



December 24, 2025 ~ Christmas Eve Service
9:00 PM Candlelight Worship (*Sanctuary*)

Welcome

Rev. Wes Allen

Music in Preparation for Worship

Kathy Gunsallus

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Burkardt

Call to Worship

Rev. Stuart Spencer

Tonight the waiting ends. The Christ child is born — love made fled, light in our shadows.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Mary said, “yes” to the unknown, trusting in the promise of God.

We come, like Mary, willing to bear the light.

Joseph stood with courage, choosing love over fear.

We come, like Joseph, ready to protect the light.

The shepherds ran to the manger, astonished by the angel’s song.

We come, like shepherds, to witness and rejoice.

The magi followed the star, bring their gifts to honor the King of kings.

We come, like the wise ones, to seek the light and offer what we have.

Come, beloved of God. Come weary and wondering, come joyful and expectant.

Let us worship the One Who is the Light of the World. Love has come. Hope is born. Christ is with us!

***Prayer of Adoration**Rev. Spencer

***Hymn No. 161**

Once in Royal David's City

Vs. 1

Sander Reid, Soloist

Vs. 2

Adult Choir

Congregation vs. 3-4:

And our eyes at last shall see Him through His own redeeming love.
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above.
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable with the oxen standing by, we shall see Him;
but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars His children, crowned all in white, shall wait around.

First Lesson: The Light Longed For

Genesis 3:8-15

Rev. Spencer

Response***Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming***

Adult Choir

Second Lesson: The Promise Renewed

Genesis 22:15-18

Alex Wilkie

Hymn No. 145 (vs. 1-2)***Of the Father's Love Begotten***

Third Lesson: A Great Light Has Shone

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Vivian Allen

Anthem***Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light***

J. S. Bach

Adult Choir

Fourth Lesson: A Shepherd for God's People

Micah 5:2-5

Rev. Allen

Hymn No. 155 (vs. 1, 3-4)***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

Fifth Lesson: The Angel Visits Mary

Luke 1:26-38

Amit Joshi

Hymn No. 152 (vs. 1, 3-4)***Angels We Have Heard on High***

Sixth Lesson: The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

Warren Gaskill

Anthem***Infant Holy, Infant Lowly***

John Rutter

Adult Choir

Seventh Lesson: Good News of Great Joy

Luke 2:8-16

Ryan & Keirstin Manion

Anthem

Linda Lockart, Director

Sussex Carol

Adult Choir

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

***Eighth Lesson: The Wise Men Seek the Light**

Matthew 2:1-12

Joe Molloy

Anthem

Amanda Schkeeper, Soloist

Wexford Carol

Adult Choir

Kathy Gunsallus

Ninth Lesson: The Word Becomes Flesh

John 1:1-14

Layla & Vikram Joshi

Hymn No. 171 (vs. 1-3)**Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*****Christmas Offering**

Rev. Allen

Offertory

Linda Lockart, Director

What Sweeter Music

Adult Choir

Rutter

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Doxology No. 809**Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*****Meditation*****The Boundless Love of God***

Rev. Allen

Lighting of the Candles

*When receiving a flame from the person next to you, be careful to tip your UNLIT candle to the lit one.
As we light our candles, remembering Jesus is the Light of the World, let us stand and sing.*

****The First Noël, the Angel Did Say***

The first Noël, the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far.
And to the earth, it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël, born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem, it took its rest.
And it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël, born is the King of Israel.

****Silent Night! Holy Night!***

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.
Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven affair; heavenly hosts sing Alleluia.
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure Light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

***Hymn No. 146 (v. 1)**

Joy to the World! the Lord is Come

***Christmas Benediction** (*Carefully extinguish candles*)

Rev. Allen

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Following worship, candles may be deposited in the boxes at the exit doors.



9:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Ministry

Audio Technician:	Taylor Adair
Live streaming:	Dan Carson
Musician:	Kathy Gunsallus
Ushers:	Owen Dietz, Leonard Fitts, Joe Molloy
Trustee Greeter:	Joe Molloy
Property Staff:	Steve Margerum

Thursday, December 25: Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m., Dr. Jonathan Miller preaching.

Church Office will be closed December 25-26 and January 1, 2026.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the First Presbyterian Church staff!