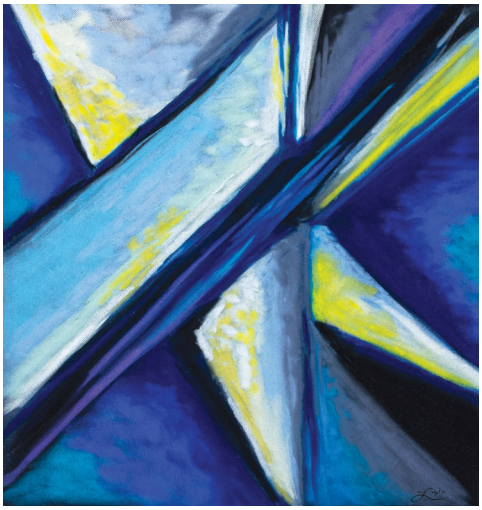


Order of Worship
December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude *Variations on a Polish Carol*, Ritter

Advent Wreath Lighting (Responsive)
One: "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love"
All: We thank you for your endless, boundless love.
Make us vessels of compassion, bearers of mercy, protectors of grace.
Come, Lord Jesus, and make love our witness.

Hymn No. 104 *Oh Lord How Shall I Meet You*

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of Confession (Unison)
Great God, as we behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. We struggle to join the songs of praise and thanksgiving. We are focused on things that matter so little. We overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared.
Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Moment for Silent Confession

Kyrie No. 121, v. 4
O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Declaration of Forgiveness

Gloria No. 104, v. 3
You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill, to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still. In patient expectation we live for that great day when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading *Isaiah 7:10-16*

Word to Grow By

Anthem *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt,*
Dorothy Bock, soloist; Elly Mulder, flautist (9:00)
Angels' Carol, Tyra Crowe, soloist (11:00)

Second Reading *Matthew 1:18-25*

Sermon *Off-Script at Christmas*, Rev. Dr. Kathy Wolf Reed

Hymn No. 88 vv. 1, 5-7 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Affirmation of Faith (Unison) *The Apostles' Creed*, Hymnal p. 35

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer Hymnal p. 35

Offertory *There Were Shepherds*, Martin (11:00)

Doxology No. 144, v. 4
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Prayer of Dedication

Communion (9:00)

Hymn No. 105 *People Look East*

Benediction

Postlude *Divinum mysterium*, Martin

Liturgist: Terry Ley.

Advent Wreath Lighters - Bob and Karen Cochran (9:00), The Barnes Family (11:00)

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church, Auburn

New to the Presbyterian Church USA? We would love to share with you more about our Reformed tradition of theology and worship.

New to Auburn, or simply new to this congregation? We'd love to share with you more about the rich history of this church and its valuable contributions to the Auburn community.

Searching for a church home? We would love to join you in that search and help discern whether First Presbyterian may be where God is calling you to be nurtured, inspired, and empowered.

Please take a moment to fill out our online Friendship Register or you may contact either of us directly.

Revs. Nick and Kathy Reed, Co-Pastors



ADVENT POINSETTIAS



The Poinsettias have been given to the Glory of God

in memory of Edward Lee Spencer, Jr., and Ruth Spencer by Spence and Kim Spencer

in honor of Dorothy Hinkle-Uhlig by Daniel and Karl Uhlig

in honor of Frank Uhlig by Daniel and Karl Uhlig

in memory of Jim Foil by the Foil Family

in memory of their parents - Marvin and Inez Reaves, and Alvin and Lois Hecathorn - by Jim and Lynn Hecathorn

in honor of Gail Dillard by Nancy and John Sanker

in memory of Danny Price by Clay and Julie Price

in memory of Tom Spears by Dibba Spears

in honor of Henry Brandhorst by the Walkabout Bible Study Class

in memory of Nancy Calcott, Henry Helmke, Jim Foil, Nancy Gamble, Jo Cooper, and Joyce Bravaldo by the Walkabout Bible Study Class

in honor of Bob and Karen Cochran by Bob and Kay Recknor

in honor of Brian, Christy, Kelly, Steve, and Clint by Bob and Kay Recknor

in memory of Sandra Recknor by Bob and Kay Recknor

in memory of Hazel and John Goodman by Margaret Brinkley and family

in memory of Donald Brinkley by Margaret Brinkley and family

in memory of Reginald Don Gilbert by Hardy Gilbert

in memory of David Killough Searcy by Hardy Gilbert

in memory of Johnny Huggins by Harriette Huggins

by Jay and Susie Gogue

in honor of Joel and Lynda Tremaine with love by Sara, Ella, Emily, and Claire

in honor of Marine Cpl. Christopher D. Bordoni by Wendy Cleveland

in memory of Timothy Boosinger by Marcia Boosinger

in memory of Alton, Christine, Sonya, George, and David French by Linda Stark

in honor of their family by Mike and Carolyn Williams

in memory of John Noessel and Tim Concelman by Frank and Dorothy Bock

in memory of friends lost in 2025 by Mari and Terry Ley

in memory of Joseph Barnett Farr by Kimberly Farr

The two large poinsettias are given in memory of Frances Vowell by her family and the Frances Vowell Flower Fund.