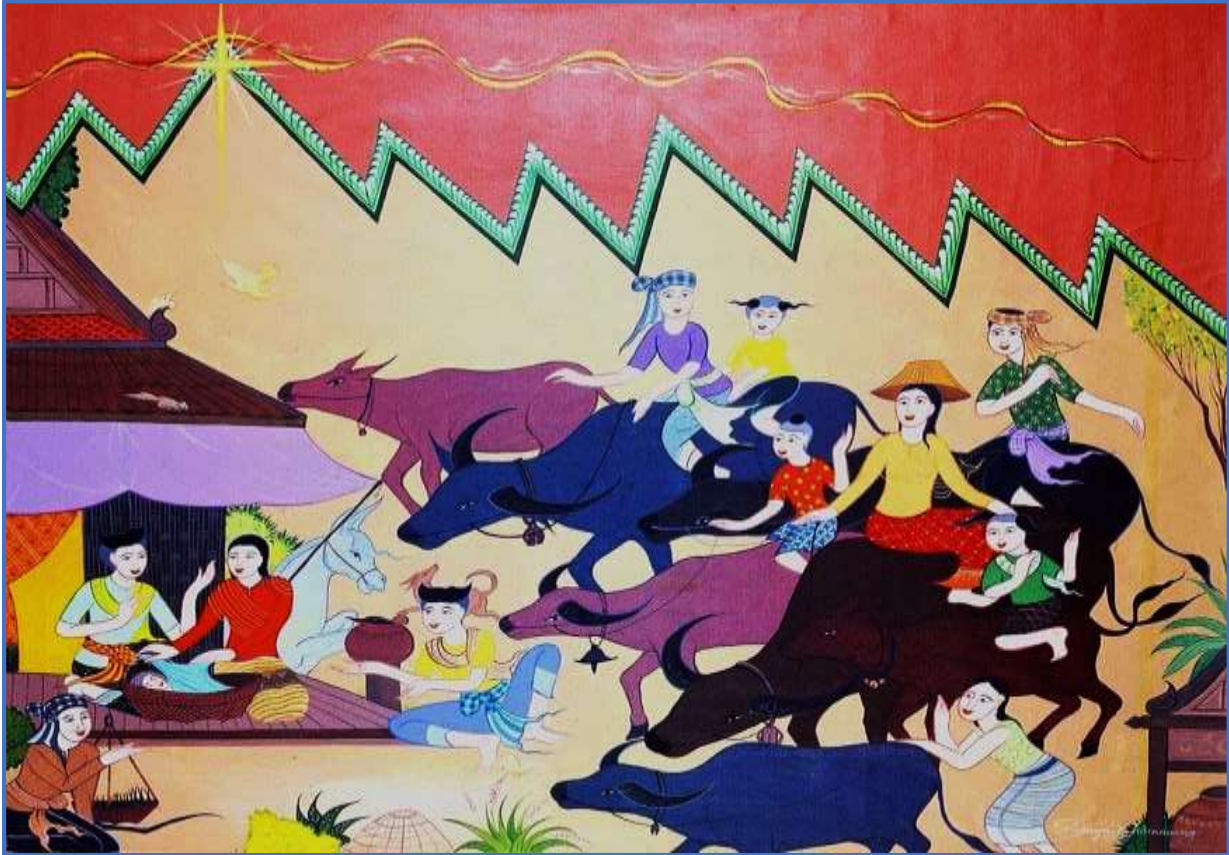


# Old First Presbyterian Church



## First Sunday of Christmas December 26, 2021

The Reverend Maggi Henderson, Pastor  
The Presbyterian Church (USA)

### Worship through Praising God

*Please fill out a guest card found in the pew rack and  
place it in the offering basket in the narthex when you exit the church building.*

*Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.*

*\* At the asterisk, please rise in body or spirit.*

**Prelude** Toccata in C Minor, BWV 911

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

**Welcome and  
Church Life**

**\*Call to  
Worship**

AnnieScott Rogers

Leader

We waited

**People**

**And imagined a savior.**

Leader

We imagined power,

**People**

**One like the world but strong and on our side.**

Leader

We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

**People**

**We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.**

Leader

We imagined the work done for us  
through the destruction of our enemies.

**People**

**We receive a baby who will teach us our calling  
to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.**

Leader

Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

**People**

**Praise to the wisdom of love. Amen.**

**Story Behind  
the Hymn**

Pastor Henderson

**\*Hymn 142**

**'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime**

1

**'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,  
Great Spirit, Lord of all the earth sent angel choirs instead.**

**Before their light the stars grew dim  
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:**

**Jesus, your king, is born; Jesus is born. In excelsis gloria.**

2

**Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found.  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round.**

**But as the hunters brave drew nigh  
the angel song rang loud and high:**

**Jesus, your king, is born; Jesus is born. In excelsis gloria.**

3

**The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair  
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.**

**The chiefs from far before him knelt  
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.**

**Jesus, your king, is born; Jesus is born. In excelsis gloria.**

4

**O children of the forest free, the angel song is true:  
the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.**

**Come kneel before the radiant boy  
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.**

**Jesus, your king, is born; Jesus is born. In excelsis gloria.**

**Prayer of  
Confession**

AnnieScott Rogers

**We could offer welcome,  
but we often choose judgment.**

**We could choose action,  
but we often choose silence.**

**We could choose advocacy,  
but we often choose comfort.**

We could choose truth,  
but we often choose ignorance.  
We could choose God,  
but we often choose ourselves.  
Forgive us, gracious God,  
for the moments when we chose poorly.

*We keep silence.*

Open our hearts to choose you,  
to choose community, to choose love.  
Gratefully we pray. Amen.

**Assurance of  
Forgiveness**

Leader Family of faith, no matter how we choose, we cannot lose God's love.  
It is undeserved, overwhelming, ever-present, and always with us.  
So may we accept God's grace, and use it as fuel for better days.  
Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

People **No matter how many times we walk away,  
God always welcomes us home.  
We are loved.  
We are forgiven.  
We are invited.  
Thanks be to God.**

**The Peace** *Please remain seated for the Peace.*

Leader Peace be with you.

People **And also with you.**

|   |
|---|
| <b>Worship through Hearing God's Word</b> |
|---|

**Time with  
Our Children**

**Prayers of the  
People**

Mary Russell

Prayer Partners Bob Fleming, Ed Frauenheim and Rowena Ritchie, Skyla and Julius, Pam and Greg Free, Amberle Gallup, Claudia Garrison, Fernando González

**Scripture** Luke 2:1-20 Translation from *The Message* by Eugene Peterson

Leader For the Word of God in scripture,  
For the Word of God within us,  
For the Word of God among us,

People **Thanks be to God.**

**We Sing Our  
Faith** *Please choose a Christmas hymn found in the hymnal:  
See Hymns 108 through 156 in the hymnal.*

**Worship through Holy Communion**

Leader May God be with you, Advent travelers!

People **May God be with you as well!**

Leader Now, in these moments, lift your hearts,  
you who found your way to Bethlehem.

People **We bring them to the Child born,  
who has come to fill us with grace.**

Leader Wise travelers, little children, everyone,  
join in singing praises to our God.

People **We have followed the Star to hope,  
and will take a different road home,  
the road of mystery and faith.**

*The pastor continues the Great Thanksgiving.*

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.**

The Lord's Supper *All are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.  
Simply follow the directions of the pastor.*

**Worship through Responding to God's Word**

Story Behind  
the Hymn

Pastor Henderson

Hymn 136 **Go Tell It on the Mountain**

*We will sing this hymn with bells. Please return them as you leave the worship service.*

Refrain **Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

1 **While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

2 **The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.**

3 **Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

\*Charge and  
Benediction

*You can place your offering in the basket when you leave the church.*

*Are you visiting today? Please fill in the contact tracing binder, if you have not already done so.*

### **Christmas Joy Offering**

You can still make your Christmas Joy Offering that assists church workers in their time of need and fosters future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Simply use the Christmas Joy Offering envelope in today's bulletin and place the envelope in the offering basket. You can, of course, make your offering at any time by visiting [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](https://pcusa.org/christmasjoy) or by using the **matrix code** here.



### **Today's Musicians**

Today we welcome **Michael Desnoyers**, one of Old First's choral section leaders, as guest director of music and **Sam Cheng**, a member of Old First, as our guest pianist and organist. We thank them for sharing their musical talents with us.

### **Art on the Cover**

The image on the cover is "Nativity" by Thai artist Sawai Chinnawong. The 2004 original is in acrylic on canvas.

### **Today's Liturgy**

Today's liturgical texts by Tim Graves.

### **Second Sunday of Christmas, January 2, 2022**

On Sunday, January 2, the Reverend John Anderson, a long-time friend of Old First, will be our guest preacher at the 11:00 am worship service.