

United Presbyterian Church
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December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude News! News!

Bell Choir

Lighting the Advent Candle

Peter and Vicki Sokolich

Children of God, what are we waiting for?

We wait for love that casts out fear,
love that heals what hatred has torn

Love that binds neighbor to neighbor and stranger to friend.

We wait for love embodied in Christ,

A love that is fierce, tender, and eternal.

Today we light four candles...

* Gathering Song *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* 82

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;

Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,

Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;

By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Prayer of the Day

O God, or steadfast love, you came to us in a manger, not with force but in vulnerability. You call us to love as you love: boldly, sacrificially, without condition. Teach us to embody your love in word and deed, until the world knows we belong to you. Amen.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

We Listen for God's Word

Prepare the Way	Chancel Choir
Baby, What You Goin' to be?	Mary Morse and Elenita Musgrove
One Small Babe	Chancel Choir
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear	Praise Band
Love Has Come/Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	Elenita Musgrove, Cello
He Is Born	Chancel Choir
Birthday of a King	Eric Arvidson
Glory to God!	Chancel Choir

We Respond to God's Word

*Responding Song *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* 119

*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 the 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!"*

Prayers of the People The Lord's
Prayer 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

Receiving our Offering

Prayer of Dedication

*Sending Song *Angels We Have Heard on High* 113

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strain.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherd, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Blessing

A Longest Night Service will be held this afternoon at 4p.m. at the Palma Sola Botanical Park. This service acknowledges that in a season of twinkling lights and frenetic energy, some of us are just trying to make it through the day. This service will be a soft place to land when the season feels too heavy to carry alone.

You are also invited to our Candlelight Service at 7p.m. on Christmas Eve. Join us for a worship service of lessons and carols celebrating the birth of Christ.

Thank you to our Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, Praise Band for your leadership in worship each week, and especially for today's presentation of the Christmas story.

Thank you to Woody Johnson for his direction of the Bell and Chancel Choirs; to Billy Burke for his leadership of our Praise Band; and to Emmett Scott for narrating our program today.