



First Presbyterian Church of  
**NORTHPORT**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023



#### Our Mission Statement

First Presbyterian Church of Northport is a welcoming community that invites all people to learn about and respond to the Word of God as found in the Old and New Testaments. Our mission is to be shaped by, proclaim, and live out the good news of Jesus Christ. We are committed to supporting the spiritual development of our congregation by feeding the spiritually and physically hungry, caring for the sick and lonely, nurturing children, and reaching out to those in need in our local and global communities.

FOUNDED 1785

## WELCOME TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHPORT

Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a longtime member, we are blessed to have you with us. We bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we worship together as one. In our preaching and our prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world. We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning -- a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God. We hope you will experience some of the love and warmth of this caring community of faith. Welcome! We're glad you're here!

Rachel Vione, Pastor

- Please let us know of your presence by joining our members in signing our Friendship Pad (blue folder in pew).
- If you have any questions about our church, please ask our greeters and ushers (the folks who handed you a bulletin) or visit our website [www.fpcnorthport.org](http://www.fpcnorthport.org).
- Nursery care is provided each Sunday at our 10:00 am worship service, if you need help please ask an usher.
- Parents of young children are invited to pick up a children's worship bag hanging on the wall in the narthex (entryway).
- Everyone is invited to gather immediately after worship for conversation in the Hartt Room.

## HOW TO CONNECT

- Come to worship—we're here every week!
- Watch our LiveStream on our YouTube Channel - [www.youtube.com/@fpcnorthport](http://www.youtube.com/@fpcnorthport)
- Follow us on Facebook - [www.facebook.com/fpcnorthport](http://www.facebook.com/fpcnorthport)
- Join the church!
- Find the most current information on our website ([www.fpcnorthport.org](http://www.fpcnorthport.org)).

## Tonight in Worship

In order that we might give our full attention to God during worship, we request that you turn off, or turn to silent mode, all cell phones, and pagers and that no flash photography be taken.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

At a Christmas candlelight service, the symbolism of light takes center stage. In the Gospel of John, Jesus is described as the Word who became flesh and brought light into the world (John 1:4-5). Lighting candles during the service represents the arrival of Jesus, the Light of the world, into the darkness of our lives. It reminds us of the hope and joy that Christ's birth brings.

Childcare is provided on the lower level of the church.

**Cover Art:** Correggio, 1489?-1534. Adoration of the Magi, Pinacoteca di Brera, Milan, Italy from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=49135> [retrieved December 21, 2023]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Correggio\\_002.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Correggio_002.jpg).

# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00 PM

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Chancel Choir – “He is Born” Arr. J. Ricketts

Vocal/Guitar, Ken Gilbert – “God Rest You Merry Gentlemen” Traditional

Women's Chorus: Elizabeth Coleman, Cynthia Corso, Janeen Crowley,  
Marcia Mercer, Libby Yoskowitz; Soloists: Kim Gilbert & Moriah Heuer

“The Angel Gabriel” Arr. A. Synder

Cynthia Corso, Soprano – “O Magnum Misterium” M. Lauridsen

*O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see  
the newborn Lord, lying in a manger.*

*Blessed is the Virgin who was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!*

Chancel Choir – “Chantons Noel” Arr. M. Patterson

WELCOME

Rev. Rachel Vione

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Come, let us go to Bethlehem.

**Let us join the angels in singing.**

We are ready to declare God’s glory on this holy night.

**We are ready to join the shepherds in worshipping the Christ child.**

O come.

**O come let us adore Him!**

\*HYMN NO. 133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

When we allow darkness to overcome the light,

**forgive us, Lord.**

When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,

**have mercy on us, O Lord.**

When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching the needs of others,

**let your grace consume us, O God.**

When the wars around us are of no concern,

**forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer.**

We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other.

**Remove all barriers that divide us and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another. Amen.**

Please be aware that the broadcasted service may include images and video of people in the sanctuary who are present for the service.

SILENT PRAYERS

*(Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection)*

SUNG PRAYER

Hymn No. 115, v.3

MUELLER

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

\*HYMN NO. 132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

~We Hear God’s Word~

THE PROPHECY

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

HYMN NO. 121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
*(Please remain seated)*

ST. LOUIS

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

“The Perfect Christmas”

Rev. Rachel Vione

OFFERING

Please scan the QR Code on the back page.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Do You Hear What I Hear?”  
Chancel Choir

N. Regney & G. Shayne

~Holy Communion~

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

\*COMMUNION HYMN NO. 145

"What Child Is This"

GREENSLEEVES

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

SANCTUS [congregation sings]

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Communion will be served by intinction. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle beginning with the front rows, take a piece of bread, eat it, then move to the juice filled trays. After drinking the juice, please take the empty cup back to your pew and place it in the cup rack. All elements are gluten free.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"  
Organ/Trumpet

J.S. Bach

"Away in a Manger"  
Chancel Choir

Arr. T. Howe

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Please be aware that the broadcasted service may include images and video of people in the sanctuary who are present for the service.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN NO. 122

“Silent Night, Holy Night”  
*(Please remain seated)*

STILLE NACHT

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Silent Night, holy night!<br>All is calm, all is bright.<br>‘Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.<br>Holy infant so tender and mild,<br>Sleep in heavenly peace.<br>Sleep in heavenly peace.      | 2. Silent Night, holy night!<br>Shepherds quake at the sight,<br>Glories stream from heaven afar,<br>Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;<br>Christ, the Savior, is born!<br>Christ, the Savior, is born! |
| 3. Silent Night, holy night!<br>Son of God, love's pure light<br>Radiant beams from Thy holy face,<br>With the dawn of redeeming grace,<br>Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!<br>Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! | 4. Silent night, holy night!<br>Wondrous star, lend thy light;<br>with the angels let us sing<br>Alleluia to our King:<br>Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior<br>is born.                 |

*As the choir and congregation sing the carol, worshippers seated on the aisle end of each pew are invited to light their candle from the usher and light the candle of the person next to them.*

\*BENEDICTION

*Following the benediction, please extinguish your candle. Candles can be placed in the baskets as you leave the sanctuary. As you leave, carry the light of Christ out into the world.*

\*HYMN NO. 134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

\*POSTLUDE

“Swiss Noel”

Louis-Claude Daquin

Charles Clausen, Trumpet     Dr. Brenda Clark, Organ

***The Staff at First Presbyterian Church***

***wish you***

***a***

***Merry Christmas***

***and***

***Happy New Year!***

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### Contact Information

#### Church Office

330 Main St., Northport, NY 11768

Phone: (631) 261-6434

Email: [office@fpcnorthport.org](mailto:office@fpcnorthport.org)

Website: [www.fpcnorthport.org](http://www.fpcnorthport.org)

 [www.facebook.com/fpcnorthport](https://www.facebook.com/fpcnorthport)

#### Ecumenical Lay Council Food Pantry

Phone: (631) 261-4357

#### Weekday Nursery School

Phone: (631) 757-1342

Email: [info@weekdaynorthport.com](mailto:info@weekdaynorthport.com)

Website: [www.weekdaynorthport.com](http://www.weekdaynorthport.com)

 [www.facebook.com/weekdaynorthport](https://www.facebook.com/weekdaynorthport)

To sign up for the church email list send  
your email address to:  
[office@fpcnorthport.org](mailto:office@fpcnorthport.org)

### The Staff of The First Presbyterian Church of Northport

Rachel Vione  
*Pastor*

Colleen Agovino  
*Chancel Choir Director*

Brenda Clark  
*Director of Music & Organist*

John Kennedy  
*Facilities Manager*

Kevin McKerr  
*Finance and IT Manager*

Michelle Micucci  
*Director of Weekday Nursery School*

Karen Twitchell  
*Office Administrator*



Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the church.  
The network name is FPCN\_Guest  
The password for the guest network is Hartt330

### Session

Marcia Mercer (Clerk of Session), Melissa Barasch,  
Pat Bell, Melissa Beyer, Cathy Coleman, Dennis  
Crowley, Frank Dentrone, Vicki Field, Marilyn Fox,  
Kim Gilbert, Susanne Haffner, William Heuer,  
Cindy Mies, Diana Montusi, David Ofsharick, Anita  
D'Amico Stambouly

### Deacons

Jim Beyer, Janeen Crowley, Helene Dunat, Sue  
Ebert, Jack Fink, Tim Gladding, Carolyn Louis  
(co-moderator), Krista Mellinger-DeRoma, Jeannie  
O'Brien (co-moderator), Robin O'Neil Gonzalez,  
Jeannie Reed, Robert Spiller, Pegge Strella,  
Marjorie Sundquist, Tiffany Thomas

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