

Living Out God's Call To Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church
McAllen, Texas
Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2025

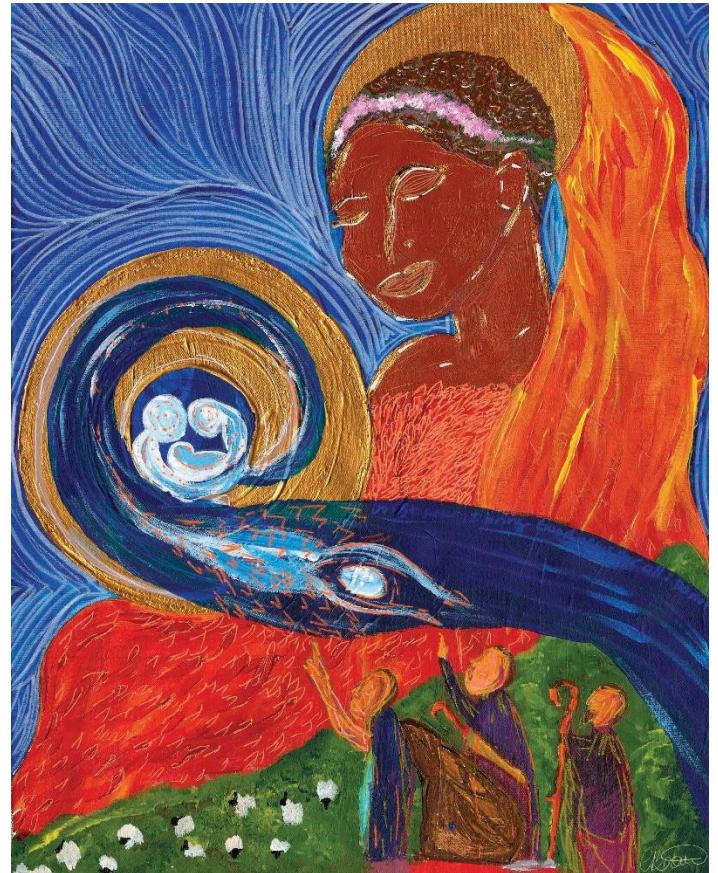
Opening Sentences

Rejoice! I bring good news for all people.
Unto us a child is born.
Let us prepare our hearts and minds
for worship.

Prelude

Call to Worship

On this holy night we come,
dazzled and awe-struck,
ready to sing alongside the angels.
On this holy night we come,
eager and hopeful,
ready to journey alongside the shepherds.
On this holy night we come,
quietly and tenderly,
ready to worship alongside Mary.
On this holy night, we come,
singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming:
good news is louder than fear.
Let us worship our good news, with-us God.



Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell
Good, New

Lighting the Advent Wreath

In a fearful world, where to you see the presence of God?

We see God's fingerprints all around us.

We see God in the beauty of the stars.

We see God in the love of this community.

We see God in the dreams we hold for a better world.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, God is here.

God is all around us.

On this holy night, we light the Christ Candle as a reminder of this good news.

May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world,

God is all around us.

Light Christ Candle

Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful, v. 1 and 3

GG #133

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;

O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore him; O Come let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore him; O Come let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!



Prayer of the Day

Eternal God,

from the tabernacle of heaven to the poverty of a stable,

your radiant light shines forth in a tiny baby wrapped in rags;

such humble Love astounds us.

In Jesus you have become one with us

that we might become one with you.

Open our hearts to joyfully receive his love

that he may be born in us, and we in him,

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you all. / **And also with you.**

Time with the Younger Church

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God,
by the gift of your Holy Spirit,
show us the Word made flesh –
good news of great joy for all –
so that we may sing with the angels:
glory in the highest and peace on earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE CHRISTMAS STORY AS TOLD IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

First Reading

Luke 2: 1-7 – The Birth of Jesus

²In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ³This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ⁴All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁵Joseph 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. ⁶He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁷While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁸And 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 for them in the inn.

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem, v. 1-2

GG #121

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

Second Reading

Luke 2: 8-14 – Angels Announce the Birth

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom God favors!'

Carol Angels, from the Realms of Glory, v. 1, 2, 4

GG #143

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

All creation, join in praising god the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Third Reading

Luke 2: 15-18 – The Shepherds Visit the Baby

15 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.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Anthem

Fourth Reading

Luke 2: 19-20 – Mary Ponders

¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Christmas Meditation

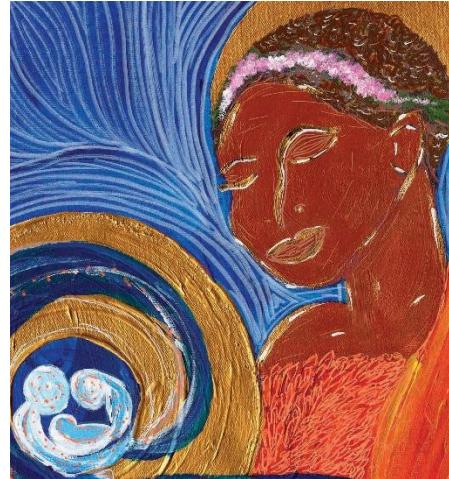
Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

GG #128

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voices greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you!
Christ the babe was born for you!



Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer

Jesus: blessed infant, sovereign Lord, Holy Center of this holy season:
all our stars point to your birth;
all our wanderings come home to you;
all our griefs and delights find a place in the stable of your birth,
where poverty and pain, loneliness and rejection
are transformed by your love.
Your light shines in our lives;
your peace embraces our anger, sorrow, and loss;
your teaching leads us to discover our own truest selves,
and the truest selves of our neighbors, however we may find them –
as poor as shepherds,
as foreign as magi,
as thoughtless as innkeepers,
as helpless as infants.

O Savior, born to us this night:
We lift up to you the needs of this world,
trusting that you will bring
plenty where there is want;
healing where there is illness;
comfort where there is grief;
wisdom where there is folly;
justice where there is oppression;
liberation where there is enslavement of any kind;
hope where there is despair;
trust where there is fear;
peace and love everywhere.

Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord,
we lift these prayers to you,
and we pray together as you have taught us, saying:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

We have been given a great message!
Like the shepherds, let us share this message with everyone we meet.
Let our entire lives be dedicated to telling the great news
that the God of love is present in this world
and the whole earth is God's holy temple.

Tonight, in addition to gifts to this congregation, we are receiving the
Christmas Joy Special Offering of the Presbyterian Church. Please use the
envelope in your bulletin.

Offertory

<u>Act of Dedication</u>	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, v. 1	GG #119
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"		

Offertory Prayer

God of every good and perfect gift,
we thank you for your greatest gift,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Receive the gifts we offer this night.
Use them according to your purposes and plans,
that all people may know of your love;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Passing of the Light

Jesus said, “I am the Light of the World.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
but will have the light of life.”

We light our candles from the Christ candle

**as a symbol that we receive
life and light from Jesus Christ.
We are one in Him.
Together we are His church,
Christ's own people,
called to be a light of love for all the world.**

<u>Choral Introduction</u>	<i>Night of Silence</i>	Choir
<u>Carol</u>	Silent Night	GG #122
	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 afar, 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.	
	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.	

Benediction

Congregational Response Joy to the World, v. 1 and 4 GG #134

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Postlude

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kathryn J. Escandell Eley Escandell Beverly Avila FPC Chancel Choir



Nativity mural
Batahola Norte Community Center
Managua, Nicaragua