

# CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church  
Tallahassee, Florida  
December 24, 2025, 5:00 PM



## GATHERING

Prelude

Christmas Collage

Valerie Stephenson

Voluntary

In dulci jubilo, BuxWV 197

Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Glenn Hodges

Call to Worship and Lighting of Candle

The Cleavelands

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.  
As the Lord has promised, in days to come...

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
**those who lived in a land of deep darkness,  
on them light has shined.**

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Prayer

\*Hymn # 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

**Emmanuel, you have given us a gift that we can never deserve.  
You do not ask us to be worthy.  
You do not ask us to earn your love.  
Yet the ways we have fallen short threaten to overtake us.  
But we know we can come to you, even on this holiest of nights,  
to seek the forgiveness you offer so freely, grateful for your mercy.**

*\*Asterisks indicate to please rise in body or spirit. Congregational responses are in **bold print**.*

\*Assurance of Pardon

The grace of God has appeared,  
bringing salvation to us all!  
With Christ's birth comes forgiveness and redemption.  
**Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom God favors!**

\*Sung Response (Hymn 112, v. 4) On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

SUSSEX CAROL

\*The Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

## WORD

Prayer for Illumination

The Clevelands

Hebrew Scripture Isaiah 9:2–7  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

\*Hymn 304 O Sing a New Song to the Lord (Psalm 96)

GONFALON ROYAL

Epistle Titus 2:11–14  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

\*Hymn 110 Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

Gospel Luke 2:1–8  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 115 Away in a Manger

MUELLER

Luke 2:8–14  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 113 Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Luke 2:15–20  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 136 Go, Tell it on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

## EUCCHARIST

\*Affirmation of Faith (Nicene Creed)

Page 34 in the Hymnal

Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**  
... *who is coming in glory to reign.* **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy *kindom* 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 *kindom*, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Call to Offering

Presentation of Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings

Anthem

The First Nowell

arr. Mack Wilberg

*The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel.*

\*Presentation Hymn 111, v. 5

From Heaven Above

VOM HIMMEL HOCH

\*Prayer of Dedication

## SENDING

\*Hymn 122

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

*Ushers will come forward to light the candles. As we sing the last verse of Silent Night, you may raise your candle.  
Please extinguish your candle following Silent Night, and place it in the basket in the Narthex upon leaving.*

Blessing and Charge

The loving kindness of the Lord our God,  
the grace of Jesus Christ our Savior,  
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all. **Alleluia!**

Go and tell this good news of great joy:  
to us a Savior is born. **Amen.**

Voluntary

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J.S. Bach

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## IN WORSHIP TODAY

**Many thanks to all those who donated Advent poinsettias:** Janet and Joe Fixel in memory of Carol Lou Phillips and Sandy Burkholder; Donna Barber in honor of Donna's parents, Frances & Pete Mahaffey, and in memory of Donna's brother Ken Mahaffey; Kathy Caleen in honor of Margaret & Harriet Chase; Rochelle Davis in honor of Jim Davis; Miriam Gurniak in memory of Charles T. Witmer, the Rev. David F. Gurniak & Janet G. Gurniak, Charles R. Witmer Jr. & Julia Thatcher Witmer, and Robert Easton; Rich Peyton in memory of Ellen Peyton; Rod and Ann Westall in memory of Ann's parents Edwin & Natalie Dalstrom, Rod's parents Lat & Jewell Westall, and Ann's brother, Peter Dalstrom; Martha Stewart in memory of Barbara & Jim Sayes; Jackie Callahan in memory of Moses & Sylvia Harden; Glenn and Kerry Laird in memory of their parents, Lee & Audrey Rivers and Harry & Hazel Laird; Brett Schneider in memory of his mother, Elisabeth Schneider; Peggy West in memory of Ellen Acheris West, Skip West, and Margaret & Erdman West; Pete and Kay Crowell in honor of their daughters Megan Ford and Meredith Strange; Donnie Watts in memory of her parents, Donald & Doris Price; Norma Meier in memory of George Meier; Gail Hankinson in memory of John Hankinson; Frank and Jodee Dorsey in memory of their parents, Abb & Frankie Dorsey and Ralph & Lavina Laybold; Walter and Marian Moore; Aide Whitaker; Ed and Mary Kutter. *You may take your poinsettia(s) home with you after tonight's service or after Sunday morning worship on December 28.*

On the first page: Shine, by Mike Moyers, "a painting of a simple candle reminding us to be light to the world." Moyers, Mike. Shine, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57144> [retrieved December 11, 2025]. Original source: Mike Moyers, <https://www.mikemoyersfineart.com/>.

**Prayer Concerns and Celebrations — We offer prayers for healing** for Juana Maria Diaz Perez (mother of Ruben Diaz), Bob Rackleff, Rich Peyton, Brant Copeland, Martha Kutter, Joyce Crawford, Bev Breedlove, Tara Reynolds, Sandra Sherrard, and Martha Snowden. **We offer prayers for strength and mercy** for Evanna (sister of Wayne Friedemann); Patricia McCoy Delancey; and Thaddeus Gillon. **We pray for the staff and volunteers** of Second Harvest of the Big Bend as well as those of all our mission partners. **We pray for victims of gun violence** in our community and our country. **We pray for the Presbyterian Reformed Church** in Cuba, Pastor Izett Samá Hernández, and Pastor Alison Infante. **We pray for peace** in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, and around the world. **We also pray for those in military service**, including Brian Guisao, Ross Yeilding, David DelRossi, and Owen Elzie.

**“Kingdom” or “Kindom”** in the Lord’s Prayer? Kingdoms were the dominant community structure when our Scriptures were written. Some find it meaningful to think about other Biblical metaphors to convey the ethos of care and genuine kin-ships about which Jesus taught and preached. Please pray as you choose.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Children** are welcome in this service as full members of God’s family. Parents and children are invited to use whatever is useful in the basket by the door to the Narthex. Childcare for children under the age of kindergarten is in the Education Building. Please note that during worship the Education Building is locked. Please enter through the breezeway door.

**Restrooms** are located in this building through the door at the end of each ground floor aisle of the sanctuary.

**An induction loop system** is available in the sanctuary. To use the system, switch your compatible hearing aid to the T–telephone mode or request a wireless headset from an usher.

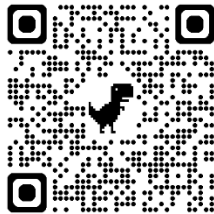
**Large print versions** of the *Glory to God* hymnal and worship bulletin are available from ushers.

**Visitors:** We are glad you are here! If you have questions about our congregation or membership, please let us know by using the friendship registers or speaking to one of the greeters so we can connect you with the right people.

### CHECK-IN



Let us know you came  
to Worship today!



### QR CODES



### GIVE ONLINE



Online Offerings &  
Donations

## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

### MEMBERS OF SESSION 2025–27

#### CLASS OF 2025

Donna Barber  
Carolyn Bradley  
Debbie Gibson  
Patrick Kennedy  
Sue Safford

#### CLASS OF 2026

Jane Atkinson  
Daniel Bruno  
Eleanor Cleveland  
Janet Fixel  
Greg Riccardi, Clerk

#### CLASS OF 2027

Kay Crowell  
Jon Dodrill  
Caitlin James  
Mary Kutter  
Deb Whisnant

#### OFFICIANT

#### SCRIPTURE READERS

#### CHOIR

#### CHOIR DIRECTOR

#### ORGANIST

#### VIDEO TEAM LEAD

Rev. Glenn Hodges

The Clevelands

The Adult Choir

The Bell Choir

Dr. Bryan Stenson

Victoria Coey

Carl Morse

Rev. Glenn Hodges, Designated Pastor

Rev. Dr. Greta Reed, Parish Associate

Dr. Bryan Stenson, Director of Music

Victoria Coey, Organist

Fran Owens, Financial Administrator

Jackie Callahan, Communications and Administrative Support Coordinator

Becky Brown, Custodian and Sunday Host

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## O Come, All Ye Faithful

133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

*Refrain*


born the King of an - gels!  
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 glo - ry in the high - est!  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.


## On Christmas Night All Christians Sing 112

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (A7) (D)  
F B $\flat$  F C7 F




1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the  
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re -  
3 When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then life and  
4 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the

(G) (A) (D) (G)  
B $\flat$  C F B $\flat$




news the an - gels bring; on Christ - mas night all  
deem - er made us glad; then why should we on  
health come in its place; when sin de - parts be -  
an - gels sing this night; all out of dark - ness

(D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D)  
F C F B $\flat$  C F




Chris - tians sing, to hear the news the an - gels bring,  
earth be sad, since our Re - deem - er made us glad,  
fore his grace, then life and health comes in its place;  
we have light, which made the an - gels sing this night:

(A) (Em) (D) (A)  
C Gm F C



news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
when from our sin he set us free,  
heav - en and earth with joy may sing,  
"Glo - ry to God in high - est heaven;

(D) (G) (A) (G) (D)  
F B $\flat$  C B $\flat$  F



news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.  
all for to gain our lib - er - ty?  
all for to see the new - born King.  
peace on earth and good - will. A - men!"

The words of this carol first appeared in 1684 in a collection by an Irish bishop, Luke Wadding. Whether they were his own work or something gleaned from popular use is not clear. The tune name recalls that the tune was collected in 1904 from Mrs. Verrall of Monk's Gate, Sussex.

# O Sing a New Song to the Lord 304

(Psalm 96)

G C D7 G C Am D



1 O sing a new song to the Lord; sing, all the  
 2 Tell all the world God's won-drous ways; tell all the  
 3 The na-tions' gods are i-dols vain; the shin-ing  
 4 Let ev-ery tongue and ev-ery tribe give to the  
 5 Let heaven be glad, let earth re-joice; the teem-ing

G Em D Dm G7 C Am B



earth and bless that Name; from day to day God's praise re-cord;  
 na-tions far and near: great is the Lord, and great God's praise;  
 heavens the Lord sup-ports; both light and hon-or lead the train,  
 Lord due praise and sing; all glo-ry un-to God as-cribe;  
 sea re-sound with praise; let wav-ing fields lift high their voice,

Em Am C D G Em D7 G



the Lord's re-deem-ing grace pro-claim.  
 the Lord a-lone, let na-tions fear.  
 while strength and beau-ty fill the courts.  
 come, throng God's courts, and of-ferings bring.  
 and all the trees their an-them raise. Al-le-lu-ia!

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

When this text appeared in *The Psalter*, 1912, it was titled "The Message of Redemption," a helpful reminder that the sung praise of God is a proclamation of "redeeming grace." The tune, created slightly later, is named with a French-derived word "gonfalon," meaning "banner."

## Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) (Bm7) (Em7) (A)  
F Dm7 Gm7 C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)  
F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all  
Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the  
Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)  
C F Dm F C B<sup>b</sup> F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of  
glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her  
Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)  
Gm7 A7 B<sup>b</sup> C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a  
heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she  
hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)  
F C B<sup>b</sup> C F C C7 Fsus F


Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.  
Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."




## Away in a Manger

Capo 3: (D) F (G) B $\flat$  (D) F




1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(A7) C7 (D) F




the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(G) B $\flat$  (D) F



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

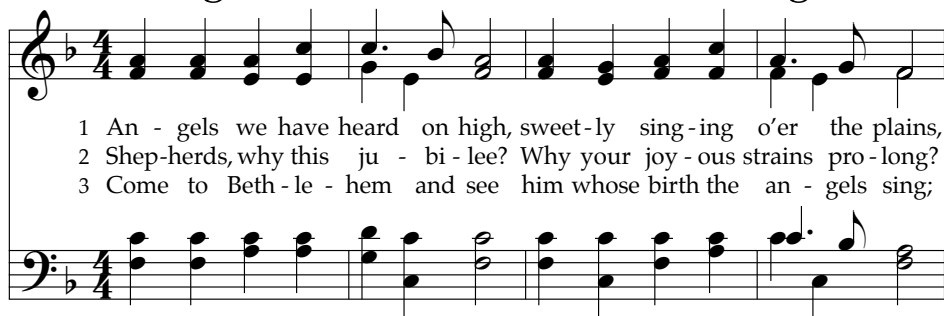
(A7) C7 (D) F (Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F



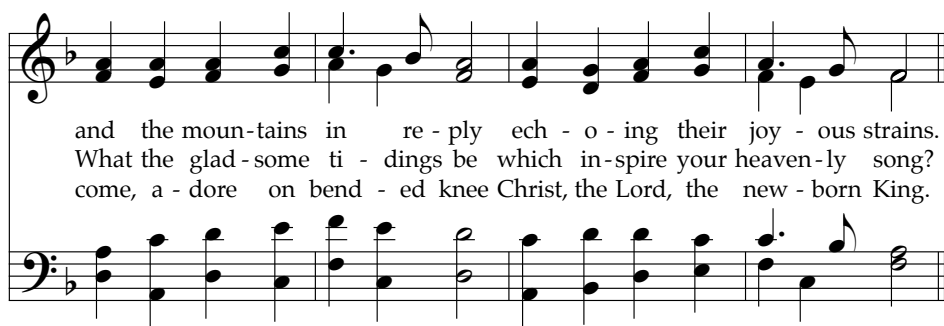
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Though erroneously attributed to Martin Luther, this anonymous carol has North American roots, probably originating among Pennsylvania Lutherans. Although more than forty melodies have been connected with these words, this tune was among the earliest written for them.

## 113 Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

## Refrain



Glo - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

## 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}^3 \text{♩}$ 

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

## 111

## From Heaven Above

1 "From heaven a - bove to earth I come to bring good  
 2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,  
 3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your  
 4 My heart for ver - y joy now leaps; my voice no  
 5 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heaven, who un - to

news to ev - ery - one! Glad ti - dings of great  
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of  
 sad and bit - ter cry; he will him - self your  
 lon - ger si - lence keeps; I too must sing with  
 us the Christ has given." With an - gels sing the

joy I bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:  
 low - ly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.  
 Sav - ior be and from all sin will set you free."  
 joy - ful tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:  
 Sav - ior's birth, a glad new year to all the earth.

This Christmas hymn gives us a rare glimpse of Martin Luther as a father creating verses for his children to sing at home on Christmas Eve for a retelling of Luke 2:8-14. The first three stanzas paraphrase the angel's song, and the final two provide the human response.

# Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

## GERMAN

- 1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*  
*Alles schläft, einsam wacht*  
*nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.*  
*Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,*  
*schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,*  
*schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

## KOREAN

- 1 고요한밤 거룩한밤  
 어둠에 묻힌밤  
 주의부모 앉아서  
 감사기도 드릴때  
 아기잘도 잔다  
 아기잘도 잔다

## SPANISH

- 1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*  
*Todo duerme en derredor,*  
*entre los astros que esparcen su luz,*  
*bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,*  
*brilla la estrella de paz,*  
*brilla la estrella de paz.*

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.