

THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
AT CALDWELL

*Our Purpose:
To help all people build life-transforming
relationships with God and each other.*



*The members and friends of FPC welcome people from all backgrounds - -
people of faith from throughout the world, people who profess no faith,
Christians of all denominations and those who are searching
for religious and spiritual meaning.
Welcome!*

**December 27, 2015
Ten o'clock
First Sunday after Christmas Day**

GATHERING

REFLECTION

Since at least the fourth century in Rome, Christians have celebrated the incarnation and nativity of Jesus Christ on December 25. The time between December 25 and January 6 (Epiphany) has become an occasion for the church to celebrate and give thanks for the arrival of God's Word made flesh — the light of God that has come into the world, the light that even death could not extinguish.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens!

Praise the Lord, sun and moon and shining stars.

Praise the Lord, you highest heavens!

Let all things God has created praise the name of the Lord!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for the Lord's name alone is exalted!

ALL: Praise the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN NO. 115

"Away in a Manger"

Mueller

Lighting the candles today is Acolyte Emma Phillips.

CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION

God of us all, we have praised the holy life of Jesus as we celebrated his birth; but we have difficulty following the example of his life. We know we cannot equal him, but we would like to be better at showing compassion, kindness, patience and forgiveness. Forgive us when our living contradicts these qualities. Take possession of our hearts and transform our living by the presence of your Son.

PERSONAL CONFESSION

In the name of the One born in a manger we pray.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

...Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 132 *"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

In Dulci Jubilo

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!**

Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

PROCLAIMING AND RESPONDING

ANTHEM

"Gesu Bambino"

Frederick H. Martens & Pietro A. Yon

Jaime Maraviglia, Solo

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Please note: *Preschool children, Kindergartners and 1st Graders will head down to Rooms A4 and A5 following the Time with the Children to participate in the Young Children and Worship Program.*

PARISH LIFE

Members, friends and visitors, please sign the Friendship Pad in each pew and pass it to the person next to you. The last person will pass the pad back to the first person, who will then please place the sheet in the offering plate. **Worshippers are invited to use the cards in the pew racks for prayer requests so we may share one another's joys and concerns.** *The ushers will collect the cards during the hymn following the sermon and they will be offered during the Prayers of the People.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome into the family of God through baptism Hailey Marie Lyons, daughter of John and Cheryl (MacDonald) Lyons, born on December 30, 2014; and Sophia Grace Russo, daughter of Steve and Jennifer (McNamara) Russo, born on August 22, 2015. Assisting in the baptisms today is Elder Sharon McNamara.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed (ecum)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 144 *"In the Bleak Midwinter"* Cranham

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:21-40 Page 55, NT

HYMN NO. 148 *"Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple"* Evening Hymn

SERMON *"Carol as Resistance?"* Dr. Sommers

*HYMN (projected) *"Oh, Holy Night"*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *"Coventry Carol"* Arr. Lloyd Larson
Jill and Michael Colavita, Duet

*RESPONSE OF THANKSGIVING NO. 143 *"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"*

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN NO. 128

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

W Zlobie Lezy

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 113 *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

Gloria

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please exchange greetings of welcome and peace with your neighbor.

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

†If you are new to our church...**Welcome!** We're glad to have you here. Please ask an usher to direct you to *Visitor packets* at the rear of the church. They can be found on the table near the usher's closet under the balcony stairs.

†Your prayers of intercession are requested for those members and friends known to be *currently or recently* hospitalized or who continue to need our prayers and support:

...Harry Coppens, Bill Hayden, Edith Jipp, Lorenzo Marcantonio, Barbara Piggery, Louise Ritscher, Laura Winter and Clarence and Helena Wispelwey. The church office will be happy to verify their home addresses for you should you wish to send them words of encouragement or get well wishes.

† It is easy to join our mailing list! Just text FPC to 42828 and follow the prompt to send your e-mail address by text message.



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