

**The Worship of God**  
Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2025 – 9:00 Morning Worship  
**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!**

PRELUDE

WELCOME

**GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's people ask for signs of God's presence.

**Emmanuel! God with us!**

From ancient times, they have called upon God for salvation.

**Emmanuel! God with us!**

"Shine your face upon us," they cry.

**Emmanuel! God with us!**

And an angel said to Joseph:

**Emmanuel! God with us!**

Come, let us worship God!

\*SING

"Once in Royal David's City"

#140

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Children of God, what are we waiting for?

We wait for love that casts out fear, love that heals what hatred has torn,  
love that binds neighbor to neighbor and stranger to friend.

We wait for love embodied in Christ, a love fierce, tender and eternal.

Today we light four candles, their brightness stretches across shadows.

Hope, peace and joy blaze together, and now love joins the dance of light.

This love is not shallow or fleeting, but deep enough to embrace all creation.

We call this candle Hope

We call this candle Peace.

We call this candle Joy.

We call this candle Love.

O God of steadfast love, you came to us in a manger, not with force but in vulnerability.

You call us to love as you love...

boldly, sacrificially, without condition.

Teach us to embody your love in word and deed,

until the world knows we belong to you.

Hear the testimony of Scripture:

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;

everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1 John 4:7-8).

We thank you for your endless, boundless love.  
Make us vessels of compassion, bearers of mercy, protectors of grace.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and make love our witness.

SING

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#88 vs 3

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Friends, knowing that we pray to a God who longs for us to draw closer,  
who longs for us to always be more honest and courageous  
in naming our failings as well as our strengths,  
let us unburden our hearts with the ways we have fallen short of God’s vision for our lives.  
God who is with us, closer even than our breath,

**reveal to us the Savior.**

Like so many before us, we fall short of your hope for us and need the hope of salvation.

**Reveal to us the Savior.**

Like David and the prophets of old, we need your promise of love.

**Reveal to us the Savior.**

Like Mary and Joseph, may we have peace and joy.

**Reveal to us the Savior.**

Like all the saints who have gone before us, grant us the gift of life.

**Reveal to us the Savior.**

Free us from the ways we have failed to be your people, your children.

Free us from the ways we have hurt, ignored, and fallen short.

**Reveal to us the Savior.**

**Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear these words from scripture.

The prophet Isaiah declares, “A young woman is with child,  
and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel,”  
which means “God with us.”

May we take the radical realities of God’s forgiving love  
deep into our hearts and know that we are indeed forgiven,  
freed from our sins and freed for God’s love!

**Thanks be to God!**

#### SHARING GOD’S PEACE

I invite you to turn to one another and share a sign of peace:

You’re invited to unmute yourselves and exchange peace with one another

**LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD**

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:10-16

#### SECOND SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:2-11

...The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

SING

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

#377

GIVING OUR GIFTS AND CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God, may these ordinary gifts of paper and card swipes,  
of coins and electronic transactions, honor you.

**May the everyday gifts of our lives honor you and the work we do in your name.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

**SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD**

SING

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#133

BENEDICTION

Let us go out into God's world in peace;  
have courage; hold on to what is good;  
return to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted;  
support the weak; help the suffering; honor all persons;  
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SENDING

An angel came to Joseph and proclaimed:

**Emmanuel! God with us!**

In this final week before Christmas day, may our waiting proclaim:

**Emmanuel! God with us!**

Go forth in joy to tell the world:

**Emmanuel! God with us!**

POSTLUDE