

## Sundays

Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Fellowship following service  
Youth activities 4:00 p.m.

2701 Rochester Avenue  
Iowa City, IA 52245  
319-351-2660  
www.firstpresidiowacity.org

### Welcome to FPC.

Our prayer is that all will be blessed by the Word read and proclaimed as we are bound together by the Spirit as a community of faith. Children are invited to participate in our worship and welcome as loved, squirmy, laughing, crying children of God. We have busy bags for younger children and binders for young readers to help them in their journey, and a staffed nursery is available for children under 5.

✠ *Please rise, in body or spirit.*

***Bold lines*** are spoken or sung by ***All***. *Non-bold lines* are spoken or sung by one.

*Please be seated by a Gathered Community Pad and sign in so that we may have a record of your time with us.*



*We seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ and his call to the realm of God: the practice of justice, mercy and faith. Our mission is represented by the Celtic cross, a shepherd's crook, the extension of the right arm of fellowship into the world and the church's hospitality toward the world.*

31 December 2023  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

### Greeting

Psalm 118: 24

This is the day that the Lord has made | **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

### Prelude

✠ **Gathering Hymn 133**      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

✠ **Call to Confession Hymn #141**      *On This Day Earth Shall Ring, v1*

**On this day earth shall ring with the song chil-dren sing to the Lord,  
Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Fa-ther gave us.  
Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!**

### ✠ Prayer of Communal Confession

**Gracious and most merciful God, we come to you with conflicting hearts. We remain aglow with Christmas joy, yet know that the promise of the Christ child remains unfulfilled. We confess that we have not let love grow within us. We have turned away from the wanderers and lived in a world of borders we have imagined. On this of all days, help us to see the world more broadly. Help us to imagine that we can start again, and live this year in the spirit of Christmas.**

### ✠ Time of Individual Confession

✠ **Words of Assurance 141**      *On This Day Earth Shall Ring, v4*  
**On this day an-gels sing; with their song earth shall ring, prais-ing  
Christ, heav-en's King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave  
us. Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!**

### ✠ The Peace

The peace of Jesus Christ be with you. | **And also with you.**  
*(The people may exchange signs of Christ's peace and reconciling love.)*

**Sung Prayer for Illumination 142**      *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime, v1-2*

**'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time, when all the birds had fled, the might-y  
Git-chi Man-i-tou sent an-gel choirs in-stead. Be-fore their light the stars  
grew dim and wan-dering hunt-ers heard the hymn: Je-sus, your king, is  
born; Je-sus is born. In ex-cel-sis glo-ri-a.**

**With-in a lodge of bro-ken bark the ten-der babe was found. A rag-ged  
robe of rab-bit skin en-wrapped his beau-ty round. But as the hunt-ers  
brave drew nigh the an-gel song rang loud and high: Je-sus, your king, is  
born; Je-sus is born. In ex-cel-sis glo-ri-a.**



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## The First Lesson

Psalm 148

©Order of St. Helena

Alleluia! Praise God from the heavens; sing praise in the heights.

**Praise God, all you angels; sing praise, all the heavenly host.**

Praise God, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

**Praise God, heaven of heavens and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the Name of God, by whose command they were created.

**God made them stand fast for ever and ever, and gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

Praise God from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

**Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

**Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;**

Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;

**Sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, leaders and all rulers of the world; Young men and maidens, old and young together.**

Let them praise your Name, O God, for your Name only is exalted; your splendor is over earth and heaven.

**You have raised up strength for your people and praise for all your loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near you.**

**Alleluia!**

## Response 142

*'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime, v3-4*

## Children's Time

*All children, if they are so moved, are invited to join Pastor Nathan on the steps.*

## The Second Lesson

Luke 2:25-38

Pew Bible, New Testament, p. 31

## Response

The words of the prophets for the people of God. | **Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn 132

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

## Message

*"Christmas Continues"*

Pastor Nathan Willard

## Hymn 124

*Still, Still, Still*

## Prayers of the People and Silent Prayer

*During the prayers of the people, please respond to the words "God in your mercy" with "**Hear our prayer.**"*

## Hymn #124

*Still, Still, Still*

## 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**

## Invitation to the Offering

## Offertory

Advent Liturgy © Office of Theology and  
Worship, PC (USA)  
Doxology © 1995 The Pilgrim Press  
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✠ **Doxology (tune: 607)**

To God, all glorious heavenly Light,  
to Christ revealed in earthly night  
To God the Spirit now we raise  
our joyful songs of thankful praise. *Amen*

✠ **Prayer of Dedication**

Inspired by your peaceful power, we dedicate these gifts to continuing  
the work of your son in this world. *Amen.*

**Commissioning**

✠ **Sending Hymn 147**

*The First Nowell*

✠ **Charge and Blessing**

**Postlude**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**WORSHIP LEADERSHIP THIS MORNING**

Preacher: Pastor Nathan Willard  
Ministry of Music: Henrique Rabelo  
Ushers: Nancy Ross  
Elder: Mary Ellen Stamp  
Fellowship: Burgundy Deacon Neighborhood



**CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**

**Sunday, January 21**  
9 a.m.: Breakfast and Programming Resumes!  
4 p.m.: 3Gs, Youth Choir, Dinner

**Sunday, January 28**  
9 a.m.: Breakfast and Sunday School Classes  
4 p.m.: BIG EVENT and Potluck Dinner

**FPC's week at a glance**

**Sunday, 31 December**

10:30 Worship, Sanctuary  
11:30 Fellowship, Ryerson Hall

**Monday, 1 January Happy New Year**

**Tuesday, 2 January**

5:45 Christian Education Ministry, Beach Room


**Wednesday, 3 January**

7:00 Men's Group, Zoom

**Sunday, 7 January**

9:45 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room  
10:30 Worship, Sanctuary  
11:30 Semi-Annual Congregational Mtg., Sanctuary  
11:30 Fellowship, Ryerson Hall





*Holiday Hours*

The church office will be closed Christmas through January 1. The staff will be back in the office on January 2, 2024.

### First Presbyterian Church Staff

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