



“Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.”
- Matthew 5:4

**WELCOME TO FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

First Presbyterian Church
Worship December 22, 2024
Advent Peace Blue Christmas
Welcome!

- Prelude String Quartet

- Welcome, Announcements, and Invitations

- Handbells Introit *The Snow Lay on the Ground*
Arr. By Douglas E. Wagner



- Call to Worship Jim Renkert, Liturgist

Leader: We welcome this day as a time of rest.

All: We come, bearing burdens and cares.

Leader: We place our lives in the loving hands of God

All: May God heal our spirits and strengthen us.

Leader: We trust in God who is always with us.

All: Lord, this day we come to you in faith and trust for your healing mercies. Amen!

- Hymn # 162 *The First Noel, the Angel Did Say* (vs. 1, 2, 3 & 4)

- Lighting of the Advent Candles

Leader: As people of faith, we watch and wait for Christ's arrival.

To honor this, we light candles of Love, Hope, Peace, and Joy.

All: We also live with God's Love, Hope, Peace, and Joy in our hearts.

Leader: We light the first candle for Hope.

We light the second candle for Love.

We light the third candle for Joy.

And today, we light the fourth candle for Peace.

Leaders: As we hear in Isaiah, Chapter 9: "there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress.

All: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned.

Leaders: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

All: And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor,

**Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

Leaders: Let us pray: God of Hope, Lord of Love, God of Joy, Prince of Peace: Help us live as people of your Peace, so that we may be called children of God, and bring light to the darkness.

All: Amen.

Leader: Please rise, and celebrate together the Passing of the Peace.

- Passing of the peace

- Choir Anthem *Silent Night by Franz Gruber*, arr. By Dan Forrest
Sarah Kim, Amber Snelling, violin
Nina Geist, viola, Vernon Lindemuth, cello

- Kids' Time

- Scripture Reading: Luke 1:76-79:

"You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

- Sermon and Pastoral Prayer: I Hope You Cry A Lot

- Hymn # 150 *What Child Is This?*

- Moment for Mission Rich Jackson

- Offertory *Mary Did you Know*
by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene
Nina Geist, viola



- Doxology

- Hymn # 147 *Away in a Manger*

- Benediction

- Postlude *In the Bleak Midwinter* Held