



**DOWNTOWN**  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



*The First Christmas Morning*



we seek a Messiah who will reign with justice.  
And you, God, both humble and mighty,  
Have found us.  
So now may we find ourselves,  
Now may we love each other,  
Now may we truly worship you,  
This Christmas Day and all days,  
Through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

Scripture

Luke 2:1-7

Message for Young Disciples

Music for Reflection

The First Christmas

Celius Dougherty

*"A star was his nightlight, his quilt was the sky,  
And soft sang his mother in case he should cry.  
And all the brown cattle came close to his bed  
To see the wee baby asleep in their shed.  
Softly sing, softly sing, softly sing.*

*His carols were praises of love and good will  
That rose in the midnight, so calm and so still,  
To herald the earliest Christmas we know,  
When Jesus was little, a long while ago.  
Softly sing, softly sing, softly sing."*

Text: Elizabeth Fleming

Scripture

Luke 2:21-22, 39-40

Meditation

The First Christmas Morning

Carol

*"Once in Royal David's City"  
(Music may be found on page 7.)*

IRBY

Prayer for Christmastide

\*Charge and Benediction  
Postlude

Good Christians All, Rejoice!

14<sup>th</sup> century carol  
Arr. Wilbur Held

Thank you to . . .

Liturgist: David Lee  
Musicians: Lee Wright and Kat Kirby

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## This Week at Downtown Church

<p><u>Sunday, December 25</u></p> <p><i>Merry Christmas</i></p> <p>Worship Service - A pre-recorded service will be available to watch online</p> <p>Preacher – Rev. Laurie Tiberi</p> <p>Liturgist – David Lee</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, December 27</u></p> <p>10:30 Bible Study – Zoom</p> <p><u>Sunday, January 1</u></p> <p><i>New Year's Day</i></p> <p>11:00 Worship Service</p> <p>Preacher – John DeHority</p> <p>Liturgist – David Lee</p>
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## *Welcome Visitors!*

**Nursery Care** for children up to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade is available in room C24.

**Children not in nursery care** will be invited forward during the “Time with Young Disciples” for a brief time with the pastor, and then will be taken up to their Sunday School room by their teacher. Parents are welcome to come up with their kids for the Time with Young Disciples if they would like to.

†**You may place your offering** in the offering plates near the front of the sanctuary before worship. If you would like to donate online you can use the QR code to make your contribution to the church.



**About the “Prayer of Jesus”** The prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray is found in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Both gospels use the Greek word *Basileia*, which can be translated into English as any of the following: kingdom, kingship, domain, reign, sovereignty, realm, dominion. Please choose from among the options provided, or use a different word if you prefer.

**We seek** to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

**This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary** – please switch your hearing aid to the “T” (telephone) position.

\* **An asterisk indicates** “please rise in body or spirit”

**We hope you will join us** after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the narthex.

# 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

# Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and  
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and  
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our  
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

## The Downtown Church Staff

The Rev. Laurie Tiberi, D. Min.,  
Interim Pastor  
Eileen Dietsch,  
Director of Operations  
Amelia Borgus, Sunday School Teacher  
Jackie Griffin, Nursery Coordinator  
Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor  
Ed Verna, Maintenance  
Moses Nhial, Maintenance  
Tyrone Reeves, Maintenance

Lee S. Wright, D.M.A.,  
Director of Music Ministry  
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician  
Alan Jones, Associate Musician  
Penny Crudup, Church Secretary  
David Mear, Business Manager  
Teresa Ward, Bookkeeper  
& Receptionist Coordinator  
Keisha Betts, Receptionist  
Theresa Reddick, Receptionist  
Tamar Reynolds, Receptionist

## Parish Leaders

Nancy Lauder Brown and Cori Rainbeaux , Co-Clerks of Session  
Carol Snook and Henry Ehindero, Co-Moderators of Deacons

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