

Welcome to
First Presbyterian Church
December 24, 2025



Christmas Eve
A Celebration with Candlelight

Christmas Eve Service

Prelude *Mary, Did You Know?*
Solo – Amy Folts

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Angels from the Realms of Glory* *Haschek/*
(Come and Worship) *Michael*

Lighting Advent Wreath Candles *The Saathoff Family*

We have watched and waited. Throughout Advent, we have longed for hope, prayed for peace, lived with joy, and given love. And now, Christ is here.

We light the Christ candle.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. For a child has **been born to us, a son given for us. And he shall be called...**

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*Hymn #41 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

*Call to Confession

*Please stand if able.

*Prayer of Confession

It's Christmas Eve again. All month we've been in a whirlwind of activity: shopping to do, parties to attend, gatherings to organize, houses to decorate, Christmas cards to get in the mail. In the midst of the busyness, we sometimes forget what this season is all about.

Help us to be still this night. Help us to listen for you in the silent night. Help us to remember your promises of hope and salvation and love as we sing our familiar carols. Forgive us for forgetting the magic of this night and for focusing on ourselves and what we need to do instead of contemplating the miracle of Christmas.

Draw near to us this night, that we may hear angel voices, see **shepherds hurrying to a stable, feel the baby's soft breath on** our cheeks, and ponder in our hearts what all this means.

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him shall not die, but have eternal life.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

Because of Christ's great love for us, we are forgiven!

*Hymn #31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
(Refrain)

Presentation of Offerings

Offertory *Breath of Heaven* Emerson
 Vocal Trio - Amy Folts, Bonnie Hernandez, Sharon West

*Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication and the Lord's Prayer**

*Choral Response

Children's Time

Anthem *O Holy Night* Hopson

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

*Hymn #56 The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay akeeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. (Refrain)

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Eve Meditation *Rev. Seth Saathoff*

*Candlelight Hymn #60 Silent Night, Holy Night

1. 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.

2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."
3. 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.

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Hymn #40

Joy to the World!

1. 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.
2. Joy to the world! 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.
3. 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.
4. 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, wonders of His love.

This Week's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Luke 2:1-20

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ **But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."** ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ **"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"**

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, **"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."** ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

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"Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)"

By Chris Eaton and Amy Grant. Arr. by Roger Emerson

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"O Holy Night"

by Hal H. Hopson

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