

Order for the Worship of God

Welcome & Announcements

GATHERING

Welcome

from Isaiah 9:2,6 and Luke 2:14

L Light shines on those who live in darkness

C For a child is born to us tonight.

L And the angels sing: "Glory to God in the highest,

C and peace to all God's people on earth!"

Prayer

*Opening Hymn (Blue #41)

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Worship from the Psalms

Psalms 96

L O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

C Sing to the Lord; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

L Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

C For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

L For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

C Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

L Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

C Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

L Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

C Say among the nations, "The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

L Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it;

C Let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

L They sing for joy before the Lord, for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.

C He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading

"On the Night of His Birth"

by Katherine Paterson

Hymn (Blue #25)

"Away in the Manger"

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Communion Prayer

Distribution of the Elements

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

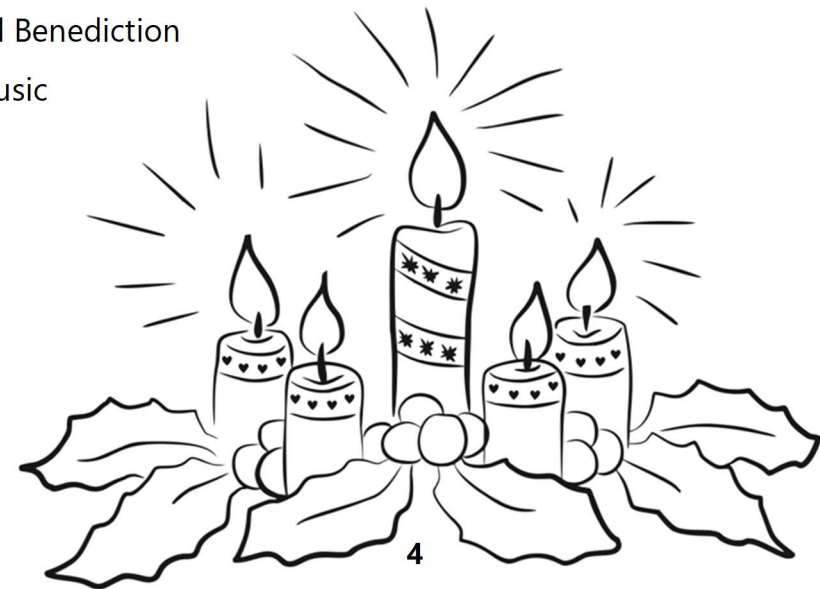
"Night of Silence/Silent Night"

*Closing Hymn (Blue #60)

"Silent Night"

*Blessing and Benediction

Departing Music



Love came down at Christmas

*Music by Eleanor Daley
Performed by The Gesualdo Six,
directed by Owain Park
Filmed at St James Sussex Gardens, London*

Love

Love came down at Christmas
Love all lovely love divine
Love was born at Christmas
Star and angels gave the sign

Love

Worship we the Godhead
Love incarnate Love Divine
Worship we our Jesus
But wherewith for sacred sing

Love

Love shall be our token
Love shall be our token
Love be yours and love be mine
Love to God and all men
Love for plea and gift and sign
Love came down at Christmas time



"Night of Silence / Silent Night"

*by Daniel Kantor, Frans Gruber arr. John Ferguson
Performed by the St. Olaf Choir and
Nidarosdomens jentekor
Recorded live in Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim,
Norway, as part of the Emmy-award winning "St. Olaf
Christmas in Norway" television special.*

We tremble in shadows this cold, endless night
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping
Flowers that will echo the sunrise
Fire of hope is our only warmth
Weary, its flame will be dying soon

Voice in the distance, call in the night
On wind you enfold us you speak of the light
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly
Rumors of a dawn so embracing
Breathless love awaits darkened souls
Soon will we know of the morning

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy infant, so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Spirit among us, shine like the star
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from
afar

Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love
Star unknowing of night and day
Spirit we wait for your loving Son

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake, at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia'
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born



First Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Service

December 24th, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Hymn (*Blue #56*)

“The First Nowell”

Litany for Christmas

L The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

C Glory to God in the highest!

L The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light!

C Glory to God in the highest!

L For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.

C Glory to God in the highest!

L He is known as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.

C Glory to God in the highest!

L To us is born in the city of David, a Savior, the Messiah, Christ the Lord!

C Glory to God in the highest!

L The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.

C Glory to God in the highest!

L Christ is born! Give him glory!

Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!

Christ is now on earth! Exalt him!

O earth, sign to the Lord!

O nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified! Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

First Reading:

“Star Lady”

by Katherine Paterson

Hymn (*Blue #31*)

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.