



From the Artist:

*I took inspiration for this project from various religious, historical, and cultural sources. It was important to me that Jesus, Mary and Joseph looked Middle Eastern. The concept of including the scripture texts as part of the art work was inspired by Islamic calligraphy, and the specific texts were chosen from among the various passages read during the Catholic liturgy throughout the Christmas season.*

*The star on Mary's shoulder presents her as a guiding star - as one who leads poor sinners to the mercy of her son. Her halo harkens to the book of Revelation, where we read of a woman clothed with the sun and wearing a crown of 12 stars. The lilies within the stars and her blue sash are both signs of purity. Her mantle was modeled from our Lady of Guadalupe - the patroness of the Americas.*

*Mary's husband, Joseph, is depicted as a strong and caring carpenter. The tassels on the corners of his garment were commanded by Mosaic law and show him to be a faithful Jewish man.*

*Jesus is shown giving us the sign of peace. In his hands are the elements of the Eucharist - his body and blood under the appearance of bread and wine. The Christ Child's face is designed to capture the apparent duality of his nature - that of an all-powerful God, and that of a vulnerable baby boy. It's only by his cross (seen on the ground in the background) that this apparent duality is reconciled. God's nature is one of infinite and sacrificial love. Jesus is our servant-king who calls each one of us to himself. Amen!*

Dear friends in Christ,

On behalf of all of us who are First Presbyterian Church of Watertown I welcome you to this special time of worship and celebration.

As we gather tonight in warmth and safety, joyfully welcoming the Christ child into our hearts and homes, our hearts remain in prayerful solidarity with those near and far who do enjoy the same. We especially on this night, when we proceed to Bethlehem to see what God has done, we pray for peace in the

land that Jesus and his family called home. Great atrocities have been committed in that place, a devastating result of greed, hatred, and evil. In a place where the three Mosaic faith traditions teach that their prophets and messengers came to preach peace, we pray that God will make it so.

Tonight's service reflects the joy that we feel in God's promises made and kept. It will lead us with joy to the side of the manger where our Savior sleeps in peace. The service begins with majestic music and light, slowly turning to a gentle lullaby as we celebrate Holy Communion and sing carols in the night. My prayer for us tonight is that we are transported to that place where God took on flesh and that, on being touched once again by the love of God, we process boldly into the world to share that love with others.

**Hearing help** is available during all worship services - hearing aids are available in the narthex.

**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.

**The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper** is open to all who seek to know and love the Lord. At First Presbyterian Church we practice open communion, which means that all people are welcome at The Table, regardless of church membership or baptismal status.

*Sanctuary trees are given to the glory of God and in memory of **Norman R. Ahlheim** by Cindy & her family.*

*The wreath on the front doors of the church is given to the Glory of God by Mr. and Mrs. John B. Johnson, Jr.*

## Prelude Music

### 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 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.**

## Special Music

“Come, Light of Christmas” arr. David Gaines

Winters seems endless as snow falls on snow.

The forests are frozen. The frosty winds blow.

Like dreams of tomorrow when tree buds will bloom,

We long for that moment when at last we'll see You.

## **Refrain**

Come, Light of Christmas, come to our world!  
Satisfy our souls!  
Shine down your love, Immanuel!  
Fill our lives with hope.

Beneath clouds of snowflakes, we are lost and alone.  
We are called in the shadows a long way from home.  
Descend, now from heaven; brighten our days;  
And melt every sorrow and worry away!

Come, Thou Long expected Jesus,  
Come and set Thy people free.  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.

## **Refrain**

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

“Joy to the World,” sts. 1 & 2

### **\*The Gospel Lesson**

Luke 2:1-20

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

“Joy to the World,” sts. 3 & 4

## **Homily**

## **The Christmas Offering**

*Women of Grace Widows Fund*



Donations can be made by either scanning the QR code from the Venmo app or by searching for\_of\_Watertown.

## **Offertory Anthem**

“The Manger”

Vanderbeek, Schmidt & Nelson

## The Eucharist

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

We have heard the good news of God being born among us! In response, we offer ourselves to God: heart, mind, body, and soul. 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.**

*A time of silence is kept*

And together we say: **Amen**

Good Christians, all,  
rejoice and sing!  
Christ is born and we have been  
reconciled to God and one another.  
**Thanks be to God!**

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

Please stand as you are able as we 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**

### **Invitation to The Table**

### **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 up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right for us to give 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 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**

**\*Post Communion Hymn #279  
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"**

## 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 By Candlelight

**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.**

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ, the King,**

**Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

### **Musical Interlude**

*During the musical interlude, you are invited to exit the sanctuary by the rear doors and assemble on the church labyrinth where we will sing "Silent Night." Please keep your candles lit.*

### **Carol in the Night**

**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**

**\*Passing The Peace of Christ**

# Christmas Luminaries

## *In Memory of:*

Harry & Genevieve Bingle  
Barbara Bingle Flynn  
Ted & Jeanette Greene  
June & Charles Haugen  
Eleanor C. Greene  
Kathryn Barney  
Chris "Kit" Fearon  
Roger & MaryEtta White  
Shirley & Dana Fearon  
Ward B. Gorman  
Carol S. Gorman  
Jennifer Lynn Young  
Ruth A. Peck Salmon & David C. Salmon  
Louise C. Nantz and John D. Nantz  
Lebon Haverstock  
Elouise Nantz Salmon  
William Smith  
John Deneen  
Alverta Deneen  
Milton Deneen  
James Deneen  
Caundell Word  
Glenn Deneen  
Alfred Deneen  
Henry & Audrey Kieff  
Grace M. Kieff  
Jack & Louise Dillenback  
Robert W. & Hazel B. Purcell  
David & Jessie Kimball Otis  
Victor & Helen Wilder  
Ella Rienbeck  
Norman R. Ahlheim  
John and Grace Ahlheim  
Norman L. and Mary Ahlheim  
Dr. Bart Van Slyke  
Elaine Morenus  
Robert Weltzer  
Judith N. George  
Dr. Wendell D. George  
Frances S. George  
Thomas N. Nagle  
Sallie M. Nagle

## *Given By:*

Carl & Janna Bingle  
Carl & Janna Bingle  
Carl & Janna Bingle  
Carl & Janna Bingle  
Carl & Janna Bingle  
Carl & Janna Bingle  
Carl & Janna Bingle  
Heather & Jonathan White  
Heather & Jonathan White  
Heather & Jonathan White  
Maureen P. Gorman  
Maureen P. Gorman  
Maureen P. Gorman  
Peter & Shirley Salmon  
Peter & Shirley Salmon  
Peter & Shirley Salmon  
Peter & Shirley Salmon  
Cindy Smith  
Cindy Smith  
Cindy Smith  
Cindy Smith  
Cindy Smith  
Cindy Smith  
Cindy Smith  
Cindy Smith  
Cindy Smith  
Kevin Kieff  
Kevin Kieff  
Kevin Kieff  
Kevin Kieff  
Kevin Kieff  
Kevin Kieff  
Kevin Kieff  
Kevin Kieff  
Gretchen Ahlheim Fields  
Gretchen Ahlheim Fields  
Gretchen Ahlheim Fields  
Ann Van Slyke  
Ann Van Slyke  
Ann Van Slyke  
The Family  
The Family  
The Family  
The Family  
The Family

## *In Memory of:*

Daniel C. Petrus  
Ted and Betty Fibison  
Samuel Watson  
Fred and Janice Haggett  
Pat and Cy Lynaugh  
Frances G. Gibson  
William C. Gibson  
Elizabeth G. Gibson  
Donald J. Gorman  
James T. Gorman  
Douglas and Jean Elwood  
Kim Oun Duck & Kim Kylon Sur  
Ray and Barbara Elwood  
David Elwood  
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Pfaff  
Virginia Fox Moeller  
Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Pfaff, Sr.  
George Blakeman  
Abigail Young  
Kall Family Members  
John P. McCreary  
Judith N. George  
John F. Wright  
Linda Kast  
Paul Linderman  
Donna Linderman  
Keith & Lillian Kimball  
John F. Wright  
Linda Kast  
Darcy Wong  
George McCullough  
Ellen McCullogh  
Anne and Sam Demion  
Leroy and Helen Fluno  
Charles and Shirley Fluno  
Patricia A. Fluno  
Pat Phillips  
Shari A. Harwood  
Roger D. Harwood  
Nancy J. Roshia  
Ted and Vivian Burgoon  
Phil and Edith Smith  
Kay and Don Long  
Alice Pratt  
Jane and William Stirling  
Kenneth and Frances Barden

## *Given By:*

The Family  
Deanne Scanlon  
Deanne Scanlon  
Stacey Bristow  
Stacey Bristow  
Bob and Bunny Gorman  
Bob and Bunny Gorman  
Bob and Bunny Gorman  
Bob and Bunny Gorman  
Bob and Bunny Gorman  
John R. Elwood and Kim Murray  
Young Soon Kim Murray  
John R. Elwood and Kim Murray  
John R. Elwood and Kim Murray  
Rebecca and William Brown  
Rebecca and William Brown  
Rebecca and William Brown  
Janet Blakeman & Marcia Bulger  
Janet Blakeman & Marcia Bulger  
Nancy Kall  
Jenny Whitenack  
Her Grandchildren  
John J., Julia, John P. & James Wright  
The Wright Family  
Beth Linderman & Family  
Beth Linderman & Family  
Robert Kimball & Family  
John J., Julia, John P. and James Wright  
The Wright Family  
Rick Papin and John Wrape  
Russ & Linda McCullough  
Russ and Linda McCullough  
Russ & Linda McCullough  
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family  
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family  
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family  
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family  
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family  
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family  
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family  
Gail Fluno, Sarah Thomas & Family  
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long  
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long  
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long  
Christine Stirling  
Christine Stirling  
The Barden Family



## *In Memory of:*

Don and Nori Grout  
Rachel and Donald Sprague  
Donald F. Sprague  
Randy Gadbow  
Elaine Marcellus  
Sarah Sprague  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Walker  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Brooks  
Mr. & Mrs. T. Urling Walker  
Wendy Walker  
Constance Walker Monroe  
Carl & Mary Pike  
John Pike  
John Bell  
Jean and Rick Howe  
Dot and Jack Bell  
Peter Howe

## *Given By:*

Philip and Emily Sprague  
Philip and Emily Sprague  
Philip and Emily Sprague  
Philip and Emily Sprague  
Philip and Emily Sprague  
Peter and Laurie Pike  
Peter and Laurie Pike  
Peter and Laurie Pike  
Peter and Laurie Pike  
Peter and Laurie Pike  
Peter and Laurie Pike  
Peter and Laurie Pike  
Linya Bell  
Linya Bell  
Linya Bell  
Linya Bell

## *In Honor of:*

Cynthia R. Ahlheim  
Ellen McCullough  
Don and Wendy Long  
Radio and Video Volunteers  
Sunday Sextons and Liturgists  
Sunday School Teachers  
Fellowship Coordinators  
Imelda O. Gorman  
Deanne Scanlon  
Louise Jeffries  
Katie Speno

## *Given By:*

Gretchen Ahlheim Fields  
Russ & Linda McCullough  
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long  
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long  
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long  
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long  
Pastor Andrew, Katie and Theo Long  
Bob and Bunny Gorman  
Liz Bonisteel & Michael Stratton  
Liz Bonisteel  
Liz Bonisteel