



First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge

**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023**

Welcome to our church! It is a joy to worship with you on this evening. We hope you have a wonderful Christmastime!

**Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

SUNG RESPONSE #90 (GtG)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

We Gather as God's People

OPENING PRAYER – *Let us pray.*

O God of incarnate love, we come to this blessed Christmas Eve with the awe of the shepherds who, when they beheld the Savior who had come into our

world, praised your majesty and holy name. Your incarnation reveals your glory in all creation. In the nativity scene, we see the reflection of your image and glory — in the child and the family, the animals at the manger, the shepherds and magi who came to worship, following the star in the sky.

Help us to know that your image and glory are manifest in each face, each creature, each star around us on this holy night. We remember especially the children who hold the promise of your glory, their wonder and joy. And parents who bear the promised hope, wise people who, like the magi, seek to discern God's will and who witness to the promise of a Savior for all the earth. Tonight we seek your glory, O God, in all these faces — those with us this evening, those beloved ones who are gone but remain so present in memory.

Open our eyes on this holy night, to behold your light in the darkness of our broken world. Indeed, on this hallowed night, we hold tight to your promise that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it, for after the waiting the true light that enlightens all has come into our world.

For this light and this promise, we lift our candles high on this silent night and give you thanks and praise.

Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** – *Please stand and join me in the call to worship.*

There is room for you here. If you're weary and worn, or hopeful and patient.

If you're tired and lost, or wrapped up in hope.

If you're new to this place, or have been here before.

Come in, come in. There is room for you here.

The angels are singing, "Be not afraid."

The angels are singing, "Good news and great joy!"

So come in, come in!

There is room for us here.

***HYMN #41**

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem;

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: *O come, let us adore him,*

O come let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; (Refrain)

CALL TO CONFESSION – *Please be seated.*

Did you know that a version of the phrase, "Be not afraid" is written in scripture as many as 365 times? That's one for every day. God says, "Be not afraid." The angels say, "Be not afraid." Over and over again, we are told to not be afraid. Friends, that sentiment carries us into this moment of prayer. During the prayer of confession, we are honest with God about the mess of our lives and we are met with God's grace.

God does not meet us with anger. God does not hold a grudge. God does not keep score. Instead, God wraps us in mercy and holds us in love. So be not afraid, and join me in the prayer of confession, first in silent prayer.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION – *Please join me in the unison prayer of confession.*

Loving Christ, Scripture tells us that you were born in a stable because there was no room in the inn. There was no room in the inn for a woman in need, no room in the inn for an innocent baby. Forgive us. We should have learned our lesson by now, but just as others turned their backs on you, we continue to turn our backs on one another. Teach us how to make room for one another. Teach us how to make room for you. Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love, for we do not want to build hostility here. We want to build your promised day. Guide us forward. With hope and honesty we pray, amen.

KYRIE #572

“Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy up on us.”

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, the angels say, “Be not afraid,” but they also say, “Unto you a child is born.”

Christ is born for you. Christ walked this earth for you. Christ forgives you. That’s what love does.

It makes room. It offers grace. It learns your name.

So repeat these words of hope after me:

Unto us a child is born.

Unto us a child is born.

Unto us grace is given.

Unto us grace is given.

May this good news change the very fabric of our lives.

Christ has made room for all of us. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,

O tidings of comfort and joy.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – *at this time, all children are invited up to hear a short message! After, kindergarten and younger can be dismissed to Story Circle with Olivia Meyers. Those older than kindergarten may return to their pews. We have activity bags available for their use in the back.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION– *Let us pray.*

Loving God, we have heard this story before— the story of a star in the sky and a baby who was laid in a manger. We have heard this story before— passed down in hopeful whispers through the generations. So this night, as we lean our hearts and our ears closer to you, we ask that you would make room in our souls to hear this story again. Make room in us for awe. Make room in us for wonder. Make room for heartache and compassion. Make room in our hearts for you. Pull us into the narrative, that we might hear the truths in this ancient Word as if it were the first time. For we know that you are still speaking. So, speak to us again this

*night. We are listening. We are already making room.
Amen.*

FIRST READING

Psalm 96: 10-13

Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be
moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.'
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

SECOND READING

Luke 2: 1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and

laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*The Word of God for the People of God. **Amen.***

SERMON

Rev. Kori Robbins

We Respond to God's Love

***HYMN**

O, Holy Night

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in a God who makes room for us—
who opens the door, pulls up a seat, puts the kettle
on, and says, “Tell me everything.”
We believe that God not only treats us this way
but also makes room for our neighbors, for
strangers, and for our enemies.**

Jesus modeled this kind of room-making love when he said, “Let the children come to me,” and, “Let me wash your feet,” so we try to follow suit. In a world of closed doors, we believe in saying, “There is room for you here.”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – *You may be seated.*

Trusting indeed that you are always there, we pray to you now as your Son taught us, saying together,

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

In the kingdom of God, we find that generosity of spirit, generosity of possessions & the radical sharing of skills are practiced openly. All gifts are important to God, so as the offering plate comes around, place your hand over it, committing to God that you will use your time, talent and treasures for furthering the work of God’s kingdom.

OFFERTORY

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #694 (GtG)**

Great God of every blessing,
of faithful, loving care
You are the fount of goodness,
the daily bread we share.

How can we hope to thank you?

The praise is but a start.

Sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** – *Please join me in saying the prayer of dedication.*

O God, give us such love and wonder that with shepherds and magi, and pilgrims through the ages, we may adore the holy child, the promised King, and with our gifts worship him, who is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve God

***HYMN #60** *Silent Night, Holy Night*

*Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!"*

*Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,*

*Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!*

*Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
"Alleluia" to our King:
"Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born."*

Lighting of the Christmas Candles

*As your candle is lit, please turn and light the candle of
the person next to you.*

***THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

***HYMN #40** *Joy to the World*

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world! The Savior reigns"
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his right-eous-ness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.*



Christmas Flowers & Memorials

In Honor of

Gigi Rummell

Loved Ones

*Debbie Rendes,
Dennis Eggert, &
David Harwood*

Loved Ones

Given By

Matt & Bethany Glidewell

Lisa & Will Sorg

Andrew Rendes

Darryl & Jane Meyers

Wishes For

Happiness & Good Health

Merry Christmas

Given By

Debbie Rendes

Terry Goodman

In Memory of

*Kevin Rouan &
Jim Glidewell*

Our Parents & Nephew

Daryl Moore

*Mary Harwood &
Lou Rendes*

Given By

Matt & Bethany Glidewell

Darryl & Jane Meyers

Lisa Sorg & Alyssa Strange

*Mark, January, &
Andrew Rendes*

In Memory of

Margie & David Pugh

*Albert Williams (Buddy) &
Vicki Williams*

*Junior, Catherine &
Robert Postlethwait*

*David, Margie, &
Randy Pugh*

Loved Ones

*Our Loved Ones
Family*

Loved Ones

*Walter, Fayma, Thomas, &
Edward Jones*

Shirley Harcarik

John F. & Betty Brodie

Albert & Mary Grady

Jim & Joann Barca

Bert & Ivadell Henniger

Given By

Mary Jane Shaffer

The Williams Family

Dave & Nancy Pugh

Dave & Nancy Pugh

Ted & Darlene Smith

Bryan & Melissa Keeley

Tom Redmond

Marnie Bonsall

Lenora K. Jones

Lenora K. Jones

Tom & Shirley Brodie

Tom & Shirley Brodie

Rick & Judi Henniger

Rick & Judi Henniger



Responsibilities

Pastor Rev. Kori Robbins

Liturgist Val Copanic

Elder Brian Williams

Deacon Melissa Keeley

Music Larry Harris

Story Circle Olivia Meyers

Media Alyssa Strange



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Christmas Eve

5:00pm Christmas Service/
Cookie Table

Monday, December 25th



7:00pm Al-Anon/Ateen

Sunday, December 31st

10:30am Lessons & Carols

Staff

Pastor

Reverend Kori Robbins
(406)-560-5548
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Christian Educator

Carole Rummell

Administrative Assistant

April Dahl
330-652-5712

Custodian

Patty Postlethwait

Story Circle Attendant

Olivia Meyers

Media

Alyssa Strange

Hours

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9am-3pm

General Office Hours

Tuesday/Thursday
9am-1pm

Church Info

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