



First Presbyterian Church

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*Angels dancing with joy,
Joseph sighing his thanks,*

*Mary cradling her child,
Jesus,
our Hope, is born.*



*The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things
that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.*

LUKE 2:20

A CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2025

The Chiming of the Hour
Prelude
Words of Welcome

Responsive Litany for Christmas

Tonight, we conclude our Advent journey as we light the Christ Candle, welcoming the one promised in scripture.

He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

We celebrate the hope brought to earth by our Wonderful Counselor.

He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

We rejoice in the strength and power of a Mighty God.

He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

We sing of peace on earth and good will to all people.

He is called Emmanuel: God with us!

And we lift our hearts in praise to our Everlasting God.

He is called Emmanuel: God with us! Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Tonight, we light all the candles as we celebrate the birth of Christ, the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. As the light from these candles fill this room, we light the Christ Candle, welcoming the newborn King. The one who is Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, God with us.

+Opening Hymn # 147 "The First Nowell" Nowell
(Verses 1, 2, and 4)

Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

The Word of God Luke 2:1-20 (pp. 54-55)

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn # 123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Carol CMD
(Verses 1, 4, and 5)

+Affirmation of Faith from 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 living 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.

+Hymn # 113 "Angels We Have Heard On High" Gloria
(Verse 1)

+Hymn # 121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" St. Louis
(Verses 1, 2, and 4)

+Lighting of the Candles

+Hymn # 122 "Silent Night, Holy Night" Stille Nacht

+Closing Prayer

+Postlude