



**First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24, 2025 – 6 P.M.**

PRELUDE

Three Spanish carols from Puerto Rico (settings by Sylvia Maria Lamoutte, 1974):

"Venid, Pastores" (Come, Shepherds)

"En el Portal de Belen" (At the gates of Bethlehem)

"De Tierra Lejana" (From far-away lands)

"I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve" (19th ct. Norwegian carol)

setting by Charles William Ore (b. 1936)

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Arr. Kevin McChesney

Bells of Praise

WELCOME AND GREETING

MEDITATION

What came into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (John 1:4, Col. 1:13-14, 2 Cor. 9:15)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Taylor Family

Reader 1: We light the Christ candle to symbolize God's promise fulfilled.

Reader 2: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; Authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all on whom his favor rests.

All: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

CHORAL INTROIT

"Angel's Carol"

John Rutter

Diana Gutierrez and Beth Thomas

Gustavo morales, Piano

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dr. Janet Loman

Luke 2:10-15 (NRSV)

Leader: Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy.

People: To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Leader: This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

***HYMN**

#134 "Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

***PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Living God, on this holy night we gather--to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Praying as Jesus taught his disciples, **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 BE SEATED

CAROL OF ANTICIPATION

#113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

Lesson 1

John 1:1-14, 17-18

Rev. Nick Koontz

Carol

#119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

Lesson 2

Isaiah 7:14, 9:2-7

Hannah Dalager

Carol

#121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ST. LOUIS

Lesson 3

Luke 1:26-38

Mary Maley

Anthem

Sing Gloria

Katherine Davis

Lesson 4

Matthew 1:18-25

Eric Montgomery

Carol

"Gesu Bambino"

Arr. Sharon Rogers

Bells of Praise

Lesson 5

Luke 2:1-7

Donna Marconi

Carol

#145 "What Child Is This"

GREENSLEEVES

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Dr. Janet Loman

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The ushers will light their candles from the white candle in the center of the Advent wreath, which stands for Christ, the Light of the World. The ushers will then light the candle of the worshipper nearest the aisle on each row. Each worshipper will light the candle of the next person until the Sanctuary is full of light. As the unlit candle is tipped into your flame, you are spreading the light of Christ, and it is appropriate to say, "Jesus is the light of the world". Think about Christ's light in you as you share your light with the one next to you, and remember that we are sharing Christ's light with family, friends and strangers.

CELEBRATING JESUS CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

CAROL

"Silent 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.*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER
CHARGE AND BLESSING

Leader: Go forth to sing and bless God's name.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

People: Alleluia! Praise the Lord.

BENEDICTION

Leader: Merry Christmas!
People: Merry Christmas!

Congregational Benediction

“Angels We Have Heard on High” GLORIA
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

POSTLUDE Carol Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

Liturgist-Dr. Janet Loman

Video- Rusty Smith Sound System-Curtis Benaway

Greeting Before Worship Service:

Donna Marconi-E Donna Phillips-W Dawn Griffin-O’Neal-S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Eric Montgomery-E Rev. Nick Koontz-W Debra Smith-S

Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation	Dr. Janet Loman	Comm. Pastor, College Ministry
Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Organist	Ada Castle	Commissioned Pastor, Visitation
Veronica Giron	Salt & Light Coord.	Dr. Paul Deason	Commissioned Pastor
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music & Bells	Veronica Giron	Office Manager
Rev. Nick Koontz	Dir. of Family Ministries	Pang Baker	Bookkeeper

