

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
December 24, 2025
6:00 and 9:00pm

First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg

Pre-Service Music — String Ensemble
Begins 30 minutes prior

Introit — ***Of the Father's Love Begotten*** — Divinum Mysterium

Christmas Greeting — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

✞Call to Worship

By the tender mercy of our God,
The dawn from on high will break upon us,
To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
To guide our feet into the way of peace.
Come, for the time has drawn near;
Come, let us welcome the Christ-child into our hearts anew!

✞Hymn — ***O Come, All Ye Faithful*** — Adeste Fideles

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!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Christmas Prayer — (6:00pm) Rev. Leslie L. Denny
The Lord's Prayer — (9:00pm) Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

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.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

First Lesson	Isaiah 9:2-7	(6:00pm) Rev. Ansley B. Page (9:00pm) Rev. L. Craig Foster
Anthem	***Away in a Manger***	arr. Mack Wilberg
Second Lesson	Matthew 1:18-25	
Anthem	***Sweet Little Jesus Boy***	Traditional
Third Lesson	Luke 2:1-20	

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

For our Christmas Eve offering, all non-designated gifts will be used to support the Neighborhood Meal Ministry. This important ministry provides hospitality and a weekly hot meal for community members in need.

Offertory — ***Now Blossom See from Jesse's Stem*** — John Moody

Meditation — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

✠Hymn — ***O Little Town of Bethlehem*** — St. Louis

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.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Once we walked in darkness.
But now we dwell in everlasting light.
The Christ child is with us.
Our salvation is at hand.
Leave the darkness behind.
Our light has come.

Candlelight Hymn — *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.

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.

The lighting of candles symbolizes the coming of Jesus who said, "I am the Light of the World" and is a reminder that we spread His light to all humankind. Each person will offer light from his candle to his neighbor. As you take the light, please tilt your un-lit candle toward the flame to avoid spilling wax. To symbolize our sharing of the light with the world, raise your candles high for the singing of the final verse of "Silent Night." Please remain seated.

Ringing in of Christmas

✞Hymn — *Joy to the World* — Antioch

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

✞Sending and Benediction

Closing Voluntary — *Toccata on "Antioch"* — arr. Craig Phillips

Please extinguish your candle and leave it at the door.

Welcome*! We extend a very special welcome to our Visitors - you are our honored guests. We ask our members and visitors to please take a moment and scan this QR code to sign in:*

Nursery is available *for the 6:00pm Candlelight Service in Room 105 in the Clark Building. If needed, our ushers are happy to help you locate the Nursery.*

The liturgical color for Christmas Eve and Christmastide is white*. Christmastide is the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany, January 6. In celebration, the Sanctuary Christmas decorations have been changed to white and will remain in place through Epiphany.*

Let Us Know You Are Here

Participating in this Evening's Worship Services

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

Rev. Leslie L. Denny
Associate Pastor
Young Adults and Missions

Rev. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor
Discipleship

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Associate Pastor
Congregational Care

Rev. Ansley B. Page
Pastoral Associate
Engagement

Holt Andrews
Pastoral Musician

Marcia Andrews
Associate Director of Music; Organist

Christmas Eve Choir
Rafe Andrews, soloist

String Ensemble
Violin: **Mary Irwin**, **Helen Tipton**, **Kate Lancaster**, **Abby Clementson**, **Ella Hayes**, **and Madison Raynor**
Viola: **Jeff Kuntz**, **Foster Neely**
Cello: **Kathy Foster**, **John Koontz**

We Welcome You to Worship at First Presbyterian

December 28
No Sunday School
11:00am | Worship Together (Sanctuary)

January 4
8:30am | Early Traditional Worship (Chapel)
9:00am | Contemporary Worship (Fogartie Hall)
10:00am | Sunday School for All Ages
11:00am | Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

January Sermon Series

Mighty Waters: God's Call For Justice, Mercy, and Humble Discipleship

In a world marked by deep injustice, division, and suffering, the call of God still echoes through the voices of the prophets: Let justice roll down like mighty waters. Our upcoming *Mighty Waters* series invites us to confront the brokenness around us - not with despair, but with a faith that does justice, loves mercy, and walks humbly with God. Rooted in Scripture and grounded in hope, we'll explore what it means to embody God's vision of justice in our time and in our lives.

First Presbyterian Church
Spartanburg

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