

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

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.

BLESSING, SERVING, AND RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP AT THE OPEN TABLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *O Holy Night*  
*(with Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring)*  
ADLOPHE ADAM & J.S.BACH ARR. KEITH CHRISTOPHER

PRAYER AFTER ALL HAVE COMMUNED *(unison)*

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven, where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

SENDING FORTH TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE

\* CANDLE LIGHTING 186 *Silent Night, Holy Night*  
Leaders will light their candles from the Christ Candle and proceed down the three aisles lighting the aisle candles. Please pass the light to the person next to you.

*To the Glory of God and the Christmas Season,  
today's poinsettias have been given by:*

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Tom &amp; Karen Copple</b><br><i>In honor of God</i>   | <b>Tom &amp; Karen Copple</b><br><i>In loving memory of Our families</i>   | <b>Tom &amp; Karen Copple</b><br><i>In Celebration of Alexa and the Choir</i>           |
| <b>Roberta &amp; Garry Grau</b><br><i>In honor of Pastor Rev. Robert Reno</i>                                       | <b>Rick &amp; Kathy McDowell</b><br><i>In loving memory of Rick &amp; Kathy's parents &amp; Kathy's siblings</i> | <b>Rick &amp; Kathy McDowell</b><br><i>In Celebration of Jesus</i>                      |
| <b>Kathy &amp; Rick McDowell</b><br><i>In honor of Our sons &amp; grandchildren</i>                                 | <b>Jay &amp; Lonna McKay</b><br><i>In loving memory of Lebo &amp; Ruth McKay</i>                                 | <b>Jay &amp; Lonna McKay</b><br><i>In Celebration of Brolin &amp; Rachel's Marriage</i> |
| <b>Prudy Amstutz</b><br><i>In loving memory of Eric Amstutz</i>   | <b>Jay &amp; Lonna McKay</b><br><i>In loving memory of Lon &amp; Joan Barnett</i>                                | <b>Richard Putnam</b><br><i>In Celebration of Christmas</i>                             |
| <b>Alexa Brown</b><br><i>In loving memory of Walter Helgeland, Joan Gatie Helgeland, &amp; Ruth Gatie Bendiksen</i> | <b>Larry Meres</b><br><i>In loving memory of My sister Gail</i>  |   |
|   | <b>Peggy &amp; Amy Snell</b><br><i>In loving memory of Tommy Snell</i>   |   |

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PRAYS FOR:

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS: Tom Copple Family, Garry & Roberta Grau, Peggy Burger, Brenda & Robert Long.

PRAYERS FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS: Johnathan Roberson's family, Chrise and Yenesia. Mavis Whitten's great niece, Kacie McDaniel. FPC friend, John Marks. Tina Zarate friend of Pam Davidson. Friends of Vicki Ball, Tom & Jenny Hines. FPC Nursery teacher, Lupe Yanez. Friends of Aislinn King, Carol Scarborough. FPC Scholar Singer Gaby Jaime's grandparent, Joe Garcia. Paul Vega, a friend of Yolanda Garcia's son. Laura Nurse, daughter of Mary Massingill. Stephanie, a friend of Karen Copple.

Prayers for this church in transition.

Many thanks to the congregational care team for their ministries of care, including updating prayer concerns.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN LUBBOCK

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE  
DECEMBER 24, 2024 5:30 PM

*As a church family, we strive to connect people to God and to one another as we follow Christ.*

Calendar of Events

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|---|--|
| <b>Sunday 12/29</b><br>8:30 am United Methodist Worship Service—S<br>8:45 am Choir Rehearsal—CR<br>9:30 am Morning Bible Study<br>10:30 am Worship—S<br>11:30 am Congregational Meeting | <b>Sunday 1/5</b><br>8:30 am United Methodist Worship Service—S<br>9:50 am Choir Rehearsal—S<br>9:30 am Morning Bible Study<br>10:30 am Worship—S<br>11:30 am Congregational Meeting |
|   | <b>Wednesday, 1/8</b><br>7:00 pm Choir—CR<br>8:15 pm Handbell Practice   |



Nativity, by Carlos Maratta (1650), fresco, San Giuseppe dei Falegnami church, Rome



WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY:

Minister of Word and Sacrament: **Rev. Dr. Robert P. Reno, MDiv, Ph.D.**  
Liturgist: **Belva Reno** Director of Music & Flutist: **Alexa Brown**  
Pianist: **Dr. Spencer Hartman**  
Handbells: **Yiru Chen, Madison Hanson**  
Women's Choir: **Yiru Chen, Madison, Gaby Jaime**

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## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

\* *Please Stand in the body or in spirit*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL PRELUDE *A Lute Caroll* MARY E. CALDWELL

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT & CHRIST CANDLE

WOMEN'S CHOIR: For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.

Children of God, we are gathered with hearts full of anticipation, our time of waiting and watching has brought us to this sacred moment. We arrive with assurance, knowing that God-with-us is here, ever present, surrounding us with grace and mercy.

*As we gather this evening, we remember the promised gifts of the Messiah. In the lighting of five candles, we set our gaze upon beacons that sustain us through sleepless nights and restless days. We bear this light together.*

We call this candle Hope. *(Light the first candle.)*  
We call this candle Peace. *(Light the second candle.)*  
We call this candle Joy. *(Light the third candle.)*  
We call this candle Love. *(Light the fourth candle.)*  
We call this candle Christ *(Light the center candle.)*

WOMEN'S CHOIR: Here we shall meet the Maker of the heavens, Creator of the mountains and the seas, Lord of the stars, and present to us now.

Source of Infinite Love and Light, we celebrate the birth of hope made new, grateful for the faithfulness of your love. We rejoice in your unending presence, ever alive in the world. Your peace, powerful and still, quiets the fiercest storms. With hearts emboldened, we rest in the hope that never fades – for you are with us, nearer than our breath, even now. You, O God, are our hope, our peace, our joy and our love. You are all that we can hope or imagine and more besides.

*In the season of Advent, we acknowledge the wonder found in waiting. These lit candles serve as a sign of waiting, remembering, and testifying. We remember that we are bearers of God's love and light. We shine even brighter in the sharing of the light. We testify to a God who gives us hope, peace, joy, and love. O Blessed Jesus, the Messiah, Christ, Immanuel, because you cannot be hidden – you are worth the wait!*

**ALL SING: For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.**

\* CAROL OF PRAISE 179 *Joy to the World*

CALL TO CONFESSION BELVA RENO  
My friends, when Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, he became like us in all things but sin. May we who have been reborn in him be free from our sinful ways. Let us confess our sin to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*  
**God of love, all year long we pursue power and money, yet you come in weakness. All season long we covet great material gifts, when you alone offer what is lasting. Through the work of this Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels, and remake our lives, that we may witness to your transforming love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**  
*(Please continue in silent prayer.)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON THE REV. ROBERT RENO  
When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we have done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Hear this good news and rejoice: Forgiveness comes upon us as a gift, undeserved but freely given.  
**Thanks be to God.**  
The peace of God be with you all.  
**And also with you!**  
Let us offer signs of peace and reconciliation.

\* PASS THE PEACE

\* GLORIA 195 *Gloria, Gloria, Gloria*

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*  
**Almighty God, the shepherds of old were full of your praises, proclaiming all they had seen and heard, and repeating what they had been told. Move among us now with your Holy Spirit, that we too might hear and experience the wonder and joy of the living Word even as we welcome the written Word into our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON ISAIAH 9: 2-7

SECOND LESSON LUKE 2: 1-20

CHORAL MEDITATION SETTING BY MALCOLM DALGLISH  
*Christmas Lullaby (Scottish Folk Melody)*

SERMON "The Best Gift" REV. ROBERT RENO

CHORAL MEDITATION DAVID MEECE, ARR. LARSON  
*One Small Child*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from THE NICENE CREED*  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and became truly human. Amen.**

### PASTORAL PRAYER

CAROL 203 *Away In A Manger*

## GIVING THANKS TO GOD

*Come to the table as an offering of yourself, a re-commitment to faith. You may also bring your tithes and offerings. Take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and consume both at once. Gluten free option available. All are welcome.*

### CALL TO COMMUNION

My friends, we gather at this table to share a holy meal. It's a feast to which Jesus invites us, and there's a place right here with your name on it. We've all got a place at this table – a place of welcome where everyone feels at home because it is, indeed, our home, first, last, and always. And so, my friends, let us come to the table bringing all that we are and all that we ever hope to be.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you have created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us – even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came among us as the Word made flesh to show us your glory, full of grace and truth. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

738 *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (all sing)*

O God, when you sent your Son, Jesus, to be born of Mary, your Word became visible, showing us a new and radiant vision of your glory. His name is above every name, the Prince of Peace and Savior of all. In him we have been brought out of darkness and into your marvelous light. In response to your great and gracious gift of your Son Jesus Christ, we proclaim that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.