

\* Hymn Joy To The World ANTIOCH

**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 earth! The Savior reigns: let us our songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.**

*(Please place your extinguished candle in the box in the Narthex)*

Voluntary Fantasy on Antioch Emma Lou Diemer

\* All who are able are invited to stand

Special thanks to our youth for their leadership in tonight's service.

*Acolytes: Lydia & Nate Kampe*

*Musicians: Cherub Choir, Kim Thomas, director; Chorister Choir, Rebecca Thompson, Director;*

*Youth Choir, Vicie Barrick Director*

*Pastors: Patrick Johnson, Lynn Bledsoe, Michael Poulos*

**The Christmas Eve 5:00 PM offering benefits our Outreach Ministries with the Homeless  
Room in the Inn, Hope to Home, Saturday Sanctuary, Pritchard Park breakfast**

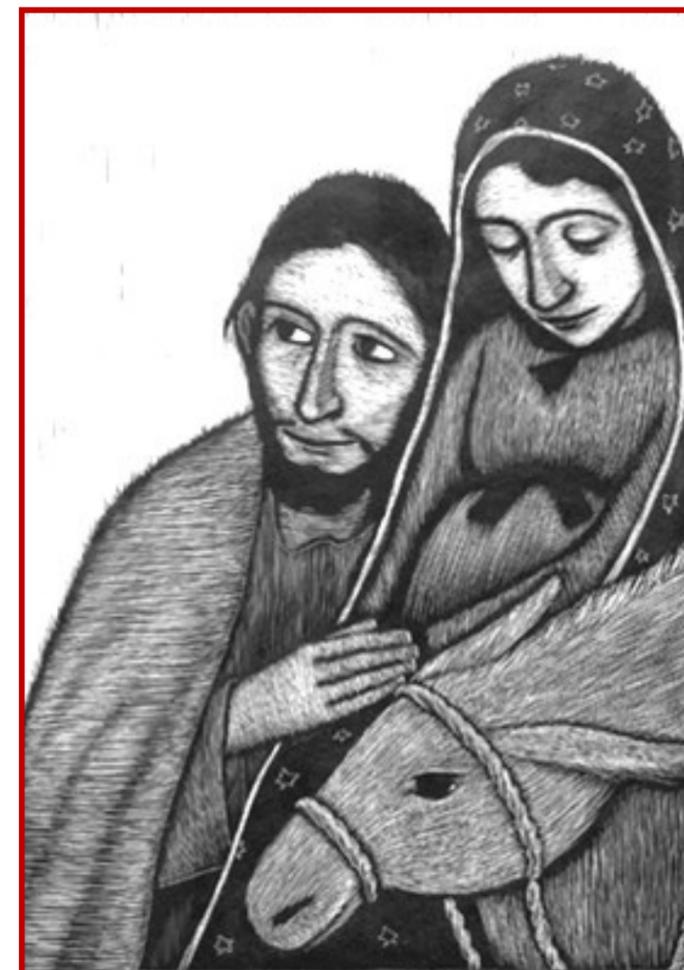
A program of Homeward Bound, **Room in the Inn** brings local faith communities together for the purpose of housing women in need of emergency shelter. Volunteers offer a warm & safe place to sleep, provide three meals (dinner, a simple breakfast, and a bag lunch) and then return the women to Homeward Bound's AHOPE Center the following morning. AHOPE staff provides case management for the women as they move along the pathway to permanent housing. Since 2001 this program operates 365 days a year, involving approximately 35 different faith communities who rotate service each week. In 2015 FPC will host Room in the Inn: March 1-8, May 3-10 & Nov. 22-29.

**HOPE to HOME** is a faith-based collaborative initiative between Homeward Bound and faith communities that pairs teams of 8-10 volunteers with a person or family who's been homeless but is moving into permanent housing. HOPE to HOME teams commit to supporting their newly housed partners for one year through financial, material, practical and relational support. Teams are required to pay a stipend which provides assistance to the newly-housed partners as well as staff support.

In 2009 the **Saturday Sanctuary** Ministry was created as a mission to our homeless neighbors. Because there are no facilities open on Saturday afternoon for the homeless, the Downtown Church Action Group decided to open our fellowship hall on Saturday afternoons (12:30-3:30 PM) during the cold months here in Western North Carolina. From October through March we offer a warm facility, healthy lunch of soup and sandwiches, popcorn & movies, games, reading materials and opportunities to connect with our team of over 100 volunteers.

Every other month our youth & adults join other churches to provide breakfast and lunch meals to our homeless neighbors through the **Pritchard Park** Sunday Morning Breakfast.

During this season when we remember the story of Mary and Joseph who could not find room in the inn that first Christmas night, we can honor the Christ child who came to bring the good news of God's love to all.



**Christmas Eve Worship  
December 24, 2015  
5:00 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church  
Asheville, NC**

## SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Please refrain from using flash photography during the Worship Service.

### GATHERING IN ANTICIPATION

Voluntary	Giga	Norman Dello Joio
* Hymn 133	O Come All Ye Faithful	ADESTE FIDELES
* Prayer of the Day	The Lord be with you. <b>And also with you.</b>	
Anthem		
Born in the Night Away in a Manger In the Bleak Midwinter		Geoffrey Ainger William Jones Kirkpatrick Gustav Holt

### LISTENING TO THE STORY

(Service of Shelter for the Holy Family)

*In Mexico one of the oldest traditions is the nine-day celebration of LAS POSADAS. "Posadas" is the Spanish word for "inn" or "lodging house." Each night of LAS POSADAS the pilgrims go to a different house looking for lodging. Each of the first 8 nights they are denied, but on the 9th they are welcomed into the house with much festivity. Tonight we celebrate an abbreviated version of LAS POSADAS. As we remember the birth of the Christ child who came into the world as one of the homeless, we can honor his name and witness to his love when we show hospitality to those who are among the least.*

Introduction to Las Posadas

Part 1: Luke 2:1-5

Anthem	If I Were A Camel	Carole Greene
If I were a camel, a camel, a camel, I'd carry a wise man to Bethlehem. If I were a bright star, a bright star, a bright star, I'd shine all the night over Bethlehem. But I can do something, do something, do something, I'll sing for the Christ child at Bethlehem.		

Part 2: Luke 2:6-15, 17-20

* Hymn 113	Angels We Have Heard on High	GLORIA
<i>During the singing of the hymn, all children are invited to come forward and join Mary &amp; Joseph at the manger. Adults are welcome to accompany young children.</i>		



### WELCOMING THE CHRIST

* Hymn 119	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	MENDELSSOHN
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\* Affirmation of Faith (A Song of Faith from United Church of Canada)

**We find God made known in Jesus of Nazareth,  
and so we sing of God the Christ, the Holy One embodied.**

**We sing of Jesus,  
a Jew,  
born to a woman in poverty  
in a time of social upheaval  
and political oppression.**

**Jesus knew human joy and sorrow.  
So filled with the Holy Spirit was he  
that in him people experienced the presence of God among them.**

**We sing praise to God incarnate!**

Welcome & Announcements

Outreach Homeless Ministries Offering *(Bring monetary gifts, blankets, hats, scarves, mittens to the manger)*

Voluntary	God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen	W. S. Lloyd Webber
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The Eucharist

*We will receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper by intinction. All are welcome to come forward to one of the stations in the sanctuary (people in the balcony are invited to come first, down the center aisle). Our servers will give you a piece of bread to dip in the juice. A gluten free option will be available in the center of the chancel steps. If you prefer to be served at your seat, we would be glad to serve you there.*

Invitation to the Lord's Table and the Great Thanksgiving

Breaking of Bread and the Communion of the People

Voluntary	Away in a Manger	Charles Ore
Hymn 121	O Little Town of Bethlehem	ST. LOUIS

Passing of the Christmas Light

Hymn	Silent Night	STILLE NACHT
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**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! 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.**

Charge and Benediction

