

We Receive God's Word

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Homily "Joy to the World!"

Rev. Maxwell Michaels

***Hymn 121** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* CRADLE SONG
(vs. 1, 4)

Pastoral Prayer 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.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 122** *Silent Night, Holy Night!* STILLE NACHT

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *Nöel* D'Aquin



Our Vision

*Rooted by God's Grace,
Growing in the Spirit,
Reaching Out with Christ's Love*

**Christmas Eve Candle-Lighting Service
December 24, 2023**

First Presbyterian Church
300 Market Street
PO Box 552
Cheraw, SC 29520
(843) 537-7474

Email: info@firstprescheraw.org
www.cherawfpc.org

December 24, 2023
First Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Candle-Lighting Service

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Silent Night* Wood
(The congregation is invited to use this time for preparation, meditation worship and prayer.)

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candles

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship**

Good news of great joy!

People who walked in darkness now live in darkness now live in great light.

Good news of great joy!

Oppression and war will not have the last word.

Good news of great joy!

A Savior is born, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

***Processional Hymn** 123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*
(vs. 1, 5) CAROL

Invitation to Confession

In Jesus Christ our Lord the grace of God has appeared, bringing light to us all. With confidence and joy, let us confess our sin.

Christmas Prayer (unison)

God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong with the world: how oppression still enslaves; how garments of war are still stained with blood; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety. We also see what is wrong in us: how passionately we pursue the things of this world, but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we do not practice the peace you intend in our relationships, our community, or even in the church. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear this good news of great joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us now greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

***Holy Interruption**

***Gloria Patri**

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.