

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EVERETT

Online Worship Bulletin
December 31, 2023 – 10am

*For our liturgy this morning, **BOLD** text invites all to join in the reading.

The First Presbyterian Church of Everett welcomes you to worship. Our Friendship Pads are back in our pews. We hope you take a moment to fill them out. This is a great way for us to get to know who's worshipping with us and to connect you to our community. Again, welcome!

Prelude *A Rose Burst Forth* – Diegendesh Gary Norris, Organist

Ringing of the Bell Steve Torrence, Director of Music Ministries

Welcome Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway

Call to Worship Psalm 148 Lisa Comstock

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

Hymn *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* #22

Prayer of Confession

Lisa Comstock

Scripture tells us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Scripture also promises us that we are now made right with God by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Acknowledging this truth about ourselves and with gratitude for the truth about God, let us confess our sins in God's presence and before one another.

Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory: missed opportunities to share your love; times when we were silent when we could have spoken up for what was right; indifference to your claim on our whole lives through Jesus Christ; and a lack of gratitude for your amazing grace by which you save us and call us to be your people. Lord, forgive us.

As we look ahead to a new year, free us from thinking we can save ourselves. Help us to follow where you lead. Show us how to be your children and your heirs, forgiven and freed to live for our God and for one another in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Take a moment for silent personal confession and reflection.

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ, be with you! **And also with you!**

Hymn *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* #592

Hymn *In Bethlehem a Babe Was Born* #34

Choir Ensemble Anthem *Let the Stable Still Astonish* Directed by Steve Torrence

Scripture Isaiah 61:10-62:3

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Solo *Mary, Did You Know?* Steve Torrence

Sermon *Recovering Resolutions* Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway

Prayers of the People

Hymn *Go, Tell it on the Mountain* #29

Benediction Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway

Postlude *Joy to the World* – Dixon Gary Norris, Organist

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Part of our liturgy today was adapted from the Presbyterian Outlook, 2023 by Philip K. Gladden and provided for free distribution.

Today's Choir Ensemble Anthem

Let the Stable Still Astonish

Let the stable still astonish; straw-dirt floor, dull eyes, dusty flanks of donkeys, oxen. Crumbling crooked walls. No bed to carry that pain, and then, the child, rag-wrapped, laid to cry in a trough.

Let the stable still astonish; straw-dirt floor, dull eyes, dusty flanks of donkeys, oxen. Crumbling crooked walls. No bed to carry that pain, and then, the child, rag-wrapped, laid to cry in a trough.

Who would have chosen this? Who would have said: "Yes, let the God of all the heavens and earth be born here, in this place."

Who would have chosen this? Who would have said: "Yes, let the God of all the heavens and earth be born here, in this place."

Who, but the same God who stands, who stands in the darker, fouler rooms of our hearts and says: "Yes, let the God of all the heavens and earth be born here, in this place."

"Yes, let the God of all the heavens and earth-let the same God be born here in this place."

Let the stable still astonish. In this place be born here, here, in this place.

Announcements

Sunday, January 7th Worship & Adult Sunday School

On Sunday, January 7th, we are grateful to have Rev. Jonna Reeder preach and guide worship for us! Jonna is a pastor, missionary, and friend of our congregation and we look forward to the word she will bring us. She will also be leading our adult Sunday school hour sharing about her ministry with refugees in our area.

SCRABBLE

Scrabble resumes in January on the first and third Wednesday of the month. We invite newbies, the average “word-joe”, experts, mentors, and YOU to join us on January 3rd and January 17th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in Westminster Hall for fellowship, fun and SCRABBLE. The north door will be open from 12:50pm to 1:00pm. For more information, please contact Linda Senter or Lois Tysseling. Hope to see YOU there!

Annual Reports & Annual Congregational Meeting

Annual report submissions are due via email/hard copy to Pastor Alan by/on January 5, 2024.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, February 4, 2024, after worship in the sanctuary.

VOA Food Donations

We donated 364 pounds of food to the Volunteers of America Food Bank this week. Our total for the year is 3,630 pounds! Great job! Our next drive-through collection is January 8th from 10am to 12pm. Pastor Alan and Ken Newman will be accepting non-perishable food in the alley. You can also bring non-perishable food any Sunday and add it to the collection boxes at each door. Your donations support those in need here in Everett. Thank you for your donations.

Priscilla Circle – January 8th

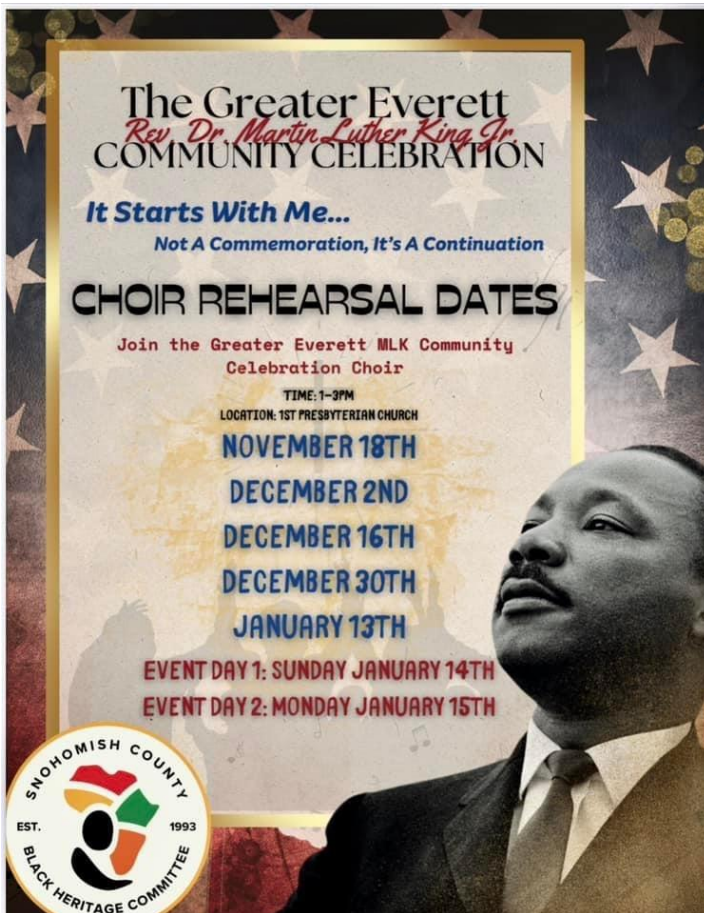
Priscilla Circle meets on January 8th at 11:30 am in Calvin Lounge. We will be studying lesson five in our study book. Marilyn Nalbach will serve as hostess. Sack lunches are optional. All women are welcome.

Men’s Breakfast – January 13th

Men’s Breakfast is Saturday, January 13th from 8:30 am to 10:00 am. All men are invited to attend this time of fellowship and Bible study, not to mention breaking of bread. We hope to see you there!

Hymn Requests

The Worship Committee invites you to suggest a favorite song or hymn for inclusion in worship. There are request forms next to the offering box. Just fill one out and drop it in the offering box and we will try our best to include your hymn in worship in the following weeks.



This Week...

- **Adult Sunday School** – There will be no adult Sunday school today. We are in for a special treat on Sunday, January 7th when Jonna Reeder will be leading our Sunday school hour sharing about her ministry with refugees in our area.
- **Lunch with Alan** is on holiday break. We will resume on Monday, January 8th.
- **Thursday Bible Study** is on break until January 18th. We will begin a new study on Job through March 21st.
- **Next Sunday** we will have hybrid worship at 10am.
 - All videos are linked to our Facebook page, website, app, and YouTube channel.

To all worshipping with us...

The First Presbyterian Church is a sanctuary open to all people. Please:

- Honor those who wish to wear masks in our facility. Ask people to be kind and welcoming to those who may need some extra space.
- Respect boundaries if one asks for alternative ways of greeting.
- Use the many hand sanitizer stations throughout our building.

If there is any confusion, concerns, or questions, please contact Pastor Alan or a greeter. Our goal is to worship together and love our neighbor. We value everyone being able to worship in safety, inclusion, and openness. All are welcome.

Prayer Requests December 31, 2023

- We pray for peace and the cessation of war in Israel/Palestine. While there are historical and political complexities and layers to this conflict, we boldly pray for Israeli and Palestinian families who have been caught in the middle and torn apart. We pray for those grieving, for those suffering, for those confused, and for those whose only reaction is to seek revenge. We pray for comfort, relief, healing, and release. We seek your peace that defies understanding to settle on families, individuals, and leaders on all sides. We pray, fully knowing we do not have the answers, knowing we are weak and sometimes prejudiced, but trusting our Lord Jesus knows the answer, is working, and is present there.
- We pray for peace between Russia and Ukraine.
- Alan & Judy Hutchison's granddaughter, Halie Anderson, was killed in an auto accident. Please keep the Hutchison family in your prayers.
- Margaret Lillie is home recovering from a fall.
- Frances, sister of Martha Clemans is having a terrible time with strep throat and appreciates our prayers.
- Eunice Allan died November 28, 2023. Please keep her family in your prayers.
- Please pray for our daughter, Monica, who had a partial knee replacement and is having a hard time. Her husband, Robby, is trying to help but since his stroke it's hard on him also. From Martha & Mike Clemans.
- We pray with Jody Doney for her brother Randy and sister-in-law Elly to find a place to live that's a reasonable distance from a bus stop. We pray they will be faithful, healthy, and strong during this time. We also pray for their dog, Sarah.
- **Update:** Amber McGuire's recent CT scan showed no blood in her brain. She still has headaches and probably will while her brain is still healing. She can now drive and work part-time until her next visit in February. Aneurism is very tiny. Thank you for your prayers. She is alive today because of all the prayers. From Sonya & Phil Beardsley.
- **Update:** Our grandson, Mason, who had back surgery in 2022 has been cleared by Shriners Hospital to resume full activities. Many of you prayed for a successful outcome and recovery for Mason and we are full of gratitude and thanks for those answered prayers. Our deepest thanks, Tony and Lois Tysseling
- **Update:** I am very thankful and appreciative of the prayers, cards, and expressions of encouragement from the First Presbyterian Church family. I was diagnosed with Stage 4 prostate cancer on September 4. I went through surgery and several tests to confirm the diagnosis. After confirmation, the doctors put me on a treatment plan that is based on immunotherapy. The plan provides a 50/50 chance to live for four years. I know that God can miraculously heal if he so chooses, although I recognize that happens very rarely. I do know that He walks with me every day on this journey. Prayers have been answered. Thanks for your support. Gary Norris
- **Update:** Barbara Peckham's shoulder replacement surgery went well, and she is home recovering. Prayers are appreciated. From David Baer-Peckham.

- **Update:** Jean Kanter is recovering from COVID and slowly getting her strength back. Jean and Kory thank everyone for their prayers, calls and cards.
- Please pray that Gordy realizes how loved he is and that he forgives me as I hurt him. From Jodi Doney.
- **Update:** Susan Klingler is seeking a second opinion about her leg and appreciates prayer.
- Please pray for Jimmy Sharp's friend, John, whose son was in a motorcycle accident and is paralyzed.
- Please pray for Genevieve Heuer who will be having surgery for melanoma. From Jimmy Sharp.
- **Update:** Vicki Dorway's friend's mom was recently diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. Please pray for her to tolerate her new cancer treatments and guide the professionals and family on this journey. Mom has a strong faith and is grateful for the prayers.
- Randy Fehlhaber asks for prayer for his dear friend, Marian Luca and his wife, Sanda. Marian, who grew up in Romania in a village and has a super strong gene heritage, and though his life has been "strong as a bull", is suddenly gravely ill with cancer. Word from Sanda is that his liver function is dependent on the next round of chemotherapy. Please pray for liver function.
- Please pray for Hugh Minor.
- Please pray for Jay Kuhnenn who has been struggling with a couple of cysts on the nerve bundle in his lower back causing sciatica in both of his legs. The first injection has not provided relief. He is now exploring the next steps.
- **Update:** Sue Hermansen appreciates our prayers and sends a huge thank you to those who have lifted her family in prayer. She is asking for prayers for her vision which has been impacted by her stroke. For the present she is staying with her daughter, Lori. From Lois Tysseling.
- Our friend Karen Jensen asks for our prayers. Her husband recently passed away and she is now living in an adult home struggling with a long history of lupus. From Alan and Dottie Villesvik.
- Our friend Meredith's mother, Beverly, is hospitalized in critical condition. We appreciate your prayers for her and her family. From Ari and Robin Kohler.
- **Update:** Marsha Lueth – We are grateful to learn she does not have brain cancer. Marsha had a stroke but is thankful for your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for Marsha for strength with her on-going health concerns.
- **New Update:** Son-in-law, Doug Schultz, is now committed to his "chemo for life" regimen (Revlimid). He's driving short distances, and we praise God daily for his improvements in his balance and strength. Thank you for your continuous prayers. From Annette King.
- **Update:** Karen, daughter of Marilee Richards, is making progress with her health challenges and the family is grateful for the prayers. Please continue to pray for ongoing improvement.

- **Update:** on prayer request for our granddaughter, Melissa Mobeck. Chris and Melissa both appreciate our prayers and ask for continued prayers for Melissa's healing. From Alan and Dottie Villevik.
- **Update:** On our friends Mike and Jeannine Schone: Mike continues to feel great and appreciates our prayers. Recent tests showed no cancer but is continuing his treatment as recommended by his doctors. From Alan and Dottie Villevik

Continued Prayers for FPCE

- Family of Dierdre Hervey
- Family of Cindy Rowlands
- Family of George Newland
- Family of Wes King
- Family of Peter Boonstra
- Family of Maggie Lamus
- Family of Lin Davis
- Joan Copeland
- Bob Barren's sister, Pamela
- Arlene Mawudeku
- Carol Gresham
- Jan Geibel, daughter of Judy & Clyde Pitcher
- Tom & Pat Dotson – friends of Bob & Barbara Barren
- Cody, grandson of Marilee Richards
- Florence Day
- Karen Summers
- Quinn Carpenter
- Genny Heuer and extended family
- Larry O'Donnell
- Robert Henry
- Paul & Joyce Richardson
- LaMara Halstrom and Jane McMahon – Steve and Nancy Torrence
- Pat Weakley Hein – sister-in-law of Jan Weakley
- Matt McCoy, grandson of Annette King
- Clyde Pitcher
- Robby as he continues to heal and for Monica helping every step of the way – from Martha and Mike Clemans
- Cy Paydar – nephew of Steve and Nancy Torrence

We pray for families affected by dementia and/or Alzheimer's. As with other individuals and families, we pray for successful research, perseverance, a sense of humor, and the Spirit's peace.

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7

Stanzas 1-3, James Montgomery, 1816, 1825
Stanza 4, *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857

Henry Thomas Smart, 1867

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

Ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant light:
Seek the great de - sire of na - tions; Ye have seen His na - tal star:
Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing To the e - ter - nal Three in One:

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King!

592 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH LM

Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709

Genevan Psalter, 1551

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise *Him, all crea-tures
here be-low; Praise *Him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host;
Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

* Or "God."

In Bethlehem a Babe Was Born

DISCOVERY Irregular with refrain

Barbara Mays, 1986

Barbara Mays, 1986
Harm. John Weaver, 1988

1. In Beth - le - hem a Babe was born With love e - nough for all.
2. Roy - al - ty and shep - herds came To wor - ship from a - far,
3. The mys - ter - y of Beth - le - hem Was long a - go, they say,

While king - doms slept, the Lord came down To grace a man - ger stall.
Guid - ed through the long cold night By one per - sis - tent star.
But, mir - a - cle of mir - a - cles, The Ba - by lives to - day

And with a glo - rious light An - gels ap - peared that night,
As each be - held the Son, Strang - ers be - came as one,
In each new heart that hears Love com - ing through the years,

Sing-ing, "Come, come, Christ is born! Come, come, world for-lorn.
The Child of peace and sac - ri - fice is wait - ing to be found."

The image shows a musical score for a Christmas song. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a single treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system contains the lyrics: "Sing-ing, 'Come, come, Christ is born! Come, come, world for-lorn.'" The second system contains the lyrics: "The Child of peace and sac - ri - fice is wait - ing to be found." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

29

GO TELL IT 7.6.7.6 with refrain

Stanzas, John W. Work II (1872-1925)

African-American spiritual

Arr. John W. Work III, 1940

Harm. and adapt. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a - bove the earth,
 3. Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born,

Be - hold through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
 Rang out the an-gel cho-rous That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

D.C.