

University Presbyterian Church



Wednesday, December 24, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025
7:00 p.m.

AS YOU PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

In order that people may listen to the music or pray in silence without distraction, please refrain from conversation after the music begins and kindly silence all cell phones. Also, please do not bring any food or beverage, other than water, in the sanctuary. Thank you! Children are welcome to remain in worship.

THE GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude "xxxx" xxxx

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: We give thanks for the light of Christ, shining in the lives of all God's people.

With the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah,

All: we watch and wait for the coming of Christ who will bring light and peace to all the world.

One: With John the Baptist, we cry out in the wilderness:

All: "Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

One: With Mary, the mother of Jesus, we rejoice,

All: for the Mighty One has done great things for us. How holy is God's name!

One: With Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John,

All: we tell the story of Jesus, the child of Bethlehem, who came to save us, and is coming again in glory.

One: With the choirs of angels, we sing:

All: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth!"

***Carol #119** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

1st Lesson	<u>Prophecy Foretells the Coming</u>	Isaiah 9:2-7
Bells Anthem	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	
2nd Lesson	<u>The Nativity</u>	Matthew 1:18-25
3rd Lesson	<u>Angels Announce the Birth</u>	Luke 2:8-20
*Carol #121	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	
4th Lesson	<u>Wise Men From the East</u>	Matthew 2:1-12
*Carol #133	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	
Homily		
Anthem	xxxx	xxxx
Receiving the Offering		
Offertory	"xxxxx" xxxxx	xxxxxx

Eucharist

(The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is open to all who seek to walk with Christ)

Invitation to The Lord's Table (Luke 2:12; Mic. 5:4)

One: A child is born for us in Bethlehem, wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger;

All: and he will be our Shepherd, feeding his flock in the strength of the Lord.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O holy God, creator and ruler of the universe. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and called us to love and serve you. When we were unfaithful and turned from your ways, you did not forsake us, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and sent prophets to call us back to your way. In the fullness of time you sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. In him, your Word, dwelling with you from all eternity, became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and we beheld your glory, Immanuel! Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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Holy, Holy, Holy

Capo 3: (Em) (D) (C) (D) (Em) (Am)
 Gm F Eb F Gm Cm

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

(Em) (Am6) (B7) (Em) (D)
 Gm Cm6 D7 Gm F

pow - er, God of might, heav - en and earth are

(C) (D) (Em) (Am) (D)
 Eb F Gm Cm F

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

(Em) (D) (Em) (D) (C)
 Gm F Gm F Eb

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(D) (A) (Am) (D)
 F C Gm F

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(Em) (Am) (D) (Bm7) (E)
 Gm Cm F Dm7 G

high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born in humility, he came to rule over all. Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love. Poor in things of the world, he brought the wealth of your grace. Rejected by many, he welcomed all who sought him. In his dying and rising, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Words of Institution

When Jesus was at table with his disciples he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat. Whenever you do this, remember me. In the same way he took and poured the cup, saying: Take and drink. Whenever you do this, remember me. Now, whenever we eat and drink at this table, we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection until he comes again.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G clef, 4/4 time, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff begins with a quarter note followed by a dotted half note. The lyrics 'Christ has died;' are written below the staff. The second staff begins with a quarter note followed by a dotted half note. The lyrics 'Christ is risen;' are written below the staff. The third staff begins with a quarter note followed by a dotted half note. The lyrics 'Christ will come again.' are written below the staff. The notation consists of vertical stems with small horizontal dashes for note heads.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ

in the world. Empower us by your Spirit, O God, to be Christ's presence in the world even as Jesus was God-with-us. Give us courage to speak his truth, to seek his justice, and to love with his love. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

One: God of grace and peace, as you have shared your life with us through the child in the manger and this simple meal together,
let us share your life with others as the body of Christ in the world;
through Jesus, bread of heaven.

All: Amen.

***Carol**
Insert)

Silent Night, Holy Night (See

*Benediction

Participating in Worship:
The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor
Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director
Gregory White, Organist

*Please stand or rise in spirit as you are able and feel so led.

†

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One License #: A-723910

University Presbyterian Church's Vision Statement

Let us be **BREAD:**

- Beaming** Christ's love to our neighbors and beyond
- Resounding** praise of God in worship with music while caring for one another and growing our faith
- Enriching** our neighborhood through creative use of our building
- Acting** with energy to foster a growing, vibrant, and welcoming church family
- Developing** diversity by engaging and welcoming all of God's beloved people

University Presbyterian Church Officers and Staff

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Christine James
Organist	Gregory White
Choral Director	Rebecca Kroetsch
Treasurer	James W. Smyton
Clerk of Session	Pat Cookfair-Casseri
Stephen Ministry Referral Coordinator	Kathryn F. Hallborg
Administrative Assistant	Peg Kovach
Facilities Manager	Aaron Vivian
Custodian	Roll Tomosso

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Services are live-streamed on YouTube at:
<https://tinyurl.com/upcbuffalo>

CarolSilent Night, Holy Night*

*(The minister will light her candle from the Christ candle and then light the ushers' candles. The ushers will then light the candles of the worshippers nearest the aisles, who in turn will light the candles of those nearest them. To ensure safety, the person **passing** the light needs to hold his/her candle **vertically**, allowing the person **receiving** the light to tip their candle **horizontally**.)*

Verse 1

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tend and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace/

Verse 2

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.

Verse 3

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, loves pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Verse 4

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.