

# FAIRFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 29, 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

**Prelude**

*Go Tell it On the Mountain*

Randy Green

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Introit**

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Tracy Green

**Call to Worship**

L: In the midst of our despair,

**P: Christ, our light, has come.**

L: Into a world torn apart by war and violence,

**P: Christ, our peace, has come.**

L: Close to our loneliness and our longings,

**P: Christ, our good shepherd, has come.**

L: Holding broken bodies and broken hearts,

**P: Christ, our healer, has come.**

L: To the hungry and orphaned, the oppressed and displaced,

**P: Christ, our liberator, has come.**

L: To the long-suffering, to generations who have waited,

**P: Christ, the promised one, has come.**

L: We celebrate this mystery together:

**P: Christ has come and dwells among us. A new world is being born.**

**Hallelujah!**

## WE PRAISE GOD TOGETHER

**\*Hymn # 189**

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

Regent Square

## Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless, yet we do not love our brothers and sisters as he taught. You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ, yet we take our status for granted and fail to obey Christ when he calls us to follow. With all wisdom and insight you have made known to us the mystery of your will, yet we stubbornly refuse to study your Word. Forgive our sin, O God, and help us set our hope on Christ that we may live for the praise of his glory. (Silent prayer and reflection) Amen.

## Words of Assurance

L: Friends, in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven!

P: **Thanks be to God!**

\***Gloria Patri #734**

*"Glory Be to the Father"*

Greatorex

\***Hymn #179**

*Joy to the World!*

Antioch

## Psalter Reading

Psalm 98

L: Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

P: **O Lord, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

L: You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

P: **Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

L: Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

P: **With trumpets and the sound of the horn, shout with joy before the king, the Lord.**

L: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

P: **Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.**

All: **The Lord will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.**

**Anthem**

*Mary Did You Know?*

Tracy Green

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

**Scripture Lesson**                      Luke 2: 1-20      Pew Bible p. 58-New Testament

**Message**                                      "Let's Keep Christmas"      read by Dr. Steve Starzer  
(sermon by Peter Marshall, 1953)

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**\*Hymn # 184**                                      *What Child Is This*                                      Greensleeves

**\*Affirmation of Faith**                      The Apostles' Creed                                      (inside Hymnbook)

**Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

**Offering**

*(Please sign and pass the Friendship Pads during this time)*

**Offertory**                                      *Candlelight Carol*                                      Randy Green

**\*The Doxology #44**      *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Closing Hymn #185**      *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*                                      Mendelssohn

**\*Benediction**

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\* Those who are able, please stand.