



## Message from Pastor Bill Vincent

### IN DECEMBER DARKNESS

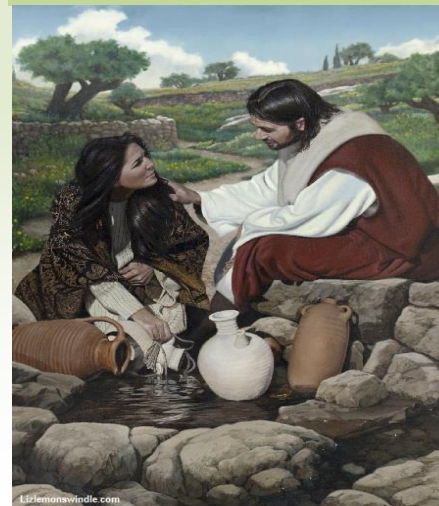
The whole world waits in December darkness  
for a glimpse of the Light of God.  
Even those who snarl "Humbug!"  
and chase away the carolers  
have been seen looking toward the skies.  
The one who declared he never would forgive  
has forgiven,  
and those who left home  
have returned,  
and even wars are halted,  
if briefly,  
as the whole world looks starward

In the December darkness  
we peer from our windows  
watching for an angel with rainbow wings  
to announce the Hope of the World.

(from [Kneeling in Bethlehem](#), by Ann Weems. Copyright 1980, 1985, 1987 Ann Weems. Used by permission of Westminster/John Knox Press.)

*May you glimpse the Light of God and  
the Hope of the World  
in the birth of Divine Love in our midst.*

*A blessed Advent and Christmas to you all!  
Pastor Bill Vincent*



**SAVE THE DATE:**

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for immediately following worship on Sunday, **December 3rd** for the purpose of acting on the Nominating Committee's report (officers for 2024), approving the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2024, and receiving the 2024 budget.

The Presbyterian Women will celebrate their Christmas Party on **December 8, 2023**, at 11:15 A.M. We will meet at Millers Grill in Washington for lunch. Following the luncheon, we will go to the Church to decorate and set up tables for the Christmas Event on December 9, 2023. Please let Betty or Dorothy know if you plan to attend.

There will be a joint Christmas Celebration with Pacific Presbyterian Church on Saturday, **December 9, 2023**. It will be held at the Union Presbyterian Church beginning at 2:00 P.M. The program will be presented by Melissa Fry which will include singing Christmas Carols. Refreshments will follow the program in the Northex

**Worship Notes:**

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** joint Christmas Eve service (with communion) 4:00 pm at Pacific (no morning worship)

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
no in-person worship  
on-line opportunities encouraged  
(links to services will be emailed the week before)

**Christmas Joy Offering:**

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

The offering extends through December 24. There will be offering envelopes in the pews, bulletin inserts of this important PC(USA) offering. Checks should be made out to First Presbyterian Church.

*Worshiping and serving God, loving, and accepting all***A reminder:**

Prayer concerns can be shared with me via email or phone before worship (preferably by Saturday evening); or you can write them down (legibly, please) on a piece of paper and place them in the basket that will be located near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Pastor Bill

Sunday Worship service will be Streaming live on Facebook on Sunday at 9:00 am. The bulletin will also be available on Facebook and the church website ([www.unionfirstpresby.org](http://www.unionfirstpresby.org)), posted by 8 am Sunday morning.

Link to Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/firstPresbyterianChurchUnion/>

Bulletin can be found here: <http://www.unionfirstpresby.org/church-bulletins/>