

**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,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

*As you exit the building, please extinguish your candle.  
You may take the candle with you or place it in one of the baskets on the sanctuary porch.*

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

**A special word of welcome to our guests:** thank you for joining us for worship this evening. We are delighted you are here and look forward to seeing you again.

**Tonight's offering** will be divided, with half given to Casa de Amistad, which addresses the needs of the underserved local Hispanic/Latinx community through direct service, education, advocacy and community involvement in order to create a just and harmonious, multicultural community. The other half will go to the Athens Nurses Clinic, which provides health care at no cost to uninsured indigent patients in Athens and northeast Georgia. Thank you for your generosity.

**Nurseries for infants and toddlers will only be provided at the 6:00 service** and are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite. They are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass doors.

**The flowers and poinsettias** are given to the glory of God and in memory and honor of our loved ones. We thank the Flower Committee for decorating our church and sanctuary during Advent and Christmas.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Holiday Benevolence Market, through December 31**

"Shopping lists" from the Holiday Benevolence Market are available in the Narthex and church office. Checks can be received until December 31.

### **2019-20 Weekday School Registration Begins January 15**

Please call our director, Elaine Johnson, at 706-206-8180 to schedule a tour. Our Weekday School is celebrating 52 years of serving Athens children, ages infant through five years.

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Interim Senior Pastor  
Dr. Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor  
Dr. John Coble, Director of Music and Organist  
Dr. Bob Burton, guitar

**Those who wish to make a contribution** to the church before the end of the year please note the following: for tax purposes the contribution must be claimed in the year in which it is delivered. One exception is a check; which is deductible in the year it is mailed (and postmarked) even though it is received by the church early in the new year.

## USHERS

**6:00 p.m.**  
Randy Dudley (head),  
Carl Bergmann, Scott Collins,  
Jimbo LaBoon, Tom Lane,  
Keith Oelke, John Simpson,  
Bo Thurston

**8:00 p.m.**  
Robert P. Simmons, (head),  
Paige Simmons, Elizabeth Kathryn  
Simmons, Georgia Blue Simmons,  
Robert W. Simmons

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **December 25**

Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday  
Christmas Meals on Wheels Delivery

### **December 30**

One Service, 10:00 a.m., No Sunday School

### **December 31**

Church Office Closed for New Year's Holiday

### **January 1**

Church Office Closed for New Year's Holiday  
New Year's Meals on Wheels Delivery

### **January 6**

One Service, 10:00 a.m., No Sunday School  
Called Congregational Meeting, 11:00 a.m.

### **January 9**

Fellowship@First: Pizza Night  
Bookless Book Group

### **January 16**

Wed@First Classes Resume

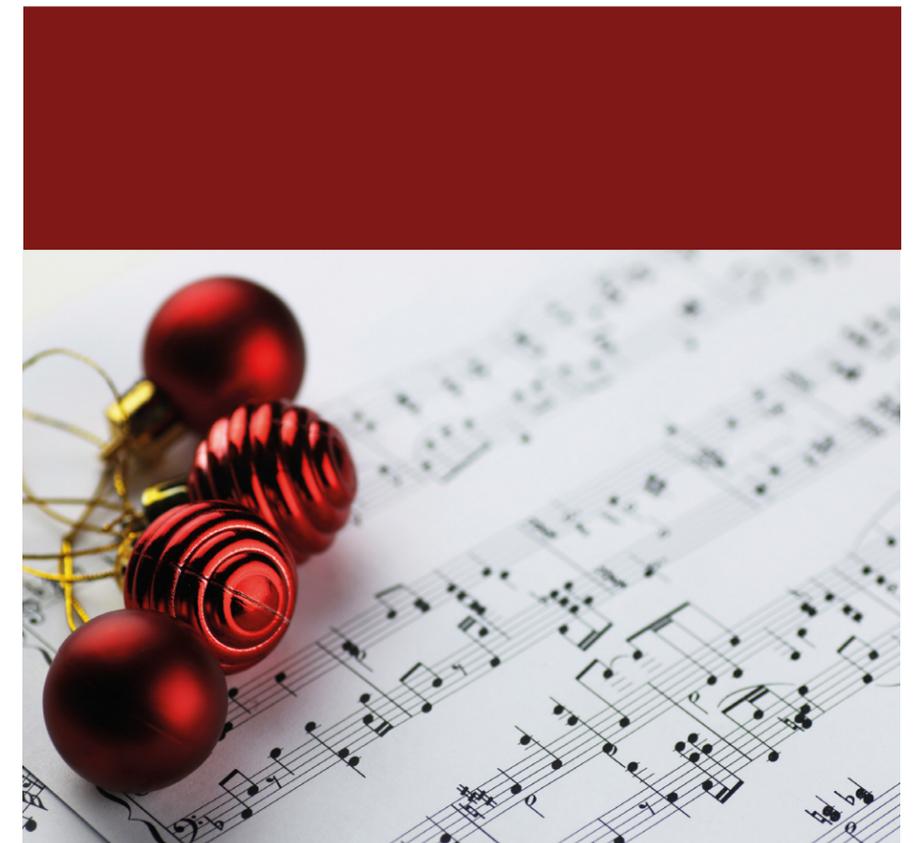
### **January 20**

Ecumenical Martin Luther King, Jr. Service, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 5:00 p.m.

### **January 21**

MLK, Jr. Day of Service  
Project Safe Volunteer Work Day

**Please see [firstpresathens.org](http://firstpresathens.org)  
for more information about the life of the church.**



# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**December 24, 2018  
6:00 and 8:00 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church of Athens**  
185 East Hancock Avenue, Athens, GA 30601  
[firstpresathens.org](http://firstpresathens.org) 706-543-4338

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Prelude** Gloria Michael Bedford

In dulci jubilo James Vivian

In dulci jubilo Johann Sebastian Bach

In dulci jubilo Michael Bedford

In dulci jubilo let us our homage shew;  
our heart's joy reclineth in praesepio  
and like a bright star shineth, matris in gremio.  
Alpha es et O, alpha es et O.  
O Jesu parvule! I yearn for thee alway!  
Hear me, I beseech thee, O Puer optime!  
My prayer let it reach thee, O Princeps Gloriam!  
Trahe me post te! Trahe me post te!  
O Patris caritas, O Nati, lenitas!  
Deeply were we stained per nostra crimina;  
but thou hast for us gained coelorum gaudia.  
O that we were there! O that we were there!  
Ubi sunt gaudia? O where, if that they be not there?  
There are angels singing nova cantica,  
there the bells are ringing in Regis curia:  
O that we were there, O that we were there.

In the Bleak Midwinter Allen Orton Gibbs

Stille Nacht: Interlude Alan Bullard

**Lighting of the Christ Candle** Dr. Bruce Lancaster

\***Hymn 41** O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES

\***Prayer for Christmas Eve** attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson  
Loving God,  
help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas make us happy to be your children,  
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

**Anthem** O Holy Night Adolphe Adam  
O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,  
it is the night of the dear Savior's birth;  
long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,  
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;  
fall on your knees, oh, hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!  
Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand;  
so led by light of a star sweetly gleaming  
here came the wise men from Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
in all our trials born to be our friend;  
he knows our need, our weakness is no stranger.  
Behold your King, before him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, before him lowly bend!  
Truly he taught us to love one another,  
his law is love, and his gospel is peace;  
chains shall he break for the slave is our brother,  
and in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
let all within us praise his holy name;  
Christ is the Lord, oh, praise his name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

**Scripture Lesson** Luke 2:8-20, page 935

\***Hymn 23** Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA

**Sermon** The Story in Song: Silent Night  
Dr. Bruce Lancaster

\***Hymn 27** Gentle Mary Laid Her Child  
TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

**Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings**

*Half of tonight's offering will be given to Casa de Amistad, which addresses the needs of the local underserved Hispanic/Latinx community, and half to the Athens Nurses Clinic, which provides health care at no cost to uninsured indigent patients in northeast Georgia. Thank you for your generosity.*

**Offertory** Mid-winter Bob Chilcott  
In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.  
Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.  
Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but only his mother in her maiden bliss  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.  
What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

**Prayer of Dedication**

\***Hymn 53** What Child Is This GREENSLEEVES

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.**

**Sharing of Bread and Cup**  
Please partake of the elements as you are served. The cup in the center of each plate contains gluten free bread.

**Prayer after Communion**

**Lighting of the Candles**  
When lighting your candle, please tilt the unlighted candle toward the flame of the lighted candle.

**Candlelight Carol Sing**  
Congregation remains seated.

Joy to the World

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

**It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven's all gracious King”:  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.**

The First Nowell

**The first Nowell the angels did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new born King.”  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

\*Those who are able may stand.