

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

“Silent Night”
Praise Team

Bart Millard

Special thanks to our liturgist this morning – Nathan Connelly

The Elder of the Week is Jeff Mulkern

STAFF

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Elfinwild Presbyterian Church Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2017

*You are invited to use Scripture for reflection
or the following prayer as you prepare your hearts for worship.*

“For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him.” John 3:17

PRELUDE “Glory to God” Reuben Morgan
Praise Team

WORDS OF WELCOME

BRINGING THE LIGHT “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
**O come, Desire of nations bind, in one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH The Lesnett Family

Scripture reading John 3:16-21
Lighting of the Candle of Love

COLLECT (UNISON PRAYER)

Eternal God, through generations You prepared a way in our world for the coming of Your Son, and by Your Spirit you are still bringing the light of the gospel to darkened lives. Renew us, so that we may welcome Jesus Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 53 “What Child Is This”

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things-our hearts are filled with joy. By Your power You lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into Your kingdom. Salvation is Your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace Your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on Your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus’ sake. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior, Jesus Christ, came among us in great humility, will sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free for all sin. Receive and believe the Good News of the Gospel!

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!!

*RESPONSE Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “Winter Snow” Audrey Assad
Elizabeth Dolan & Andrew Lesnett

*DOXOLOGY

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

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.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-14
(page 958 in the pew Bible)

SERMON “The Savior is Born” Dr. Dirk Lesnett

*SONG OF COMMITMENT

“Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)”

Verse 1

**Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing**

Chorus

**Joy unspeakable joy
An overflowing well
No tongue can tell
Joy unspeakable joy
It rises in my soul
Never lets me go**

Verse 2

**Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy**

Verse 3

**He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love**

Chorus

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Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts |
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