

December 24, 2025
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 quiet preparation, meditation worship and prayer.)

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

*Call to Worship (based on Luke 2:10-15)
This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

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

Lighting of the Advent Candles *The Flynn Family*

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

Prayer of Confession

Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Saviour, you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age - worldly passions and immoral pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways. Redeem us from evil and cleanse us from sin, through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

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

Thanks be to God!

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

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel

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 2:1-14*

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Homily "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith (*the Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn 123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (vs. 1, 2)

CAROL

*Hymn 129 *Low, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

EST IS EIN ROSE

Sacrament of Communion

Communion

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

(Communion by Intinction)

Communion Music

Poèmes évangéliques, Op. 2: II. La Nativité
(The Nativity)

Jean Langlais

Prayer After Communion

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn 122 *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

STILLE NACHT

*Benediction

*Postlude *Il Est Né, Le Divin Enfant*
(Jackson Alexander, organist)

Noël Goemanne

Please wait until the end of the benediction response by the choir before exiting.

*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk.

WELCOME to our Christmas Eve Candle-lighting service! Everyone is invited to participate in the candle-lighting at the end of our evening service (candles in holders are available in the narthex). After the Benediction at the end of tonight's service, you are asked to extinguish your candle and place it back in the basket in the narthex

Please pick up your poinsettia as you leave tonight.

The Church Office will be closed Thursday, December 25th and Friday, December 26th so that the staff of First Presbyterian Church can enjoy the holiday with their families. Have a Merry Christmas! Glory be to God!

Prayer List as of December 24, 2025

Gerry Rogers
Bea Sloop
Benny Moore
Bobbie Jones
For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses
B.J. Moore
Louise Carpenter
Shirley Brock
Edward Tinsley
Ruth Jackson
Marion Murphy
Nadia Harris
Lesley Jean Watson
Rebecca Harris Ott
Pam Cook (Alison Chapman's mother)
Wyatt Smith



Our Vision

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

Christmas Eve Candle-Lighting Service

December 24, 2025

First Presbyterian Church

300 Market Street

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www.cherawfpc.org

The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. For individuals with hearing aids, please activate your T-coil to utilize this feature. Spare headsets are also available.