

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 29, 2024

*"You could more easily catch a hurricane in a shrimp net that you can understand the wild, relentless, passionate, uncompromising, pursuing love of God made present in the manger."*

– Brennan Manning

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

TRINITY BELLS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 148

Leader: Praise the Lord! Let all the angels praise the Lord.

**People: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, shining stars; praise him, highest heavens.**

Leader: Let them all praise the name of the Lord!

**People: God commanded, and the universe was created, fixed in place forever.**

Leader: Praise God, Kings and all peoples, princes and all other rulers, girls and young men, old people and children too.

**People: Let us all praise the name of the Lord and worship the Prince of Peace.**

Leader: God has come among us. Let us rejoice.

**People: Praise the Lord, all creation.**

Leader: For God's name alone is exalted.

**People: God's glory is above heaven and earth.**

\*GATHERING HYMN

#56 "The First Nowell"

MORNING PRAYER

TIME FOR CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and truth in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness.**

**We confess that we have not always welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good.**

**We have closed our eyes to the glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less.**

**Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.**

*(now that we have confessed as a congregation, let us confess our own sins in the silence of our hearts)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Release the burdens of the past. Relinquish control from that which is only in God's hands. Allow the peace of God to dwell in you. You are forgiven. Accept the gift. Relax in the warmth of God's embrace.

**People: Amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*#579 GLORIA PATRI

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

MOMENT FOR YOUNG LEADERS

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION

#2218 "You Are Mine"

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:5

Luke 2:22-40

SERMON

"It Is Done"

Rev. Paul Masters

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\*HYMN OF REFLECTION

#2065 "More Precious Than Silver"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

GRATEFUL RESPONSE

<https://app.securegive.com/fpcf>

#308 "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

\*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

*Children up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Children's Church in the CLC hallway which begins after the Moment For Young Leaders. If they'd prefer to stay seated, worship bags are by the door.*

*We have the CLC rooms 108/109 available for parents to sit with their children. The service can be streamed on a tv in the rooms.*

# Prayers for December 29<sup>th</sup> – January 4<sup>th</sup>

## Members of the Congregation:

Phyllis Chance, Ed Deal, Colleen Deal, Linda Gross,  
Harlan VandeBerg, Darlene Thomas & Lorraine Black

## Friends of the Congregation:

Dennis Meisgeier (Nate's Father)

## Prayer Families:

Don Miller & Annette Julson  
Fred & Jan Moeller  
Glenda Molgaard  
Andrew & Kristine Morris

**Pray for:** (a ministry in our Presbytery; a ministry in Fort Dodge)

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies Staff &  
Agape Church of Christ

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## Stewardship News

Attendance on December 22<sup>nd</sup> was 130 (88, 20 FB, 22 YT).

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## Thank you to our volunteers today

**Ushers:** Michelle Rogers & Delpha Holtzman

**Musician:** Shelly Bottorff

**Tech:** Scott Deuel

**Bus Driver:** Don Miller

**Elder:** Michelle Rogers

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We are grateful for the gift of chancel flowers given by Paul & Lynne Masters in celebration of their 39<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary yesterday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.

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## 2024 Giving

If you want your contributions to count for the 2024 fiscal year, please have checked dropped off in the office before noon on 12/31, mailed checks need to be received by 12/31 and SecureGive must be deposited into the church's bank account by 12/31.

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## Office Closure

The office will be closed on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

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## Wednesday Programs Returning

Wednesday programs will return on January 15<sup>th</sup>.



First Presbyterian Church  
1111 5th Avenue North, Fort Dodge, Iowa  
Lead Pastor, Rev. Paul Masters  
Executive Pastor, Chris Helton  
Director of Music, Gabriel Alves  
A/V Tech. & Comm. Director, Mary Alves  
A/V Specialist, Kristal Torres  
515-576-2091  
December 29, 2024

**Website:** [www.fpcfd.org](http://www.fpcfd.org)  
**YouTube:** FPC Fort Dodge



# More Precious than Silver 2065

Lord, you are more pre-cious than sil - ver.

Lord, you are more cost - ly than gold.

Lord, you are more beau-ti-ful than dia-monds, and

noth-ing I de - sire com-pares with you.

# O Sing a Song of Bethlehem 308

KINGSFOLD CMD

Louis FitzGerald Benson, 1899 English Country Songs, 1893  
 Arr. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 Arr. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

1. O sing a song of Beth-le-hem, Of shep-herds watch-ing there,
2. O sing a song of Naz - a - reth, Of sun - ny days of joy,
3. O sing a song of Gal - i - lee, Of lake and woods and hill,
4. O sing a song of Cal - va - ry, Its glo - ry and dis - may;

And of the news that came to them From an - gels in the air:  
 O sing of fra - grant flow - ers' breath, And of the sin - less Boy:  
 Of Him who walked up - on the sea And bade its waves be still:  
 Of Him who hung up - on the tree, And took our sins a - way:

The light that shone on Beth - le - hem Fills all the world to - day;  
 For now the flowers of Naz - a - reth In ev - ery heart may grow;  
 For though, like waves on Gal - i - lee, Dark seas of trou - ble roll,  
 For He who died on Cal - va - ry Is ris - en from the grave,

Of Je - sus' birth and peace on earth The an - gels sing al - way.  
 Now spreads the fame of His dear name On all the winds that blow.  
 When faith has heard the Mas - ter's word, Falls peace up - on the soul.  
 And Christ, our Lord, by heav - en a - dored, Is might - y now to save.



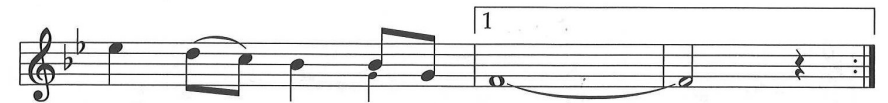
1. — I will come to you in the si - lence, —  
 2. — I am hope for all who are hope-less, —  
 3. — I am strength for all the de - spair-ing, —  
 4. I am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from — all your fear. —  
 I am eyes for all who long to see. In the  
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame. —  
 am the peace the world can - not give. —



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be  
 shad-ows of the night, I will be your light,  
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and  
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain, stand



still and know I am here. —  
 come and rest in  
 all will know my  
 up, now walk, and



me. —  
 name. — Do not be a - fraid, I am  
 live! —



Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine. —

## The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL Irregular with refrain

English carol, 17th century

English carol  
Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833

1. The first Now - ell the an - gel did say Was to cer - tain poor  
2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing in the  
3. And by the light of that same star, Three wise men  
4. This star drew nigh to the north - west; O'er Beth - le -

shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay a - keep - ing their  
east be - yond them far, And to the earth it gave great  
came from coun - try far; To seek for a king was their in -  
hem it took its rest; And there it did both stop and

sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night. Now - ell, Now -  
tent, And to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
stay, Right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

5. Then entered in those wise men three, Fell reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His presence,  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
(Refrain)
6. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of  
nought,  
And with His blood our life hath bought.  
(Refrain)

Arr. Healey Willan, 1926

*Alternate refrain*  
Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

Born is the King of Is - ra - el.