

Prelude “Hallelujah Chorus” Sandi Rabas and Joe Roy

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Dave Thompson

**\*Call to Worship:**

*Leader: Hark! The herald angels sing;*

*People: Glory to the new-born King.*

*Leader: Peace on earth, and mercy mild.*

*People: God and sinners reconciled.*

*Leader: We gather on this special night,*

*All: To come back to Jesus and worship the Lord.*

**\*Opening Carol # 31 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

**\*Prayer of Confession (In Unison) Bill Lorentz**

Loving God, you entered our world as a vulnerable baby—innocent, defenseless, helpless, and weak. You came from the highest heaven to the lowest of all places, a manger in Bethlehem. Among straw and feed, animals and shepherds you came to be one with us. Help us to receive this gift this evening and in doing so may we receive your forgiveness, hope, and eternal life. We pause for a moment to allow you in and to open ourselves to you.

*(Please continue in silent personal confession...)*

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

*L: May the peace of Christ be with you. All: And also with you.*

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**Prayer for Illumination Bill Lorentz**

**Old Testament Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7 pg. 638**

**Special Music “O Holy Night” Michelle Berger, soloist**

**New Testament Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 pg. 58**

**Christmas Reflection “An Appointment Amid Disappointment”**

**\*Christmas Carol # 23 “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**Worshipping God With Our Offerings**

**The Offertory “Corelli” Sandi Rabas and Joe Roy**

**\*Doxology**

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer**

*Sharing the Light of Christ*

**Responsive Reading: John 1 (selected verses)**

*Leader: In the beginning was the word,*

*People: And the Word was with God,*

*Leader: And the word was God.*

*People: He was in the beginning with God.*

*Leader: All things came into being through Him,*

*People: And without him not one thing came into being.*

*Leader: What has come into being in him was life,*

*People: And that life was the light of all people.*

*Leader: The light shines in the darkness,*

*People: And the darkness did not overcome it.*

*Leader: And the word became flesh and dwelt among us,*

*People: And we have seen his glory,*

*Leader: The glory as of the Father’s only Son,*

*People: Full of grace and truth.*

*Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,*

*People: Those who live in deep darkness— on them light has shined.*

**Sharing the Light**

**\*Closing Hymn # 60 “Silent Night”**

*(Please raise your candle higher on each verse)*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude Sandi Rabas and Joe Roy**

*“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”*

**\*Indicates to stand, if able and comfortable.**

**Special thanks to our musicians who contributed to our worship service this evening. They include:**

**Sandi Rabas, piano/organ**

**Michelle Berger, vocal**

**Joe Roy, trumpet**

**John Reed, guitar**

## Announcements

**Welcome!** If this is your first time visiting with us or watching us on our Facebook stream, we extend a special welcome to join us again. We are glad that you have connected with us.

**We wish you** and your families a very Merry Christmas. May the Christ child who we celebrate on this special night come into your lives in a new and exciting way. Merry Christmas!

**Christmas Poinsettias:** Thanks to all who donated toward our Christmas poinsettias this year. A complete list of donors will be in the bulletins on Christmas Eve and also in the January 2021 newsletter.

**Angel Tree:** Thanks to everyone who donated items for our Angel Tree. Three groups received Christmas gifts: low income kids in our community, those served through the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and some of our shut-ins who have been isolated during this pandemic. Special thanks to Sue Bentley for organizing the tree once again this year.

**Giving Mobile App:** Check out our mobile giving app. You can simply text fpcbillings to 77977 and give a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts. If you have any questions, you can talk with Jeanne or Pastor Dave. We appreciate your generosity to our ministry!

**ReFuel Groups** will resume the week of January 17. If you would like to join a group for the next six week session, we will find a group for you. Currently we have two groups meeting on Sunday evenings at 6, a group meets on Mondays at 2, and a group meets on Tuesdays at 1. We will continue our journey through the New Testament book of 1 Peter. We will love to add more to these groups as a way to draw closer to God and one another. Talk to Pastor Dave if interested.

**Staying Encouraged:** Our church is here to help you through this pandemic. Pastor Dave, Stephen Ministers, and Deacons are available to talk, pray, or read scripture with you via the telephone or in person. Feel free to use these resources as we want to help and encourage one another.

**Pledge cards** continue to be received. If you have yet to receive a pledge card, you can pick one up at the church or request that one be mailed to you. Thanks!

**Sanctuary flowers:** Our flower sign-up sheet for 2021 is now available to designate flowers in memory or honor of someone. Please find the sheet as you enter the sanctuary. Suggested donation is \$25.

**Kids' Sunday School:** Our children's Sunday school program is being offered on-line. Jaki Harada, a student at MSUB, is putting together a weekly lesson that is being sent out via e-mail.



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**2420 13th Street West**  
**Billings, Montana**  
**252-3434**  
**[www.fpcbillings.org](http://www.fpcbillings.org)**

**December 24, 2020**  
**10:00 PM**