



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 21, 2025 10:30 AM WORSHIP

WELCOME

We're glad you're at FPC! We don't look or act alike. God knows we don't think alike. We come with questions, burdens and joys. But every Sunday, we worship as one - in person and online. We pray you'll experience God's presence and deepen your faith through today's service.

In Person

Complete the maroon fellowship pad at the end of your pew and wear your name tag so we can greet one another by name. If you need a new name tag, just contact the church office. Hymns are in the red hymnals and also on the screens. During the Scripture reading, feel free to use the pew Bible, use your device or follow along on the screens. After worship, enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the Gathering Space.

Online

Use the QR code you'll see on the screen at the beginning of worship or click on the light green "Connect" button on our website's homepage and complete the brief pop-up form so we can connect with you. We invite you to light a candle and to have bread and juice with you when we celebrate communion.

"Let the Children..."

We value children in worship and encourage them to sit with their parents/guardians or to join staff in the Family Worship Center (under the south balcony in the Sanctuary) which helps engage children in worship. FPC Kids Sunday for children 3-7 meets during worship in Rooms 113/115 in the Day School hallway. The nursery is open for children up to age 3.

Next Sunday

Join us next Sunday at our 9 AM CrossRoads contemporary service in Fellowship Hall or at this 10:30 AM traditional service here in the Sanctuary. Or join us by livestream or view a recording of those services via our website's homepage or on our YouTube channel.

Our Mission: Changing Lives...Making Disciples

Our Vision: Every Member in Ministry

In Christ United, Our Values of Ministry:
Joyful Worship, Gracious Invitation, Prayerful Study,
Sacrificial Service and Caring Connections

GATHER

CHIMING THE HOUR

The prelude music prepares us to worship the Lord.

PRELUDE: *Ding Dong, Merrily on High*Jane Jude and Gloria LaCoe, handbells

WELCOME

Rev. Elizabeth Johnson

INTROIT: People, Look East

Sanctuary Choir

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today:

Peace, the Lord, is on the way.

*Please rise in body or in spirit and join in reading aloud the parts in **bold**. *CALL TO WORSHIP

In the darkness, we see light.

In the wilderness, we hear a voice.

Open our eyes to Your glory,

that we may see our sins and repent.

Prepare Your Way in us,

that we may worship and serve You, Emmanuel. Amen.

*HYMN 119: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: Peace

RESPONSE: A Candle Is Burning Sandra Dean/James Murray

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
A candle to signal that conflict must cease;
For Jesus is coming to show us the way,
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

We lay before God our sins and the sins and brokenness of the world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Maker,

in this season of busy schedules and overloaded itineraries, we forget to prepare for Your coming. Forgive us.

Forgive our doubt and despair and prepare a way for hope. Forgive our selfishness and indifference and prepare a way for love.

Forgive our resistance and control and prepare a way for grace.

Forgive our anger and impatience and prepare a way for peace.

Have mercy on us, O You who are coming, and prepare Your Way in us.

Amen.

We celebrate our reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE 88 (stanza 7): O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*PASSING THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9:2-7

WORD

We listen to what God is saying to us through Scripture, sermon and song. SERMON: Prince of Peace Rev. Dr. Will Robinson

ANTHEM: Longing for the Light

Larry Shackley

Sanctuary Choir

For centuries we have not heard an angel's voice, a prophet's word. But deep inside, our hearts are stirred; we know the day is drawing near. Our hearts await the Blessed One, the Prince of Peace, our God's own Son. The prophecies have now begun, their meaning shining bright and clear.

In darkness we've wandered, our hearts have been grieved, but Your promise to save us we've always believed. We yearn for the day when our faith becomes sight; we're waiting, longing for the light.

We know Your word forever stands, and so we pray with outstretched hands that over our forsaken lands Messiah's light will soon appear. In darkness we've wandered, our hearts have been grieved, but Your promise to save us we've always believed. We yearn for the day when our faith becomes sight; we're waiting, longing for the light.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel, which began in Bethlehem. I believe in the One whose Spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was no room in the inn. I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history, for whom the kings of earth had no power and who was not understood by the proud. I believe in the One to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind, the leprous gave welcome and accepted as Lord and Savior. I believe in the One who with love changed hearts and with His life showed that it's more blessed to serve than to be served and that it's a joy to give Your life for others. I believe in peace, which is not the absence of war, but justice among all people and nations and love among all. I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness and the transforming power of the Gospel. I believe that Christmas is strength and power and that this world can change, if with humility and faith we kneel before the manger. With the Spirit's help, I commit to being the first to do so. Amen.

PRAY

We use 'Yours' in the Lord's Prayer because it's contemporary language that's more welcoming and accessible to worshipers who aren't familiar with this prayer. You may pray it however you know it best.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Use this QR code to give.



OFFERTORY: Coventry Carol arr. Cathy Moklebust

Carillon Handbell Choir

*RESPONSE: from In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst/Christina Rossetti

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise one, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN 87: Comfort, Comfort Now My People

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE No. 92 (stanza 3): While We Are Waiting, Come

POSTLUDE: Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts from

The Christmas Oratorio

Camille Saint-Saëns; arr. Albin C. Whitworth

(You're invited to remain in worship to enjoy the Postlude.)

SEND

God blesses and sends us to serve in the world.

IN THE LIFE



We extend a special welcome to our visitors today. You're our guests, and we have a welcome bag for adults and children. They're available at the welcome center in our Gathering Space and Narthex.



We invite you to see FPC's Son-Light Singers sing Christmas carols in front of Kilwins at Shelter Cove **today** at 11:50 AM.

COMING UP



New Member Class Sunday, December 21 | 11:45 AM

Join FPC at our new member class today in the church library!



Christmas Eve Worship!

Wednesday, December 24 | 4:30 PM and 8:30 PM

Families, Carols and Candlelight at 4:30 PM and Lessons, Carols and Candlelight at 8:30 PM (with Christmas music from 8-8:30 PM). No nursery; all children are welcome at both services! All livestreamed.



Amazin' Grazin' January - March

Amazin' Grazin' is a meal and fellowship ministry. You'll meet new people and catch up with friends. Sign up **today** in the Gathering Space.



FPC Men's Retreat January 23-24 | Various Times

Reserve your spot! Rev. Are is an outstanding speaker and published author who'll help strengthen your faith in the Lord. Go to our website for details and to register.

See our calendar and learn more about events by visiting fpchhi.org.



Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of those who decorated our worship spaces and building to the glory of God this Advent and Christmas season!



Hearing devices are available. FPC also has a smartphone option that may work with your hearing aids. To use it, go to the App store (iPhone) or Google Play (Android) and download WaveCAST Receiver by Williams Sound. Then log into the FPC Member wifi network (password firstpres [case sensitive]); open WaveCAST; click on FPC Sanctuary; adjust the volume and enjoy the service.

CONNECT



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PRAYER



Use QR code to submit your prayer requests





Dr. Gerald Anderson, piano
Rev. Elizabeth Johnson, Associate Pastor
Adam Long, AV/Tech Coordinator
Chad Martin, Director of Music and Organist
Rev. Dr. Will Robinson, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

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