

# First Presbyterian Church

## Christmas Eve



### 11 PM Worship Service

The Reverend Frederick H. Woodward, Pastor;  
Catherine Mahler, Director of Music; Debbie Eitel, Youth Director;  
Teresa Hubert, Administrative Assistant; Michele Roberts, Bookkeeper

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Pastor Fred Woodward may be reached by cell phone at 631-626-3702.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**DECEMBER 24, 2011 11:00 PM**

**PRAYER FOR MEDITATION**

Merciful God, you have come to us as a baby child into the stillness of this night. Overcome the darkness outside us and within us with the light of Christ's presence. Bring light to the shadowy places of our lives and in our world so that we may again see clearly the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for our Lord Jesus Christ.

**PRELUDE**      *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

J.S. Bach, Arr. Bruce A. Evens  
Andrew Segale, Saxophone

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 91**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* (Vs. 1, 3, 4)

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

Pastor Fred Woodward

**CALL TO WORSHIP**                      **Isaiah 40:1-2** (The Message)

Leader: "Comfort, O comfort my people," says your God.

**People:** **Speak softly and tenderly to Jerusalem, but also make it very clear...**

Leader: That her sin is taken care of... It's over and done with.

**People:** **Forgiven!**

Leader: Let us worship God.

**\*HYMN No. 102**

*What Child is This?*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Psalm 96**

**pg. 629, lg. print pg. 934**

Elder Alan Lawrence

**MEDITATION** **It Doesn't Get Better Than This**

Pastor Fred Woodward

**HYMN No. 95**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (Vs. 1, 4)

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Isaiah 9:2; 6-7**

**pg. 722, large print pg. 1072**

Elder Alan Lawrence

**MEDITATION** **Light For Our Darkness**

Pastor Fred Woodward

**HYMN No. 96**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Vs. 1, 4)

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Luke 2:1-7**

**pg. 1071, lg. print pg. 1590**

Elder Alan Lawrence

**MEDITATION “Politics Doesn’t Belong in the Church”**

Pastor Fred Woodward

**HYMN No. 93**

***Angels We Have Heard on High*** (Vs. 1-3)

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Luke 2:8-12**

**pg. 1071, lg. print, pg. 1591**

Elder Alan Lawrence

**MEDITATION For Us! (*Pro nobis*)**

Pastor Fred Woodward

**HYMN No. 97**

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**ANTHEM**

***Christmas Lullaby***, John Rutter

Chancel Choir

**RESPONSE**

***Doxology***

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above the heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**HYMN No. 92**

***Joy To The World*** (Vs. 1, 3, 4)

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Luke 2:13-20**

**pg. 1072, lg. print pg. 1591**

Pastor Fred Woodward

**MEDITATION An Implausible Sign**

Pastor Fred Woodward

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

***O Holy Night***

Adolphe Charles Adam

**SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

*The Distribution of Candles: the Pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle; the ushers will light their candle from the Pastor’s candle; the ushers will then light the candle of the worshiper in each pew nearest the center aisle. Turn your unlit candle to receive the flame of the lit candle, pass it on in this manner.*

**\*CLOSING HYMN No. 113**

***Silent Night***

**\*CHALLENGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor Fred Woodward