

# Affton Presbyterian Church

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<https://afftonpc.org/>

**December 26, 2021**



*Liturgy from Thom M. Shuman: [lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com)*

## Service for the Lord's Day

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

↑Call to Worship

In snow-capped churches, and on sand-strewn beaches,

**God's people gather in joy to celebrate a birth.**

With hopes littering our hearts like wrapping paper under a tree,

**We offer our thanks and praise for the gift of grace swaddled in love.**

With eyes wide open like little children, with hearts full of wonder and laughter,

**We join our lives with Mary and Joseph, with the shepherds who ran to tell the good news.**

↑Hymn #31 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Prayer of Confession

**Manger-dwelling God, we heard the songs of the angels, yet we easily tune-out the cries of the needy; we feel the breath of our children on our faces, yet remain untouched by your Spirit of peace; we are surrounded by gifts as precious as those brought by the Wise Ones, yet have trouble sharing with those who are from other countries, other faiths.**

**Forgive us, Grace swaddled in mystery. We believe in Christmas, help us to believe in you even more; we hunger for happiness, feed us on your peace; we long for community and acceptance, surround us with our brothers and sisters we find in all those, of every age and every place, who follow and serve alongside our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate this day. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

↑Response "Gloria Patri"

↑Passing the Peace

Seasonal music and song by Lynette and Jackie Maze

Prayer for Illumination

**O God, by your Spirit tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

Scripture Luke 2:1-7 and 2 Corinthians 9:15

Sermon "God's Perfect Christmas Gift"

↑Hymn #43 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

↑Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering

Please place offerings in collection plate on the table upon entering or exiting the building. Checks can also be mailed to the church or donations made online.

↑Response of Praise

"Doxology"

↑Prayer of Dedication

**May the gifts we share be from the heart, just as yours was that day, God of Bethlehem. May they serve those who look for welcome, those who struggle with loss and grief, those who need to be blessed by hope This we pray in the name of your Child, Jesus. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

↑Hymn #40 “Joy to the World!”

↑Charge and Benediction

Postlude

**The people serving you...**

Musician: Lynette Milles

Liturgist: Jackie Maze

Guest Pastor: Reverend Doug Mankell

**Please remember in your prayers...**

Bill Campey, Barb Cavicchia, Joe Maze

**Getting in touch with the pastor:**

Pastor Hannah will be on maternity leave until February 15, 2022. During this time, please contact any member of the session for information on pastoral care.