

First Presbyterian Church

Established 1988 PCA

December 24, 2025

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Who is First Presbyterian Church?

We belong to the family of the Redeemed.
Transformed by the grace of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection,
we are delighting in the supremacy of God in all things
as we reach up to Him in worship,
reach in to one another with biblical teaching and shepherding care,
and reach out to the world with Christ.

So that in everything He might be preeminent.
Colossians 1:18

Christmas Eve— December 24, 2025

The days on the calendar between Thanksgiving and Christmas have historically been a season of preparation and repentance for the church known as Advent. This season invites us to experience the emotion of anticipation born out of expectation by retracing the history of Israel as she waited for the arrival of Messiah and paralleling that story with our own waiting for Christ's second appearing. The word Advent itself means arrival or appearance. Defined in a single sentence, Advent is a four week period in which the church remembers the promises of Jesus' first coming, and looks forward to his promise to come again.

As you worship with us this Advent, you will notice a Bible centered focus in all that we do. We believe that worship happens as we

Read the Bible
Pray the Bible
Sing the Bible
Preach the Bible and
See the Bible (Sacraments)

Because in everything we do in worship we seek to be Word centered, it's important to understand why Advent and Christmas are appropriate emphases for God's people. In the history of the church there has been a lot of debate about the appropriateness of these celebrations. Among the Reformed churches we are encouraged to hold on to the celebrations rooted in the history of salvation. One Reformed Confession puts it this way,

Moreover, if in Christian liberty the churches religiously celebrate the memory of the Lord's nativity, circumcision, passion, resurrection, and of his ascension into heaven, and the sending of the Holy Spirit upon his disciples, we approve of it highly. But we do not approve of feasts instituted for men and for saints. [2nd Helvetic Confession XXIV (1566)]

Therefore, this year we are focusing on the Incarnation of Christ. In Scripture and Sacrament we celebrate Christ's entrance into history (Philippians 2:5-11) as the fulfillment of God's saving work. His life, death, and resurrection give us hope of his return. May your observance of Advent as the celebration of Christ's arrival in history renew your faith and stimulate your passion for his mission in the world. A mission you share by *knowing him* and *making him known*.

On behalf of the Session,
Pastor Andy

Order of Worship

Preparation for Worship – Good News to the Poor

Whenever we consider those to whom the good news came, we must recite a list punctuated by the words “poor” and “humble.” And if the incarnation happened today, it would be the same. The Lord would not be born in Jerusalem or Rome or Geneva or Canterbury, but on the ordinary streets of some nameless town. We must accept the essential spiritual fact of the incarnation and the gospel: the Lord comes to needy people – those who realize that without him they cannot make it.

-R. Kent Hughes

Therefore you will have none to cast the line by lot in the assembly of the LORD.

-Micah 2:5

Prayer of Adoration

Scripture Reading – Luke 1:26-35

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.


Scripture Reading – Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Silent Night



1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm all is bright
2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight!
3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;
round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
Glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far, heav'n - ly host sing al - le - lu - ia;
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
with the an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ia to our King;
sleep in hea - ven - ly peace Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
sleep in hea - ven - ly peace. Christ, the Sa - vior, is born.
Je - sus, Lord at thy birth. Christ, the Sa - vior is born!

Scripture Reading – Luke 2:4-7

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Glory in the Darkest Place



- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Out of the depths of si - lent night, | Im-man - u - el, come hear our cry. |
| 2. You came to set the cap - tives free, | a Morn - ing Star of joy and peace. |
| 3. Out of the depths of si - lent night, | a Sav - ior born, a moth - er's sigh. |
| 4. You came to make your bless - ings known | and bear our curse of death a - lone; |



Our grief is strong, our bur - dens great;	the night is long and hope is faint.
Why does this dark - ness feel so deep?	Why can't our wear - y spi - rits
The dark - ness trem - bled at this star,	a beam of hope for trou - bled hearts.
you came to share our suf - fer - ing	so in our sor - row we could



see:	Glo - ry,	Glo - ry,	Glo - ry	in the dark - est place.
sing:				



Glo	ry,	Glo - ry,	Glo - ry,	let you mer - cy reign.
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Scripture Reading – Luke 2:8-16

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Profession of Faith – from Philippians 2:5-11

We confess, that though Christ Jesus was in the form of God,
he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Hymn of Praise – Hark! The Herald Angel's Sing



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gel's sing— "Glo - ry to the new-born King:
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ the e - ver - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteous-ness!

peace on earth and mer - cy mild— God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of the vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful all ye na - tions, rise,— join the tri - umph of the skies;—
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;— hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,—
Mild he lays his glo - ry by,— born that man no more may die,—

with th'an - ge - lic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is— born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus— our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise the sons of earth, born to— give them se - cond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry— to the new-born King."

Sermon

The Word Became Flesh
John 1:1-5, 14-18

Pastor Andy Aikens

Sermon Notes:

O Holy Night

1. O ho - ly night, — the stars are bright - ly shin - ing; it is the
 2. Hum - bly he lay, — cre - a - tor come as crea - ture, born on the
 3. Come then to him — who lies with - in the man - ger; with joy - ful

night of our dear sa - vior's birth.
 floor of a hay - scat - tered stall.
 shep - herds, pro - claim him as Lord.

Long lay the world — in sin and er - ror pin -
 True son of God, — yet bear - ing hu - man fea -
 Let not the pro - mised Son re - main a stran -

-ing till he ap - peared and the soul felt its worth. a
 -ture, he en - tered earth to re - verse A - dam's fall. In
 -ger; in re - v'rent wor - ship, make Christ your A - dored. E -

thrill of hope, the wea - ry world re - joic - es for
 tow - 'ring grace he laid a - side his glo - ry, and
 -ter - nal life is theirs who will re - ceive him. With

yon - der breaks a new and glo - rious morn.
 in our place was sa - cri - ficed for sin.
 grace and peace, their lives he will a - dorn.

Fall — on your knees, — O hear — the an - gel voic - es! O
 Fall — on your knees, — O hear — the gos - pel sto - ry!
 Fall — on your knees, — Re - ceive — the gift of Hea - ven!

night — di - vine, — O — night — when Christ was born! — O

night — O ho - ly night, O night di - vine!

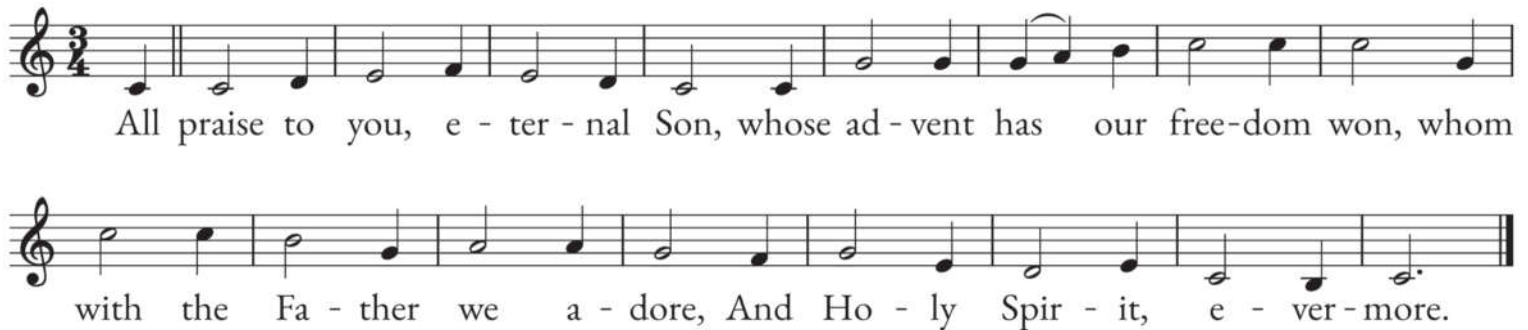
Serving of the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all baptized Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ, to come forward to the table.

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. You may use the lyrics of the hymns as well as the Scriptures to guide your praying.

As you come to the table be mindful that all the bread is gluten free, the grape juice is in the outer ring, and the wine is in the inner ring of each tray.

Advent Doxology



Benediction – from Psalm 67:1-2

May God be gracious to you and bless you
and make his face to shine upon you,
that his way may be known on earth,
And his saving power among all nations.
Go in his peace.

