

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
GRAPEVINE  
CHRISTMAS EVE**

December 24, 2025

7:00 PM



Original Linocut by William Dwinnell

**Everybody is welcome here.**

Whoever and wherever you are on your life's journey, we see God in you. Come! This is a place for everyone\* who desires to hear and embrace the word of God.

Because God welcomes all, we, too, welcome everyone into the whole of our community. We respect each individual's identity and contributions. We affirm and nurture the worth of every person's journey.

\*"Everyone" and related pronouns = persons of every age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic or family status, mental or physical abilities.

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & GREETING

The nursery is available for infants through pre-K. All children are invited, during worship, to the Pray Ground in the sanctuary and/or to use the activity bags available in the Narthex. We ask that parents sit in the area near the Pray Ground.

VISITORS: We are delighted that you have joined us today in worship and we encourage you to register your attendance by using your phone to scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin (under the Attendance heading) or by completing a Visitor's Card located on the back of the pew in front of you and placing it in the offering plate. Thank you and we hope to see you again.

## CHRISTMAS GREETING

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

*Recognizing the Light of the Christ Child*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*One: There is room for you here.*

**ALL: Even if I am worn down and fed up? Even I am labored and heavily-laden? Even if I am hurting and struggling to find hope?**

*One: Yes. Even then, there is room for you here!*

**ALL: Even if I am brand-new or have been coming here for years? Even I am excited about tomorrow or dreading what it will bring? Even if I am at peace with my family or estranged from them?**

*One: Yes. Even then, there is room for you here!*

**ALL: Do you really mean that? Is there really a place—even for me?**

*One: Yes, because just as Mary and Joseph found a place for our Savior to be born so long ago, so, too, does our Savior now find a place for each of us to be born anew!*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Lighting the Advent Wreath and the Christ Candle tonight are Mark, Laura, Elise, Stephen, and Rachel Howe.

*One: For the past four weeks we have been on a journey—not unlike the journey that Mary and Joseph took to the little town of Bethlehem so long ago.*

**ALL: Each week our Advent Wreath has grown brighter and brighter, beginning with the Candle of Hope.**

*One: (First Candle is lit) The same hope that Mary had when the angel Gabriel reassured her that "Nothing will be impossible with God."*

**ALL: Filled with hope, we lift our eyes to a vision of peace.**

*One: (Second Candle is lit) The same peace that the choir of angels proclaimed with they sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace on earth among those whom God favors!"*

**ALL: Filled with hope and peace, our hearts burst forth with joy.**

*One: (Third Candle is lit) The same joy that the shepherds felt, when they excitedly said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place which the Lord has made known to us."*

**ALL: Filled with hope, peace, and joy, we are finally ready to accept the greatest gift of all—love!**

*One: (Fourth candle is lit) The same love that Mary and Joseph experienced when Jesus was born and they cradled him in their arms, wrapped him in bands of cloth, and gently laid him in a manger. Which is why, on this holy and silent night, we light the Christ Candle itself. (Christ Candle is lit)*

**ALL: Behold, the Light of the World has arrived—forever scattering the shadows of darkness and despair!**

## **WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

*Receiving the Light of the Christ Child*

\*CAROL 112      *“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”*      SUSSEX CAROL

FIRST READING      Luke 2:1-7

\*CAROL 114      *“Away in a Manger”*      CRADLE SONG

SECOND READING:      Luke 2:8-20

ANTHEM      *“There is Faint Music”*      Dan Forrest

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Sanctuary Choir

SERMON      *“God with Us”*      Rev. Dr. Robert S. Crilley

## **WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

*Responding to the Light of the Christ Child*

### **SHARING OF GOD’S GIFTS FOR GOD’S WORLD**

*Mindful of the supreme gift of all time—the baby Jesus born in Bethlehem—we make our gifts tangible and intangible in thanksgiving to God. The ushers will pass the plates for those who feel called to give to God’s ministries through this congregation.*

OFFERTORY      *“Hallelujah”*      Text: Cloverton;  
Music: Leonard Cohen

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Josef Spencer, Tenor; Sawyer Lowe, Baritone; Fred Mills, Saxophone; Jiha Choi, Piano

\*CAROL 124      *“Still, Still, Still”*      STILL, STILL, STILL

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*One: The Lord be with you.*

**ALL: And also with you.**

*One: Lift up your hearts.*

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**ALL: For it is right to give the Almighty both our thanks and praise.**

*One: Let us pray....*

### THE 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.**

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE WINE

*God is present in this sacrament in ways that remain a mystery to us. In this sacrament God connects us to one another beyond our understanding, location and time.*

*Communion of the People: **For in-person worshippers:** The outer ring is wine (red). All the inner rings are white grape juice (gluten free). Inside the pouch marked "Gluten Free" are gluten free crackers. **For remote worshippers:** use your own cup and bread.*

*Take and eat the bread as it is passed, symbolizing your personal need for God's mercy. Hold the cup until all have received it, and then drink together, symbolizing our unity in the body of Christ.*

## PRAYER OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

**God of angel choruses and teenage mothers, there are a million other places we could be, but tonight we wanted to be here. Tonight, we needed to be here—online and in person—for when we gather around this table, we remember the ways that you always make room for us. You are always pulling up chairs, welcoming the children, the tax collectors, and the outcast. At your dinner party, no one ever gets turned away. Help us to carry that inclusive spirit into the rest of our lives, for we know that love like that is what turns weariness into joy, and loneliness into the belonging. With grateful hearts, we pray. Amen.**

## **WE GO OUT TO SERVE GOD**

*Revealing the Light of the Christ Child*

CAROL 122

*“ Silent Night, Holy Night”*

STILLE NACHT

**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.**

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CAROL 134

*"Joy to the World"*

ANTIOCH

## POSTLUDE

\*Congregation rise in body or in spirit.

*If you purchased a poinsettia, please take it home after the service.*

### STAYING CONNECTED

Facebook - [facebook.com/fpcgv/](https://facebook.com/fpcgv/)  
Instagram - @FPCGV

The Web – [fpcgv.org](https://fpcgv.org)  
Twitter - @FPCGV

WIFI: FPGV-GUEST    Password – godslope

#### WAYS TO GIVE

In Christ, God has showered us with grace upon grace. In gratitude, we now give back to God through our tithes and offerings. Monetary offerings may be given electronically or in the offering plate. To make a contribution electronically, please scan the QR code below.



#### ATTENDANCE

- (1) "Check in" with a push of a button on your membership app.
- (2) Sign the friendship pad in the pew.
- (3) Scan the QR code below (on your mobile device) which will take you to a simple form.



**The Church Office will be closed from December 25 through January 4, 2026.**