

First Presbyterian Church  
Order of Worship  
December 21, 2025 — Advent IV

Prelude I *On Christmas Night* — arr. Paul Manz

Prelude II *I Celebrate the Day* — David Crowder  
HolyGrounds Praise Band & Congregation

Welcome & Announcements Bridget Mitchell  
Pass the Peace

Video Meditation: Come and See Hope

Advent Wreath Lighting Dion & Micka Sanchez  
**Leader:** The waiting has been almost too much to bear. Every heartbeat cries,  
“How long, O Lord?” Tonight we stand on the edge of wonder — You are  
coming to us, in flesh, as one of us. Do not stay far off. We need You here.

**Reader:** “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his  
name Immanuel — which means, God with us.”

**All:** Immanuel, our hearts are open wide. Cross the last mile. Step into our  
darkness. Be born in the manger of these trembling lives. We long to feel Your  
breath, to touch Your hand, to know that You are really, truly here. Come,  
Lord Jesus — be with us now. Amen.

**Leader:** Four flames burn bright — our longing is almost over. God is drawing  
near. Let us fall on our knees!

\*Opening Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #121

Call to Confession Dan Reeves

Unison Prayer of Confession  
God-with-us, we want You, yet we wander. We long for Your light, yet  
cling to our darkness. We cry “Come quickly,” yet keep parts of our lives

locked against You. Forgive the half-hearted welcome we offer the Savior.  
Break our defenses with Your stubborn love, and make room in us for the Christ  
to be born anew. Receive our personal, silent confessions...

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

\*Doxology *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* #143, Vs. 1  
HolyGrounds Praise Band & Congregation

Prayer for Illumination Dan Reeves

Psalm Reading — Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (First Nations Version)

Anthem *Let Our Gladness Know No End* — arr. Judy Hunnicutt  
Sanctuary Choir

Old Testament Reading — Isaiah 7:10-16 (NIV) Dan Reeves

Time with Our Children Pastor Christian

Sermon Rev. Christian Johnson  
Incarnation: God Draws Near

Scripture — Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

Hymn of Affirmation — Tomlin, Cash, Handel, Watts, Gilder  
*Joy to the World (Unspeaking Joy)*  
HolyGrounds Praise Band & Congregation

Call to Offering Dan Reeves

Offertory — Brahms, arr. Lee Afdahl  
*How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place*  
Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir

Prayer of Dedication/Pastoral Prayer  
The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Christian Johnson

\*Closing Hymn      *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*      #835  
HolyGrounds Praise Band & Congregation

\*Benediction      Rev. Christian Johnson

Postlude      *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*      — arr. Joel Raney

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

To see more announcements, check the Weekly Update.

To subscribe to the Weekly Update, contact the church office at [pubs@fpcmesa.org](mailto:pubs@fpcmesa.org).

New Worship Time: 11:00 a.m. beginning 1/4/26.

Prayer Requests must be sent to: [Prayer@fpcmesa.org](mailto:Prayer@fpcmesa.org) or call the church office.

See our complete Church Calendar at [fpcmesa.org/calendar](http://fpcmesa.org/calendar).

Our service is being livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@fpcmesa7064/streams>.

Offerings can be made during worship, mailing to church office or using this QR code.



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# Advent



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Mesa, Arizona