made known his victory;

**he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

**break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

**Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.**

Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

\*Hymn #277

“Hark The Herald Angels Sing” sts. 1 & 2

\*The Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

\*Hymn #277

“Hark The Herald Angels Sing” st. 3

## Homily

### \*Hymn #278

“Angels We Have Heard On High”



## The Liturgy of The Table



### Invitation to The Table

#### \*Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

As we come to the table of the Lord, it is fitting and right for us to acknowledge before God and one another the ways we have fallen short of God’s glory. With the confidence of the children of God, let us turn to the Lord in prayer.

**Almighty God, who inhabits eternity but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit: before You and our Lord Jesus Christ we confess our sins.**

**We have ignored the presence of Your Spirit.**

**We have failed to look for the return of our Savior and Judge.**

**We have been blind to Your coming in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled, the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned.**

**In Your great goodness put away our offenses and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.**

Good Christians, all,  
rejoice and sing!

Christ is born and we have been  
reconciled to God and one another.

**Thanks be to God!**

#### \*Response

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**\*Profession of Faith**    *Nicene Creed*

With the church in heaven and on earth, let us affirm what we believe.

**We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper**

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks

and praise, O holy God, creator and ruler of the universe.  
You created light out of darkness and brought forth  
life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and called  
us to love and serve you.  
When we were unfaithful  
and turned from your ways,  
you did not forsake us,  
your love remained steadfast.  
You delivered us from captivity,  
made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and sent prophets to call us back to your way.

In the fullness of time you sent your only Son,  
Jesus Christ, to be our Savior.  
In him, your Word, dwelling with you from all eternity,  
became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth,  
and we beheld your glory, Immanuel!

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices  
with the celestial choirs and with all the  
faithful of every time and place,  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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

You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.  
Born in humility, he came to rule over all.  
Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love.  
Poor in things of the world, he brought the



wealth of your grace.

Rejected by many, he welcomed all who sought him.

In his dying and rising,

you gave birth to your church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,  
we take from your creation this bread and this wine

and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising

as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving we offer our very selves

to you to be a living and holy sacrifice,

dedicated to your service.

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Lord Jesus, come again!**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon

us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,

that the bread we break and the cup we

bless may be the communion of the

body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,

that we may be one with all who share this feast,

united in ministry in every place.

As this bread is Christ's body for us,

send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Empower us by your Spirit,

O God, to be Christ's presence in the world

even as Jesus was God-with-us.

Give us courage to speak his truth,

to seek his justice, and to love with his love.

Keep us faithful in your service until Christ

comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

And as Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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**

**Prayer After Communion**



## **The Liturgy of Light**



### **Lighting The Christ Candle**

The Light is finally here. This is a sacred time. It is the time when we will count tiny fingers and toes and marvel, how beautiful is this little messenger, who brings such good news.

**It is the time when we will gaze upon the face of the newborn  
and savor the overwhelming sense of awe and peace.**

Let us open ourselves to the deep mystery of God's love made flesh, and let it come.

**In this light may Christ be born again among us.**

## Carols In The Night

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.

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 Immanuel!

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and take us to heaven to live with you there.

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,  
heav'nly 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.



### **\*Blessing**

Go now to your homes, receive and celebrate God's love that joins the world through the Child of the manger and the Christ of the cross. Live in the light of that silent night's joy.

**May Christ be born in every home,  
the Spirit's laughter lift every heart.**

**May God's everlasting arms embrace us all in grace and peace.  
Amen.**

### **\*Hymn #270**

"Joy to the World! The Lord is Come"

### **\*Passing The Peace of Christ**

#### **Postlude**

"Christmas Day in the Morning"  
Molto Brass and Organ

arr. Shackley

#### **Leading in Worship Tonight:**

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Philip Long, preaching

Carl Bingle, Organist

Sara Gleason, Director of Music

Chancel Choir

Molto Brass:

Jim Dawson, Maresa Badour, trumpets

Jim Lewis, horn

Judy Greene, trombone,

Mike Coldren, tuba