



# FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

695 E. Calvin Street, Fayetteville, AR 72703 • (479) 442-4411 • [www.fupcfay.org](http://www.fupcfay.org)

December 22, 2024

11:00 a.m.

## GATHERING

*(Please use this time to prepare reflectively for worship.)*

### RINGING OF THE BELL

Bo Morton and Lindley Ramsey

### WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Stewart Smith

### PRELUDE

*Sarabande pour Clavecin*  
Music by François Couperin (1668-1773)

Xiao Yang, organ

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kristi Button

Leader: The day foretold is coming,

**People: When our sleeping hearts will stir again, entrusting their hope to swaddling clothes!**

Leader: The one foretold is coming -

**People: Whose touch will dispel the deepest gloom: God's hand holding ours in the silent night!**

Leader: The people who walked in darkness, have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -

**People: On them light has shined.**

Leader: The day is at hand!

**People: The Savior draws near!**

**Unison: Let us worship the living and loving God!**

### \*HYMN #119

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Glory to God

Words by Charles Wesley; Music by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

**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 angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King".**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Dana Bassi, Laurie Reh, Mary Mann

Leader: Today is the fourth Sunday in the season of Advent.

**People: We are very close to the anticipated arrival of the Christ Child.**

Leader: We light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath as we rejoice in Jesus our Savior, the Light of the World. To a world lost in the darkness of sin, Jesus brought the light of love and salvation, a light that we see shining out of the manger in Bethlehem.

**People: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus, with the light of Your love.**

Leader: Jesus tells us, "You are the light of the world.....let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven."

**People: Lord Jesus, help us to reflect the light of Your love to everyone we meet.**

Leader: Let us pray,

**Unison: Lord Jesus, on the first Christmas, light filled the night sky as the angels announced Your birth to shepherds and sang songs of praise to God. You are the light of the world and those who follow You will not walk in darkness. Help us in the power of the Holy Spirit to reflect Your light in a world that desperately needs to see it. Hear our prayer and accept our praise, Amen.**

**\*ADVENT CANDLE SONG**

*Light a Candle Bright and Tall*

Words by David Wood; Music by Conrad Kocher



Light a can - dle bright and tall, for a love which knows no end.  
Love that comes to one and all. Fear and ha - tred to up - end.  
Shine with - in our hearts to-day; come, O Love, to us we pray.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*seated, unison*)

Sharon Lei Taylor

Almighty God, even though we should shine with Jesus' light, we often become lost in the shadows of sin. We turn away from Your Word and Your will to listen to the temptations of the world around us. Instead of seeking to help and serve others, we pay more attention to our own selfish wants and needs. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins, we pray ..... (*silent confession*)  
.... Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel! **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**\*RESPONSE # 192 (refrain)**

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Glory to God

Words and Music by Graham Kendrick

**Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you.**

**CHILDREN'S SONG**

*O Come, Little Children*  
 Words and Music by Johann A. P. Schultz (1747-1800)

(use screens or bulletin)

**O come, little children, O come one and all.  
 O come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall,  
 Sing glory to God in the heavens above,  
 and thank him for Jesus, the proof of God's love.**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Rev. Stewart Smith

**ANTHEM**

*I Wonder as I Wander* Chancel Choir  
 Words and Music by John Jacob Niles; Arranged by Keith Christopher Haley Jackson, flute  
 Xiao Yang, piano

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor ornery people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander out under the sky. When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall, with wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all. But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, the promise of ages it then did recall. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing, he surely could have it 'cause he was the King. I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor ornery people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD****PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Rev. Stewart Smith

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 4:12-17,5:14-16

<sup>4</sup> <sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup> 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— <sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death a light has dawned.' <sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

<sup>5</sup> <sup>14</sup> 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

**SERMON***The Light in the Darkness*

Rev. Stewart Smith

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD****PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Amanda McDonald

**OFFERTORY**

*The First Noël/The Christmas Eve Waltz*  
 English Carol/Music by David Lanz

Isaac Thomas, piano

**\*RESPONSE #147 (verse 1)**

*The First Nowell*  
Words and Music: English Carol

Glory to God

**The first Nowell 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.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Amanda McDonald

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE #314** (Sung Responsively) *Longing for Light, We wait in darkness* Glory to God  
Words and Music by Bernadette Farrell

*Congregation joins on the refrain:*

**Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine in the darkness.  
Christ be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today.**

**SENDING**

**LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

Rev. Stewart Smith

**\*HYMN #110**

*Love Has Come*  
Words by Ken Bible; French Melody

Glory to God

**Love has come: a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.  
Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel!  
Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

*(A special Christmas Joy Offering is  
received at this time by any who wish to contribute)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Stewart Smith

**POSTLUDE**

*Voluntary in D Major*  
Music by William Boyce (1711-1779)

Xiao Yang, organ

**Participants**

Greeters – Leigh Woodruff and Jane Steinkraus  
Interim Senior Pastor – Rev. Stewart Smith  
Minister of Music/Commissioned Ruling Elder – Isaac Thomas  
Choral Interns - Cole Jackson, Jeffrey Kerst, Isabelle Pennick, Verna Labitad, and Will Trotter-Wright  
Audio/Visual Team - Christopher Verdery, Connor Button, and Drew Parker  
Worship Band: Rob Button, Dennis Brewer, Don Steinkraus, Jeffrey Kerst  
Director of Christian Education - Kristi Button  
Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministries - Amanda McDonald  
Membership Coordinator – Amy McCann  
Childcare Coordinator – Lee Pendley

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