

First Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship
December 14, 2025 — Advent III

Prelude I – Traditional French Carol, arr. Keith Chapman
Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella

Prelude II *Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella* – arr. Ziek
Brass Quintet—Trumpets: Davey Aguilera, Nathan Gibbons;
French Horn: Justice Wise; Trombone: Wendy Ostaszewski;
Tuba/Euphonium: Alexander Stanbridge

Welcome Bridget Mitchell

Call to Worship *Ding Dong! Merrily on High!* – arr. Ziek
Brass & Congregation

Advent Wreath Lighting Matthew, Ashley, Adeline Sweeney
Leader: O God, we are weary of being the people we are. We long to be changed, to be made new, to laugh again with the joy only You can give. Touch us. Transform us. Do not leave us as we are.

Reader: “The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.”

All: Jesus, Joy of our desiring, turn our mourning into dancing. Let the desert of our hearts burst into bloom. We are tired of half-hearted living — renew us, remake us, set our souls on fire. We will sing until we see Your face. Come and make us whole. Amen.

Leader: Three flames rise — longing, surrender, and joy breaking through. Lift your voices! Jesus is drawing near!

*Opening Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* – arr. Jacklich
Brass & Congregation

Call to Confession Dan Reeves

Unison Prayer of Confession
Faithful God, You sent Your Son to be Emmanuel—God-with-us, the true source of joy that never fades. Yet we confess how often we settle for lesser joys that leave us empty again by nightfall. We have let fear weaken our hands

and doubt make our knees unsteady. We have grown comfortable with muted hearts when You long for us to sing. We have walked familiar, barren paths instead of trusting the new way You are making. Forgive our hurried prayers and guarded hopes. Pardon the ways we resist Your transforming love. In the silence now, meet us in the dry places we are still afraid to name.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon *It’s Christmas* – Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash
HolyGrounds Praise Band & Congregation

Pass the Peace

Prayer for Illumination *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* – arr. Jacklich
Brass & Congregation

Psalm Reading — Psalm 146 (First Nations Version) Dan Reeves

Anthem *Christmas Classic Celebration* – arr. Patrick M. Liebergen
Sanctuary Choir

New Testament Reading — Matthew 11:2-11 (NIV) Dan Reeves

Time with Our Children Pastor Christian

Video — Come and See Joy

Sermon Rev. Christian Johnson
Transformation: Renewed by Promise

Scripture — Isaiah 35:1-10 (NIV)

Song of Affirmation *Christmastime* – Michael W. Smith
One Voice

Minute for Mission — Angel Tree

Call to Offering Dan Reeves

Offertory – Vince Guaraldi, arr. Kevin McChesney
Charlie Brown, Christmas Time is Here
Dei Gloriam Handbell Choir

Prayer of Dedication/Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer	Rev. Christian Johnson
Announcements	Rev. Christian Johnson
*Closing Hymn	<i>Away in a Manger</i> – arr. Jacklich Brass & Congregation
*Benediction	Rev. Christian Johnson
Benediction Response	<i>We Three Kings</i> – arr. Ziek
Postlude	– arr. Arr. Vince Guaraldi, Jim Martinez <i>Postlude on Christmas and Easter Melodies</i> Mark Ramsey, Piano; Kevin Reeves, Drums

*Please rise in body or spirit.

To see more details on these announcements, check your Weekly Update.
To subscribe to the Weekly Update, contact the church office at
pubs@fpcmesa.org.

Prayer Requests must be sent to: Prayer@fpcmesa.org or call the church office.

See our complete Church Calendar at 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.



First Presbyterian Church
161 N. Mesa Drive Mesa, AZ 85201
480-964-8606 www.fpcmesa.org

Advent



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Mesa, Arizona