

First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls

Our Vision Statement of the First Presbyterian Church of Redwood Falls is: God’s timeless love transforms each of us to joyously continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in our community and in our world.

December 24, 2023 ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Ministers: The members of the congregation

Pastor: Rev. Scott Prouty

Assemble in God’s Name

Prelude “Gesu Bambino”, “O Holy Night” Elaine Hagen

Ringing of the Church Bell

Candle Lighting Service: Confirmation students August and Corrine Danielson and their family  
Christ Creator of the stars of night, Your people's everlasting light, O Christ, Redeemer of us all, We pray You hear us when we call.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and set lights in the sky – sun and moon and stars. By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys. By these stars, they knew God was with them. In the beginning, too, was the Word. And the Word, too, has come down from heaven to earth. By the Word made flesh, Christ our Savior, we know that God is with us. Tonight we light five candles to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens. We name this candle Hope. (Light the first candle.) We name this candle Peace. (Light the second candle.) We name this candle Joy. (Light the pink candle.) We name this candle Love. (Light the fourth candle.) We name this candle Christ. (Light the center candle.)

Our lives are a journey, and we do not always know the way. But we chart our path by the star of Christ. Even when faith burns low and its promises seem too good to be true, we set our face steadily towards the light. Listen to ancient words come true anew this night: “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. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:2, 6). Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of Christ’s presence this week, help us to become the signs of Christ’s presence that others are searching for. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven on earth. Help us to shine like stars in the world. Amen.

Hymn #151 “We Three Kings of Orient Are” (refrain only)

Call to Worship

L: Welcome tonight to a celebration like no other!

P: This is the night of the Holy Birth!

L: Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts and spirits!

P: Open our hearts to receive this blessed gift, Loving God.

L: Rejoice, good friends, the Good News is here!

P: Christ our Savior is Born! Hallelujah! Amen.

Hymn #134 “Joy to the World”

Prayer of Confession

O wondrous God of the Stars, we come tonight with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives. We hear the names “Wonderful Counselor,” “Mighty God,” “Prince of Peace”, and we are in awe. You have touched the earth this night with Your unconditional love. Touch us– touch our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted. Make this night magical again. Amen.

Hymn #133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Call to Confession

Even in the midst of great joy and celebration, we know that our lives don't always reflect God's intentions... So please join me in the prayer of confession litany, printed in the bulletin, followed by a moment of silent reflection and personal confession.

Prayer of Confession Litany

L: When we close ourselves off from the Light of the World, struggling to illuminate the lives of everyone, especially those who are poor and oppressed:

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: When we close ourselves off from the Wisdom of God, struggling to be heard above hate-filled words and fear-filled rhetoric:

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: When we close our hearts off from the Glory of God, which is known fully only in a world of peace where all creation thrives:

P: Lord, have mercy.

Time for Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

In Christ, the Light, the Word, the Glory of God’s love shines in our hearts, and we are forgiven and given strength to go forward into a new future. Let us give thanks that in Jesus, Emmanuel, God is truly with us. Amen.

Response Hymn #136 “Go Tell it on the Mountain” (vs. 1)

Share the Peace of Christ with One Another

Proclaim God’s Word

Special Music “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” Claire Stephens

Prayer of Illumination

God of light, You have revealed Your very self to us in Your son Jesus Christ, Your one Word made flesh, who lived among us, full of grace and truth. Open us to Your revelation once again, that in the words of Your holy scripture we might know Your presence and follow in Your light always. Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 96

Hymn #115

"Away in a Manger"

Page 715

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14

Sermons

Page 1227

The Revs. Scott & Pamela Prouty

Special Music

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (Page 35 in Hymnal)

Sonya Alexander & Elaine Hagen

Give Thanks to God

**The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**  
**God's Tithes and Your Offering Received**

Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Let us offer our gifts in a spirit of generosity and hope. With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in Your goodness and love.

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Elaine Hagen

Response Hymn #128

Anthem

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

"One Small Babe"

Chancel Choir

**The Lighting of the Congregation's Candles**  
*(The Choir will come out into the congregation to light your candles. Please light your candle and then pass the light to your neighbor. When all the candles are lit, the lights will be turned off as we sing "Silent Night".)*

Hymn #122

Benediction

Postlude

\*Please stand in body or spirit.

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Elaine Hagen

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Announcements

**Following worship there will be a Christmas Eve Friendship Dinner**  
**in the Church Dining Hall. All are invited to come.**  
**Have a very merry Christmas one and all!**

