

First Presbyterian Church

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Celebrating 175 Years



December 21st, 2025

We welcome you not as strangers but as a part of God's family! We are a community of faith that gathers to praise our Lord and Savior, serve others, search for answers, and enjoy the fellowship of one another. We hope today you will be challenged and discover encouragement. The peace of Christ be with you!

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4th Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

*Worship begins with the Prelude. Please use this time for **silent** preparation.*

PRELUDE

"An Advent Carol"

Joseph Morgan

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

CHORAL INTROIT

Traditional

“Ring the Bells”

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Across the universe creation waits for the prophets to speak
People: *their words of expectation and their vision of renewal.*
Leader: May we gather round them today once more
People: *and let their longing grip us and lead us into birth and blessing.*
Leader: So come now my friends this is the meeting place of promise and prophecy
People: *let us listen through the ancient words that we might be ready to hear a baby's cry.*
Unison: *Emmanuel, God is with us.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Church Youth

*HYMN OF ADORATION # 93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, and touch, and easily believe. But You did not ask us to believe what is easy, You have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways You work.

Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us we question how You chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that You sent your Son, born of a virgin – the one who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.*

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

J.S. Bach

“Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland”

*DOXOLOGY

Hymn # 606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

A CANTATA: THE HOPE AND JOY OF CHRISTMAS

Overture: “The People Sat in Darkness”

Scripture: Genesis 3

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” and “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

The Announcement: “A King Shall Come”

Scripture: Isaiah 40; Jeremiah 31

“Comfort Ye, Comfort Ye, My People” and “While We are Waiting, Come”

The Journey and Arrival: “Onward to Bethlehem”

Scripture: Luke 1; Luke 2

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” and “What Child is This”

The Adoration: “A Savior is Born”

Scripture: Luke 2

“Angels We have Heard on High” and “Still, Still, Still”

Finale: “Rejoice! Christmas is Here!”

Joy to the World (all sing in unison)

Choir Members:

Kathryn Buie
Tom Leonard

Gail Hardin
Leon Monroe

Keith Hardin
Marie Monroe

Regina Nugent

SENDING GOD’S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

Traditional French Carol

“Personet Hodie”

**Please stand if able.*

Opportunities for the Week of December 21st – December 28th

Today:	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Cantata / Rev. Robert Wilson / Christmas Joy Offering
Wednesday:		Church Office Closed
	9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service / Rev. Karen Allen
Thursday:		Merry Christmas!
Friday:		Church Office Closed
Sunday:	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Rev. Karen Allen /

Announcements

Please take a moment and thank our own Robert Wilson for bringing forth our message today.

Please join us at our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday, December 24, at 9:00 p.m. The Rev. Karen Allen will be leading the service where we will receive the Lord's Supper. All are welcome to attend.

We will be collecting the Christmas Joy Offering today, and again during the December 28th service.

The church office will be closed December 23- December 26 and December 30 – January 2. Please feel free to contact Sonya by email at infofpc397@gmail.com if needed. She will be checking emails periodically.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Angel Tree, making Christmas beautiful for two local families.

We will be at the Robbins Food Bank on Saturday, January 3rd from 7:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

We will ordain and install our church officers on Sunday, January 4th during worship.

Please consider serving on a church committee this coming year.

The PW will be hosting a soup luncheon on January 11th after worship.