

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 21, 2025

"The Incarnation is the medicine of the soul, undoing the Fall and bringing man to the Tree of Life, and the office of a priest is to administer this medicine in the sacraments."

~ Arthur Middleton

TRINITY BELLS

*OPENING MUSIC

"He Shall Reign Forevermore"

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Sid & Kim Bodholdt

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Luke 1:46)

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

People: With Mary, our spirits rejoice, and we sing God's praise.

Leader: Let us honor God with our worship this fourth Sunday of Advent.

*#579 GLORIA PATRI

*GATHERING HYMN

#9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF CONFESSION

O God, we thank you for the message of love that Christmas brings to a world where hatred and violence is experienced by so many people in so many places. We confess that we have not always done our part to alleviate suffering; to promote peace; or to display Your forgiving spirit to a broken and dark world. Help us to reveal in our lives the love that Jesus so embodied, the love that Paul wrote about so eloquently - the love that is patient and kind; the love that is never envious or boastful, or arrogant or rude; the love that does not insist on its own way and is not irritable or resentful; that in all things we may put love first. This day, may you be incarnate in our hearts as well.

(now that we have confessed as a congregation, let us confess our own sins in the silence of our hearts)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Micah 5:4-5)

Leader: "And he will stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace."
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven

People: Amen!

OFFERING ~ Steve Pederson

Prayer of Dedication

*Doxology

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN #31 "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SONG OF PREPARATION

"Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)"

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

SERMON

"The Incarnation Redeems Us"
Rev. Paul Masters

*SONG OF REFLECTION

"All Is Well"

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

*SENDING MUSIC

Helpful Notes

- 1) We say "debts" and "debtors" in the Lord's Prayer
- 2) Asterisks (*) = Please stand as you are able
- 3) Offering – Our offering basket can be found in the entrance to the sanctuary or you can give electronically using the QR code found in the 'Stewardship News' section of this bulletin

Prayers for December 21st – 27th

Members of the Congregation:

Norene Carpenter & Carter Ferry

Friends of the Congregation:

Missy Nelson (Friend of the Moeller Family),

Edmilson Alves (Gabriel's Uncle),

Joan Meyer,

Alan Scott,

Linda Cline &

The Iowa National Guard 34th Battalion

Prayer Families:

Karen & Doug Kaiser

Rob & Becky Kruthoff

Randy & Roxanne Kuhlman

Janice Kuiper

Pray for: (a ministry in our Presbytery; a ministry in Fort Dodge)

Presbytery Staff &

First Baptist Church

Stewardship News

Attendance on December 14th was 194 (123, 29 FB, 42 YT). The offering on 12/14/25 was \$10,514.00. The amount needed each week is \$11,118.00.

The total contributions through 12/14/25 are \$462,130.47. The amount needed through 12/14/25 is \$535,370.00.



Thank you to our volunteers today

Ushers: Roxanne & Aaron Amhof

Vocals: Jacob Deuel, Kia Deuel, Scott Deuel & Mary Alves

Musicians: Isac Jamba, Steve Kelleher, Jake Merritt, Shelly Bottorff & Gabriel Alves

Bus Driver: Don Miller

Elder: Bruce Walrod

We are grateful for the gift of chancel flowers given by Sondra & Tim Holmstrom in loving memory of their son, Daniel. Dan's birthday was December 19th.

Harry's Pantry

If you would like to donate to our little pantry at the Shalom Center, non-perishable or personal hygiene donations can be donated at the pantry or put in the shopping cart in the Narthex. For monetary donations, please write 'Harry's Pantry' in the memo line of your check, or you can donate on SecureGive by clicking on the 'Harry's Pantry' line.

Mitten and Sock Tree

The Deacons are collecting child-sized gloves, mittens, and socks for local elementary students. There is a wagon next to the tree for donations. Please donate by January 4th. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please talk to Amy in the office.

Christmas Schedule

Please join us at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm on December 24th. Both services will be in the sanctuary.

Children's Church

We won't have Children's church the rest of December. Children's church will return January 4th.

2025 Contributions

Contributions must be received in the office by 11 am Wednesday, December 31st to count for fiscal year 2025. Anything received after 11 am (regardless if postmarked by date) will count for fiscal year 2026.



First Presbyterian Church
1111 5th Avenue North, Fort Dodge, Iowa
Lead Pastor, Rev. Paul Masters
Executive Pastor, Chris Helton
Director of Music, Gabriel Alves
A/V Tech. & Comm. Director, Mary Alves
A/V Specialist, Kristal Torres
515-576-2091
December 21, 2025

Website: www.fpcfd.org

YouTube: FPC Fort Dodge



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its
 3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 by Thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 in one heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord

here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7 D with refrain

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

Arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King.
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 *3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all He brings, Risen with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty,
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
 Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man-u-el.
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)

What hope we hold this starlit night
A King is born in Bethlehem
Our journey long we seek the light
That leads to the hallowed manger ground

What fear we felt in the silent age
Four-hundred years can He be found
But broken by a baby's cry
Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground

Emmanuel Emmanuel
God incarnate here to dwell
Emmanuel Emmanuel
Praise His name Emmanuel
(Praise His name Emmanuel)

The Son of God here born to bleed
A crown of thorns would pierce His brow
And we beheld this offering
Exalted now the King of kings
Praise God for the hallowed manger ground

All Is Well

All is well all is well
Angels and men rejoice
For tonight darkness fell
Into the dawn of love's light
Sing alle sing alleluia

All is well all is well
Let there be peace on earth
Christ is come go and tell
That He is in the manger
Sing alle sing alleluia

All is well all is well
Lift up your voice and sing
Born is now Emmanuel
Born is our Lord and Savior
Sing alleluia sing alleluia
All is well

He Shall Reign Forevermore

In the bleak mid-winter
All creation groans
For a world in darkness
Frozen like a stone
Light is breaking
In a stable for a throne

(And) He shall reign forevermore forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore
Unto us a Child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore

If I were a wise man
I would travel far
If I were a shepherd
I would do my part
But poor as I am
I will give to Him my heart

Here within a manger lies the One
Who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice
Christ the Messiah
Into our hopes into our fears
The Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years
Christ the Messiah