



**Order of Worship
December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday in Advent**

PRELUDE

Make Room Noel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Darin

INTROIT

It's Christmas

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Darin

We gather to praise the God who does great things.

Holy is God's name!

We come to worship the One whose mercy endures forever.

From generation to generation, God is faithful.

God lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry.

We rejoice in the God who brings justice and grace.

Let us worship the Lord with joy and thanksgiving.

CANDLE LIGHTING

David and Rachel Buchin Family

ADVENT WREATH HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

No. 88

OPENING PRAYER

Nancy Horn

*HYMN

Emmanuel

CALL TO CONFESSION

Nancy Horn

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Nancy Horn

Faithful God, you come to us in love, yet we confess that we are often too distracted or too afraid to receive you. We prepare for celebrations, but neglect to prepare our hearts. You call us to trust your promises, yet we cling to our own plans and expectations. You invite us to bear your love into the world, yet we hesitate when obedience requires courage or sacrifice.

Forgive us when we choose comfort over faith, certainty over trust, and silence over faithful witness. Make room within us for your coming. In this season of

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Nancy Horn

Hear the good news: The God who comes to us in Jesus Christ does not turn away from our need, but meets us with mercy and grace. In Christ, God's love is made flesh, forgiveness is spoken into our fear, and new life is born among us. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven, restored, and set free.

Friends, believe this good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Alleluia

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Nancy Horn

The grace and peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SPECIAL MUSIC

Jesus Christ is Born

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nancy Horn

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16

Nancy Horn

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Darin

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

Pastor Darin

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name;

⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”
⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Magnificat”

Pastor Darin

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nancy Horn

We believe in God, who keeps covenant and promise, whose steadfast love endures forever.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of Mary, a young woman of faith. In him God comes near—sharing our humanity, bearing our weakness, and revealing divine love.

We believe that in Jesus the hopes of the prophets are fulfilled, the lowly are lifted up, and God’s mercy takes on human form. He is Emmanuel, God with us, the light no darkness can overcome.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who prepares the way in our hearts, calls us to trust God’s promises, and sends us to live with courage, justice, and hope as we wait for Christ’s coming in glory.

With the church in every time and place, we watch and wait, sing and pray, and proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has come, Christ is coming again.

Amen.

*HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 119

WE GIVE OUR OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication

Nancy Horn

Nancy Horn

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Darin

(Kids, if you wish to come pick up an instrument for the final hymn you may do so.)

*HYMN

Born that We May Have Life

*BLESSING

Pastor Darin

POSTLUDE

It’s Christmas



*Indicates to stand, if able.

First Presbyterian Church

PC (USA)

340 Fifth Avenue South

Saint Cloud, MN 56301

320-251-8277

info@fpctestcloud.org

www.fptestcloud.org

First Presbyterian Church Happenings

Serving Us Today (December 21, 2025)

Nancy Horn (Worship Leader), Ryne Pentz, Duane Scherbing (Ushers), Alvin Chan/Michelle Yu (Greeter), Leah Jacobs, Sara Rebeck (Nursery), John Scott, Jay Espelien, Patty Scott (AV), Kathy Arnold (Equal Exchange), Lowertown Project (Music).

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, Dec. 24th at 5:00 p.m. candlelight Service.

Take home your poinsettia(s) after candlelight service if you placed an order.

Church Office Holiday Closings

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Day

Dec. 25th Christmas Day

Jan. 1st New Year's Day

Christmas Joy Offering

We will receive the Christmas Joy offering on Sunday, Dec. 21 and again on Christmas Eve. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

Calendar

Mon., Dec. 22

7:00 pm - Focus on Recovery Group

Tues., Dec. 23

9:00 am - Men's Bible Study

11:30 am - Staff Meeting

5:30 pm - Lower Town Project

Wed., Dec. 24

Christmas Eve

9:15 am - Women's Bible Study

2:00 pm - Online Prayer Group

4:30 pm - Chancel, Bells, Children

Thurs., Dec. 25

Christmas Day

Fri., Dec. 26

7:00 am - Men's Bible Study

2:00 pm - Sewing Group (AWA)

Sat. Dec. 27

10:00 am - Children's Christmas Party

Sun., Dec. 28

First Sunday of Christmas

9:00 am - Sunday School

10:00 am - Worship Service