Welcome & Announcements, Friendship Information, & Sharing Christ’s Peace

Prelude: *“Hymns of Christmas”*

*Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*

Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Candles:

Advent Readers: Charlie, Jessica, Cheyenne, Colby & Callen Brunker

Leader: Jesus said, “I am the Light of the World, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light if life.”

**People: As we light the first candle again on our Advent wreath, we remember the prophet’s hope based on God’s promise: To send a Messiah who would bring peace and love to the world.**

Leader: As we light the second candle, we remember the peace of Christ offered to the whole world.

**People: As we light the third candle, we remember the joy brought by the angels, who sang their Good News and praised God for all to hear.**

Leader: Today our voices ring with theirs as we sing and shout in joyful praise of God’s great Good News. Rejoice, for our Lord comes.

\*Opening Hymn:  “*Joy to the World”* Red Hymnal, #125

Opening Prayer **(Unison)**

**God of Joy and Light, today we celebrate your grace poured out to all the world. We give thanks that Jesus has come to us and that our lives are made both whole and holy by Christ’s presence with us today and every day. We pray make us able to share the Good News of your love with everyone we encounter this season. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Light of the World, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen**.

\*Gloria Patri (*Glory Be to the Father…)* Red Hymnal, #623

Offertory:  *“Lullaby, Jesus”* E. Lorenz

\*Doxology Red Hymnal, # 625

Prayer of Dedication , Pastoral Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

The Word in Scripture and Song: *“Cantata”*  See Insert

Benediction

Postlude:  *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”* Beethoven/Hodges

\*Those who are comfortably able will please stand

Kimby Young, Pastor; Cantata Choir; Robyn Forkner, Pianist

Dean Faulk, Music Ministries; Alice Rollf, Organist; Heather Rutler, Worship Transcription

**Ushers December 2017**

Vern & Leone Knabe; Andy & Lois Barber; Corky & Joyce Scarlett

If you have signed up for the **Christmas Talent Concert** please see Dean Faulk before leaving church today.  There will be a run through of the talent show on Tuesday December 19th at 6:30p.m.

We need assistance with Cookies and Desserts for the Christmas Talent Concert on Wednesday December 20th.  If you would like to bring cookies or a dessert please see Dean Faulk or Paula Waters.

**Sunday, Christmas Eve December 24,** Morning worship and Christmas Pageant at 9:00 AM, Evening Candlelight and Communion at 4:30 PM.

**Substitute Teachers** are needed for our Sunday School classes. To volunteer contact Nancy Falkner or Pastor Kimby.

**Financial Report Close of November** Income - $24,861.81; Expense - $18,911.69. A full report is available upon request from the treasurer or the Congregational Life Pillar.

**Stewardship Pledges** - If you have not turned in a pledge card for 2018, please turn one in as soon as possible.  Cards are available in the narthex near the name tags.  Session will be approving a preliminary budget this week and we would like to have an accurate understanding of possible income.  If you would like to talk about your contributions, please contact Pastor Kimby or any member of session.

**Tree tag blessings** are available on the small tree on the table in the narthex by the west entrance to the sanctuary where the Mayor's Christmas Tree Children's Gifts were distributed.  Take a tag as a reminder of God's blessings this season.  Thank you for supporting the mission and outreach projects of First Presbyterian Church.

*Sunday, December 17, 2017*

*Comfort & Joy Cantata*

*3rd Sunday of Advent*

*9:00 AM*

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First Presbyterian Church

*In the heart of Gardner since 1866 ~ Serving from the heart of God*

**Welcome -** Thank you for joining us for worship today.  Please fill out a visitor information card found in the pew racks and place those in the offering plate so that we may follow up with you in the future.  Your presence with us today has been a blessing to us, we hope that you have felt the presence of God and the welcome of this congregation.

**Comfort and Joy**

**by Randy Vader and Jay Rouse**

**Directed by**

Dean Faulk – Director of Music Ministries

**Choir Accompanist**

Robyn Forkner

**A Merry Carol of the Bells Overture**

Arranged by Richard Kingsmore

**Every Valley**

Rhonda Atwater - Soloist

**Tidings of Comfort and Joy**

**Only Love**

Emmy Hill and Chesley Jones – Soloists

**Shining in the Heavens**

**Adoration**

**All Other Kings Bow Down**

Words and Music by Dave Noel Arranged by Jay Rouse

**You Came Into Our Presence**

Oliver Schwab - Soloist

**In His Presence We Bow**

Oliver Schwab – Soloist

**A Merry Carol of the Bells**

Arranged by Camp Kirkland and Jay Rouse

**Tidings of Comfort and Joy Reprise**

**Narrators**

Brenda Jones

Dwain Wallace

**Musicians**

Joy Covington - Cello

Jack Gerding – Trumpet

Max Levy – Saxophone

Jennifer Mauk – Violin

Jerry Polluck – Drums/Percussion

Patrick Skinner – String Bass

Kurt Wheeler – Clarinet

Cole Wilson – Oboe

Nadia Wright-Morrison - Flute

**Sound**

Kim Liu

Thank you to everyone who participated in making this happen.

Thank you for sharing your God given talents to glorify the Lord.

‘For Unto Us Is Born This Day, In The City Of David, A Savior, Who Is Christ The Lord.’