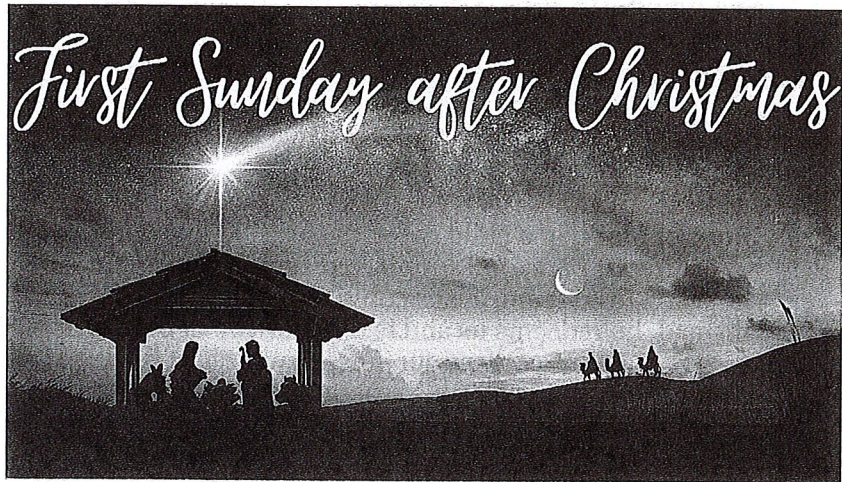


First Presbyterian Church IN VICTOR

WHOEVER YOU ARE.
HOWEVER YOU HAVE COME.
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.



First Presbyterian Church
70 East Main Street
Victor, NY 14564
585-924-2289
www.victorpres.org
Guest Preacher Dean Cornwell
Organist Ayn Patrowicz

Order of Worship January 1, 2023, 10am

1st Sunday of Christmas

***Please stand if you are able.**

Prelude “What Star is This?” arr. by Cindy Berry

Welcome & Announcements

*Responsive Call to Worship

One: All God’s people – boys and girls, men and women:

All: come and worship!

One: Shepherds, wise ones, saints, and angels:

All: come and worship! Come and worship!

One: All who need the savior, all who long for comfort:

**All: come and worship! Come and worship Christ,
the newborn King!**

Opening Prayer

***Hymn #22** “Angels From the Realms of Glory”

Call to Confession

Born of Mary, in a child called Jesus, God knew life as we know it: our pain, our doubts, our temptations, our hopes. Without sin, Jesus could choose to judge us; instead, he redeems us and is the midwife of our birth into new life. Let us confess our sins, so we might be filled with God’s grace and joy in this season of holiness and hope.

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

Dweller in eternity, you became a little baby for us. We chase down the corridors of power, while you enter the hallways where weakness and suffering reside. We grab for more and more, while you let go of glory to become one of us. We reduce our Savior’s birth to tinsel, toys, and trash to be placed by the curb, while you widen your embrace to welcome all thrown out by the world. Forgive us, Joyous Love. Come among us, filling our hearts with your grace and truth. Open our lips, so we might sing with the angels. Send us forth with the shepherds, to tell everyone we meet of the good news of the birth of the One who brings us life, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.
Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

The news we have hungered for fills our lives;
the news we have been searching for has found us;
the news that is for all people is proclaimed;
a Savior has been born – for us!

**The One who is our hope has arrived;
the One who is our life has come to us;
the One who is our joy is in our midst;
Jesus Christ the Lord! Thanks be to God! Amen!**

Unison Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, Word made flesh, let us come to this word open to being surprised. Silence our agendas; banish our assumptions; cast out our casual detachment. Confound our expectations; clear the cobwebs from our ears; penetrate the corners of our hearts with this word. We know that you can, we pray that you will, and we wait with great anticipation. Amen.

Scripture Readings (insert)

Message “Accepting God’s Direction”

***Hymn #420** “God of Grace and God of Glory”

Offering

***Doxology**

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, everything we have comes from you. You fill us with good things. Our hearts and lives overflow with your abundance. With thanksgiving, we bring to you our time, talents, and tithes. Use these gifts that you have given us to feed others as we have been fed, to serve others as we have been served, and to bless others as we have been blessed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People and Lord’s prayer

In your love, which never ends, Steadfast Grace,
you hear the cries
of all the two-year-olds
cast aside by the world,
and the weeping of their mothers
who cannot feed them
because there is no hope.

Prayers of the People and Lord's prayer

Wrapped in an old blanket
to keep you warm in a cold stable,
and smuggled into Egypt to keep you safe,
Marginalized Messiah,
you know the searching of refugees
for a place they can call home,
for a life they can call safe.

Cradling the innocents killed in war,
remembering those driven from their homes
by fear, greed, or power;
singing laments with all the parents
who cannot give their children
the lives they should have,
you proclaim God's name for us,
Spirit of Sanctuary.

God in Community, Holy in One,
you fill our hearts with yourself,
for you continue to come into this world.
Give us the peace, the joy, the hope to carry
to all who cry out to you this day,
even as we pray as Jesus has taught us, saying,
Our Father... Amen.

***Closing Hymn #38** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

***Benediction**

Postlude "Another Year is Dawning", arr. by Mary McDonald

**Portions of this morning's liturgy is from *Playing Hopscotch in Heaven* by Thom M Shuman

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 63:7-9

God's Mercy Remembered

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,"
and he became their savior

⁹ in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of
old.

The Escape to Egypt

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord
appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up,
take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and
remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to
search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then
Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by
night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until
the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been
spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of
Egypt I have called my son."

The Massacre of the Infants

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the
magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all
the children in and around Bethlehem who were two
years old or under, according to the time that he had
learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken
through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no
more."

The Return from Egypt

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly
appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ "Get
up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of
Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are
dead." ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his
mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he
heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his
father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being
warned in a dream, he went away to the district of
Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called
Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the
prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a
Nazarene."

(cont.)

420 God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

John Hughes, 1907

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry. On Thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn Thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure Thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, Bend our pride to
 4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that

pour Thy power; Crown Thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry,
 sail Thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 Thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be Ar - mored with all Christ - like gra - ces,

Bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 Pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

For the fac - ing of this hour, For the fac - ing of this hour,
 For the liv - ing of these days, For the liv - ing of these days,
 Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal, Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal,
 That we fail not them nor Thee! That we fail not them nor Thee!

22 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7

Stanzas 1-3, James Montgomery, 1816, 1825
Stanza 4, *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857

Henry Thomas Smart, 1867

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, Bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

Ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry Now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, Yon-der shines the in - fant light;
Seek the great de - sire of na - tions; Ye have seen His na - tal star.
Ev - er-more your voic - es rais - ing To the e - ter - nal Three in One:

Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, Wor-ship Christ, the new - born King!

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear 38

CAROL CMD

Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849

Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

1. It came up-on the mid-n-ight clear, That glo-ri-ous song of old,
 2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come, With peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, Whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4. For lo, the days are has-tening on, By proph-et bards fore-told,

From an-gels bend-ing near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heav-en-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world:
 Who toil a-long the climb-ing way With pain-ful steps and slow,
 When with the ev-er-cir-cling years Comes round the age of gold;

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav-en's all-gra-cious King":
 A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-ering wing,
 Look now! for glad and gold-en hours Come swift-ly on the wing:
 When peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling.

The world in sol-emn still-ness lay, To hear the an-gels sing.
 And ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.
 O rest be-side the wea-ry road, And hear the an-gels sing.
 And the whole world give back the song Which now the an-gels sing.