

***The Service of Worship***

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

**Chimes**

**Prelude**

*Advent Promise*  
Bell Choir

Anna Laura Page

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Special Music**

*Light of the World*  
Darla Korrey Gertner

Marrolli

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

Joyce Lebsack and Family

Today on the third Sunday of Advent,  
we light the candle of joy.

*The pink candle is lit.*

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, in the days to come...

*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,*

*the desert shall rejoice and blossom;*

*like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,*

*and rejoice with joy and singing. (Isaiah 35:1)*

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

**Introit**

*Joyful Medley*  
Darla Korrey Gertner

arr. Darla Korrey Gertner

**\*Call to Worship and Opening Prayer** (responsive)

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed;

**the night is far gone; the day is near.**

Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Come,

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

Let us choose the way of light and joy today.

**Today I choose to rejoice and put my hope in God,  
joining with the ancient praise of all God's people:**

*I was glad when they said to me,*

*Let us go to the house of the Lord!*

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

May the God of hope fill you with all love, joy, and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (vv. 1, 2 & 4)*

**#107**

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession** (responsive)

O God of joy,

**We confess that we do not always live as if we have choices.**

Sometimes we get swept into trends and moods.

We are influenced at every turn.

**We know we are not in control;**

**we live with realities we did not choose.**

And yet...

Perhaps we have more agency than we realize.

Maybe we need to look up from time to time,

to make sure we are walking in your way.

So, today we pray:

**Forgive us when we fail to choose your way.**

Forgive us when we forget to walk in faith,

free us when we feel stuck,

and refocus us on your purposes.

**Show us your way, illumine the path, and direct us to walk in your light.**

**Amen.**

**\*Declaration of Forgiveness**

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

The light of life shines in and for you today.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

**Amen.**

**\*The Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**\*Response**

*Gloria Patri*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

**A Moment for All God's Children**

Karen Torres

*Jesus Loves the Little Children*  
**Jesus loves the little children,  
All the children of the world.  
Every color, shape, and size;  
All are precious in his eyes.  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

**Prayer for Illumination (responsive)**

God of joy,  
each week we come ever closer to you.  
We feel our hearts quickening with excitement  
at the approach of Jesus' birth.

**May our souls magnify you, as Mary's did.**

**May our lives point to yours, as John's did.**

May we remain patient,  
listening for your Word and your Spirit,  
even as we prepare for the Christmas celebration.

**With peace, hope, joy, and love we pray.**

**Meet us now in your holy word.**

**Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 35:1-10

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*  
Chancel Choir

J. S. Bach

**Scripture Reading**

James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (responsive)

Because of the tender mercy of our God,

**the dawn from on high will break upon us,**

to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

**to guide our feet into the way of peace, hope, and joy.**

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Response**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**#82**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Giving of Ourselves and Our Offering—A Moment for Grateful Reflection**

*Joy Comes in the Morning*

Elsie Fetzner

William Gaither

**\*The Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host.**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (responsive)

God of every good and perfect gift,

receive the offerings of our life and labor.

By your grace, bless what we bring imperfectly

to contribute to the many and mysterious ways

you are coming among us.

**May the offering of our hands and our hearts serve you**

**and bring more joy in the world today.**

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn**

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (vv. 1 & 2)*

**#93**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*  
Chancel Choir and Congregation

**\*Chimes**

**Postlude**

*Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*  
Elsie Fetzner

arr. Rebecca te Velde

*\*Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

**Worship Notes – Sources Used in Today’s Liturgy**

Lighting of the Advent Candles: adapted from Isaiah 2:4 and *The Book of Common Worship*

Call to Worship: adapted from Romans 13:11-12; Romans 15:13; Psalm 122:1; and Lectio 365

Declaration of Forgiveness: John 8:12; Isaiah 2:4

Prayer for Illumination: adapted from *Glory to God* online hymnal

Affirmation of Faith: adapted from Luke 1:78-79

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Poinsettias given to the glory of God...

by Pat Borner and Family *in memory of* **George Borner**

by Conyetta C. Brown *in memory of* **Warren E. Brown**

by Connie Sue Clark *in memory of* **Bob & Helen Walker, Don & Mazie Pomeroy**

by Darrel and Patty Fenton *in memory of* **loved ones**

by Beth Frye *in memory of* **parents George & Margaret Frye; sister Bonnie Frye Roberts**

by Beverly Fritzler *in memory of* **husband Leon Fritzler; granddaughters Kelsey & Alix Altenbern**

by Ashlee Glaser and Dad Glaser *in memory of* **Sandy Glaser**

by John and Laura Guenzi *in memory of* **Grandpa Kenny**

by Connie Ham *in memory of* **Stan Ham**

by Dana and Jay Harris Family *in memory of* **Jace Harris, Delbert, Joan, Mike and Spencer Sonnenberg**

by Bonnie Holzschuh *in memory of* **Harris & Lucille Meacham; Amanda Liesemeyer**

by Kristy and Stan Kaus and Family *in memory of* **Agnes Rundus**

by Kristy and Stan Kaus and Family *in memory of* **George Borner**

by Joyce Lebsack *in memory of* **husband Don and daughter Julie**

by Jomari Lechtman *in honor of* **Darla Korrey Gertner**

by Alice Ledin *in memory of* **Noel T. Ledin and Suzanne Elizabeth Bera**

by Ken and Delinda Korrey McDowell *in memory of* **Sara Agnes Rundus**

by Ken and Delinda Korrey McDowell *in honor of the* **Rummage Sale Committee**, who in less than 24 hours  
turns the Fellowship Hall into a thrift store that helps the community and our missions

by Linda Meisner and Family *in memory of* **Gene Meisner, loved ones**

by LeRoy Morrissey *in memory of* **Deanne Morrissey**

by Marcia Panice *in memory of* **Martin Panice**

by Tanna Prince *in memory of* **Mom & Dad (IdaMae & Hank Prince)**

by Jackie and Chas Reynolds *in memory of* **Ida Mae & Don Wisdom**

by Jane Robinson *in memory of* **Parents Joseph & Rose Shank; Brother Robert Shank**

by Bart and Barbara Thiele *in memory of* **loved ones**

by Pam Trimble *in memory of* **Owen & Marjorie Trimble**

*Poinsettias may be taken home following the Christmas Eve service.*

Thank you to all who donated.

May the memory of our loved ones be a blessing.

To God be the Glory!

## Prayer Concerns December 14, 2025

### Military Personnel

Luke Brigham (Randy & Terry's son)  
Thomas Gage Snyder (Kim Schlup's son)

### Presbytery of Plains & Peaks

Sterling, First Presbyterian Church

### Those with Special Needs or Concerns

Grace Ann (Connie Clark's relative)  
David Balabanis Family  
Joe Baran (in-law of Ted & Penny Propst)  
Sharon Bennett (Neblett's son-in-law's mother)  
Tye Bennett (Neblett's grandson)  
Clark Bernhardt  
Norm Blackburn  
Brenda Boeff  
Randy Brigham  
Leah Burt (friend of Judy Roumph)  
CEDEPCA (Protestant Ministry in Guatemala)  
Cooperating Ministry  
Sally Craig (friend of Jackie Reynolds)  
Jeanne Crouch & Family  
Cierra Davis (friend of Becky Cranwell)  
Dave & Marsha Davis  
Sarah Davis  
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)  
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)  
Family Resource Center  
Carolee Goldsmith (mother of Brandon Eaton)  
Meredith Goodwin (friend of Propsts)  
Mike Hawkins (Michelle Hawkins' brother)  
Highlands Camp  
Sonja Holden (friend of Arden Fennell)  
Chris Jutz  
Josh Jutz & Kaylee  
Robert Koehler (friend of Laura Guenzi)  
Debby Korrey (Delinda's & Darla's sister)  
Delinda Korrey McDowell  
Susan Kozik (former sister-in-law of Mike Tyson)  
Ann Leh and Family

Aline Marquez (friend of Becky Cranwell)  
Aubrey Moorehead (great niece of Tanna Prince)  
Rose Neblett  
Dirk Nye and Regine Bendelow (Jackie Barton's step-father & mother)  
Mari Paradise (Jim Neblett's sister)  
Jeni Porter (In-law of Blackburns)  
David Prince (Tanna's brother)  
Emma Rich (Granddaughter of Gary & Kay Rich)  
Regina Riggle (Niece of Jackie Reynolds)  
Cadie, Hailey, and Austen Rose (Jason Rose family)  
Betty Scharf  
Linda Schoyer (Sister of Connie Sue Clark)  
John Seffens (friend of Mike Tyson)  
Steven Shinn (friend of Jim Leh)  
Darrell Smith and family  
Montelle Smith  
Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin (friends of Michelle Hawkins)  
Charlie & Roseanne Thompson (friends of Nebletts)  
Sharon Treacy (mother of Laura Guenzi)  
Mike Tyson  
Amy & Byron Uhrich (Jill Vollmer's parents)  
Under the Umbrella  
Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)  
Laurie Weskamp Wagner (Jeff's sister)  
Jeff Weskamp  
Jean Williamson  
Michelle Wilson (friend of David Chrisp)

### Prayer List Updates:

Do you have an update on anyone listed on our church prayer list? We'd love to hear the good news of recovery, healing, and answered prayer. If you have a joy to report, let us know!

## ***Announcements—December 14, 2025***

*We invite you to join us in our work and worship at First Presbyterian Church.*

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### **At a Glance**

December 14	9:45	Chancel Choir
	10:30	Worship Service
	11:30	Fellowship Coffee with Birthday Celebration
December 15	10:00	Advent Gathering with Rev. Michelle Newsletter Deadline
December 16	5:00	Zumba
	5:00	Officer Education
	6:00	Session & Deacons Joint Meeting
December 17	5:00	Children's Choir
	6:30	Chancel Choir
December 18	1:30	Women's Bible Study
	4:30	Zumba
December 20	12:00	Children's Choir
	2:00	Chancel Choir
December 21	9:30	Chancel Choir
	10:00	Worship Service
	11:30	Christmas Dinner/Called Congregational Meeting

**Church Office hours:** Mon/Wed/Fri: 9:00 am—Noon; and Tues/Thurs: 1:00-4:00 pm

**Food Pantry Items:** Throughout the month of December, we are collecting **Chunky Soup (with pop tops)**. You may bring your donations to the church and put them under the table outside the church office, or in the box in the elevator vestibule.

**Tithes & Offerings:** Thank you... your support makes mission & ministry possible.  
Donate online at [tinyurl.com/FPCPayPal](https://tinyurl.com/FPCPayPal) or [tinyurl.com/FPCSterlingGive](https://tinyurl.com/FPCSterlingGive)







## First Presbyterian Church

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130 South 4th Street | Sterling, CO 80751 | 970-522-2708  
[www.firstpressterling.org](http://www.firstpressterling.org)

### *Church Staff*

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Pastor	Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon
Music Coordinator/Organist	Elsie Fetzer
Choir Director	Darla Korrey Gertner
Bell Choir Director	Lindsey Jackson
Office Administrator	Rashell Fritzler
Bookkeeper	Karlee Manuello
Property Manager	Janet Kloberdanz

### *Serving Today*

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Liturgists	Michelle D. Witherspoon, preacher Myra Westfall, liturgist
Acolyte/Bible Bearer	Ted & Jeannie Park
Ushers	Liz Chaney, Jacob Paiz
Advent Candle	Joyce Lebsack; Jan, Rod, and Julia Mari
Children's Moment	Karen Torres
AV Techs	Justin Cranwell (Sound), Callie Jackson (Slides)
Count Offering	Linda Meisner
Fellowship Coffee	Membership/Stewardship Committee
Bulletin Delivery	Kim Weingardt



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