

Fairview Presbyterian Church
December 21, 2025 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

We Gather Around the Word

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Fantasia in D Minor" Mozart/Classical

*CALL TO WORSHIP Anna Hall

Leader: We stand on the cusp:

People: the promise is almost fulfilled.

Leader: We wait with bated breath:

People: the child is almost here.

Leader: We trust the well-loved story:

People: God is truly with us.

*HYMN#272 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" Classical

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING Grimsley Family
Scripture from Isaiah 43

Prayer

Eternal God of power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways – in angel appearances, in dreams, and in resurrection from the dead – show us the face of Immanuel in our time.

Bring us from fear to trust, we pray; from doubt to faith through Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

Candle Lighting

Today we light the candle of joy to help us see the way of joy

Sung Response

Candles glowing, promise showing
joy that fills our very soul.

Grace abounding, hymns resounding,
Christ restores and makes us whole.

Mercies gleaming, wonders beaming,
justice streaming, Christ redeeming –

Christ restores and makes us whole!

Christ restores and makes us whole!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Assured that God hears our repentance, let us turn our minds to the truth, confessing our sins to God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shepherd of our souls, we anticipate your coming but do not feel ready. We have done too much, and not done enough. We have focused too much on ourselves, and not enough on others.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we might be saved.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The one who gives water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, can provide for us all we need to flourish. Friends, believe in the good news. Be refreshed in the living water and be at peace.

Sung Response "Glory, Glory, Glory" Contemporary
Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high,
Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high,
And on earth, peace to all people in whom God is well pleased.

We Hear the Word Proclaimed

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Janet Russell
As your Holy Spirit spoke to Joseph, speak to us now through your Word, that by hearing, we too may receive faith and be strengthened to do your will. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

ANTHEM "Oh, What A Beautiful Name" Contemporary

GOSPEL READING Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON "In Dreams" Rev. Tidwell

We Respond to the Word

*HYMN#255 "Lo! How A Rose E'er Blooming" German

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Nicene Creed, adapted
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human. . .

CALL FOR OFFERING/PRAYER

All that we have is the Lord's. All that we may become and receive is in God's hands. For the sake of the joy that is ours when our bonds grow deep with others, let us give generously for the well-being of the world.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY#290 "As With Gladness Men of Old" English
As they offered gifts most rare, at that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, you bless us with many gifts, you retrieve us from despair and fear, you visit us with surprising proclamations, and you intend for us good things. We thank you for your steadfast love, for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need, reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.

We Carry the Word into the World

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN#258 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Spiritual

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE
"Lord, Bid Your Servant Go In Peace" American Folk
Lord, bid your servant go in peace; your word will be fulfilled,
These eyes will see salvation's dawn; this child so long foretold.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Until we meet again, may the peace of our Lord be with you.
And also with you. Amen.