



**Christmas Day
December 25, 2022**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Montrose, CO

We are people called together by Christ to celebrate God in worship, grow together through discipleship and bring others to Christ.

December 25, 2022

9:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Meditation

And is it true? This most tremendous tale of all, seen in a stained-glass window's hue. A Baby in an ox's stall? The Maker of the stars and sea, become a Child on earth for me? No love that in a family dwells, nor caroling in frosty air, nor all the steeple-shaking bells can, with this single Truth compare—that God was Man in Palestine and lives today in Bread and Wine. - John Betjeman, English Poet Laureate

Prelude Music/All of Advent Candles Lit

Welcome and Invitation to Worship

The Sound of a Bell, a Moment of Silence

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship*

(re: Worship)

Leader: Like eager children waiting for dawn, tearing at the wrapping to get to the gift, waking sleeping parents with shouts of joy, let our celebrations begin!

All: May this Christmas morning find us able to say "Alleluia" even in the midst of pain and anxiety, because you are our hope.

Leader: Jesus Christ, come to us, fill our hearts with joy in knowing this deeper truth that life contains, that because you came, all will be well.

*Rise if you are able.

Nursery is available during the service for ages 0-5.

All: And as we gather this joyful morning, let our Alleluias rise from willing lips, from lives opened to your gift, and from hearts filled with your love.
Alleluia, alleluia, and Amen!

Songs of Worship*

The First Noel

Away In A Manger

(Please be seated)

Prayer of Confession

(In Unison-Rev. Nathan Decker)

Lord of Christmas Peace, we have done wrong. We have tarnished the gift you gave freely. We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see you. We have not followed Christ, we have ignored your teachings, and we have lived lives that do not reflect your grace, joy, and mercy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin, free us from our captivity, free us to a life lived in joy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Moment of silence for personal prayer and confession)

Assurance of Pardon

(Romans 5:1)

Leader: Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the Good News. We have been forgiven. Amen!

Passing of the Peace

One ancient and significant gesture in worship is the passing of the peace. Passing the peace is a tradition rooted in Scripture that embodies our identity as peacemakers (Matt. 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:20) and trains our hearts, hands, and voices in the ways of peace. At these times we leave the comfort of our seat, turn to our neighbors, grasp their hands, and speak the words, "The peace of the Lord be with you," and receive the words in turn, "And also with you." The gesture is simple, but the meaning is profound. When we extend our hand to another, we identify with Jesus, who extended his life to the point of death to make peace with humanity. (Col. 1:20-21).

Offering

Please consider tithing during this part of the service. You can also tithe electronically by going to the "Give" tab on our website.

K through 3rd graders are free to head back to Kids Connection.

*Rise if you are able.

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Sermon Text

Luke 2: 15-20 (The Message)

Message

Mary Pondered and Treasured All These Things - Rev. Dr. Jesse G. Mabanglo

Prayers of the People**Lord's Prayer****Song of Sending***

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Life in the Body (Announcements)**Blessing and Benediction*****Postlude**

Life in the Body (Announcements)

- Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are glad to have you here with us today. If you would like more information about us, please feel free to fill out a welcome card found on the table at the main door to the sanctuary. You can place the completed card in the basket when you are done.
- Please remember to have your pledge cards turned in to the office by Dec. 31.
- On Jan. 8, please plan to stay immediately after the service as there will be a congregational meeting for the purpose of presenting the 2023 church budget.
- Please note that Communion Sunday will be moved to Jan. 8.
- The office will be closed the week between Christmas and New Years, but we will be back Monday, Jan 2, 2023.
- If you would like to see what other events or Bible Studies are taking place in our church body, you can find more information by going to: <https://fpcmontrose.churchcenter.com/calendar> or by picking up a printed copy in the foyer.

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