



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PLAINWELL
A Service of Lessons and Carols
December 24

Call to Worship (*Psalm 96*)

Leader: O Sing to the Lord a new song; tell of God's salvation from day to day.

People: For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; God is to be feared above all Gods.

L: Worship the Lord in holy array; tremble before God, all the earth.

P: Honor and majesty are before God; strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary.

Prayer of Adoration

***Carol #22**

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: We have watched; we have waited in Hope.

People: Jesus Christ is HOPE of the World

(Light the first candle.)

L: We have watched; we have waited for Peace.

People: Jesus Christ is the PEACE of the World

(Light the second candle.)

L: We have watched; we have waited in Joy!

Jesus Christ is the JOY of the World

(Light the third candle.)

L: We have watched; we have waited with Love.

Jesus Christ is the LOVE of the World

(Light the fourth candle.)

L: We have watched; we have waited for the Light. Jesus Christ, Light of the World, is born!

Jesus Christ is the LIGHT of the World!

(Light the Christ candle.)

L: We invite you to light a candle in your home and remember that Jesus Christ IS the LIGHT of the World!

THE PROPHECY

LESSON #1 -- from Isaiah 40:1-5

Judy Wood

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

CAROL #48

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

THE ANNUNCIATION

LESSON #2 -- from Matthew 1:18-25

Heather Danielkiewicz

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy

Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “*Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,*”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

CAROL#31

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

LESSON #3 -- from Luke 1:26-38

Michelle Boer

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then

Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL *"For Ages Women Hoped and Prayed"*

Tune: Carol (*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* #22)

For ages women hoped and prayed to bear th' anointed One,
Both Israel's Savior and the world's, the new day's shining sun.
Did they not know? Did they not guess what pain would then be theirs,
Of God's anointed graced their home in answer to their prayers.

Young Mary did not think to hope for miracles of birth,
And God chose her to be the one to make Christ's home on earth.
So Mary sang her heartfelt praise of God who sets things straight;
The mighty fail, the weak are raised the hungry fill their plates.

Our hearts rejoice as Mary's Song becomes our hymn of praise.
For Christ has come, Emmanuel, to claim our years and days.
Both present now and coming still, accomplished fact and dream,
We join the song that Mary sings, an earthly, heavenly theme.

THE JOURNEY OF MARY & JOSEPH

LESSON #4 -- from Luke 2:1-5

Nick Martens

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

CAROL #44

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

PRAYER 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.**

THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST CHILD

CAROL

“Sweet Little Baby Boy”

Christy Connell

LESSON #5 from Luke 2:6-7

Betsy Martens

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL #25

“Away in a Manger”

THE ANGELS’ ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE SHEPHERDS

LESSON # 6 -- from Luke 2:8-14

Meghan Boer

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ *“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”*

CAROL #56 VERSES 1, 2 AND 4

“The First Nowell”

THE SHEPHERDS’ RESPONSE TO THE GOOD NEWS

LESSON #7 -- Luke 2:15-20

Sharon Chambers

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL #41

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

THE BRINGING OF CHRIST’S LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

LESSON #9 -- from Isaiah 9

Marcus Taylor

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.
For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—
light! sunbursts of light!
You repopulated the nation,
you expanded its joy.
Oh, they’re so glad in your presence!
Festival joy!

CAROL #40 verses 1, 2 and 4

“Joy to the World!”

LESSON - GO IN PEACE *from Luke 1:78-79*

Nathan Martens

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

For those in the church sanctuary: As we sing, the congregation joins together in a circle around the sanctuary. As the Light comes to you, please tip the candle that is not lit, to reduce the chance of wax spilling.

CAROL #60

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

As just one candle of light comes into our world, we never again live in darkness. This evening we light candles. With each candle,

more light comes into our lives. With each candle, a little darkness is dispelled. With each candle, we open ourselves to God's love. With each candle, we come together a little closer and we experience God's presence more directly.

**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
Heavenly 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**

**Silent night! Holy night! wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
alleluias to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**



We are grateful for Nathan Martens for leading us in our Christmas Eve Worship and for the gifts of our readers: Judy Wood, Heather Danielkiewicz, Michelle Boer, Meghan Boer, Marcus Taylor, Nick Martens, and Betsy Martens.

***Poinsettias were provided
to beautify our Sanctuary by
the following, in memory and
thanksgiving of special people
in their lives:***



In Memory of:

Bill Switzer
Aunt Carol Sakowski
Mike Chambers
Mike Chambers
Grandpa Chambers

From:

Pat, Ellen and Kurt
Lisa Boer
Sharon Chambers
Pete and Michelle
Meghan and Pieter Boer

In Thanksgiving for:

The Congregation of the
First Presbyterian Church

Nathan & Wendy Martens

