



December 14, 2025, 10:30 am
3rd Sunday of Advent

Welcome to worship! Led by the Holy Spirit, we glorify God, nurture the faith with each other, and witness the fullness of Christ's love in the world. Beyond the pews, we hope you will grow in faith with us on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Our weekly announcements are e-mailed each Wednesday and posted online. Printed copies are available at the entrance.



Children are welcome in the Sanctuary throughout the service and are encouraged to borrow activity bags at the entrance with children's bulletins and other materials to engage in worship. Childcare is available for infants through 4-year-olds in the nursery, which is located on the 1st floor of the Education Building.

Assisted listening devices are available at the Princess Anne Street side entrance. Restrooms are located underneath the Sanctuary, accessed via the stairs off the porch on the Princess Anne Street side or elevator, or in the Education Building next to the offices or kitchen, both with elevator access. Our service is livestreamed via YouTube.

We are glad you are here as we give glory to God together!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

✠ We rise in body or spirit.

We say or sing words in bold together.

GATHERING

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. John M. Rasley

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Prayer

God, sometimes our gathering is reluctant and hesitant, for we are afraid. But even when we are fearful, you invite us closer. Help us trust your invitation, that we may summon our courage and sing your praise. Amen.

Introit

Keep Your Lamps
Youth Choir

Traditional spiritual

Lighting the Advent Candles

The Valasko Family

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

**We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards,
in the laughter of children and delight of grandparents,
in meals around the table and the singing of Christmas songs.**

Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us.

Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news.

May this flicker of light help us remember joy is here.

✠Hymn 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.

Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

✠Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Michelle Porter

Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,” we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for

someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope, we pray, amen.

✠ Assurance of Pardon

We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve.

**May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call.
Amen.**

✠ Joyful Response (Hymn 113, refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

✠ Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: *Jeremiah 1:4-10*

p. 854 in the pew Bible

Psalms 146:5-10

p. 715 in the pew Bible

Anthem

I Would Have Been Surprised, Too
Covenant Choir

Don Schlosser

Moment with the Children

Natasha Taylor

Anthem:

Who But the Lord?

Boersma/Courtney

Who but the Lord can give the shadows light, can break into the dark, draw morning from the night? Who but the Lord will hear our cry and answer, "Here am I"? Who but the Lord makes blinded eyes to see, brings music to the deaf, sets the lonely captive free? Who but the Lord will by His glory show the paths of peace?

Scripture Reading: *Luke 1:26-45*

p. 69 in the pew Bible

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Called Forward

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (Canticle of the Turning)*

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?*

*Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.
[Refrain]*

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. [Refrain]*

*Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.
[Refrain]*

✠Affirmation of Faith based on Luke 1:46-55 in *The Message*

We are bursting with God-news; we are dancing the song of our Savior God. God took one look at us and look what happened – we are a people greatly blessed! What God has done for us will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others. God's mercy flows in wave after wave, showing strength, scattering the proud, knocking tyrants off their high horses, pulling victims out of the mud. The starving poor sat down to a banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold. God embraced his covenant children, remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high. It's exactly what was promised, beginning with Abraham and right up to now. Our souls magnify the Lord!

Presentation of Offerings

Gifts, tithes, and offerings may be placed in the plates at the Sanctuary entrance. We also give thanks to God for offerings given via mail and online at fredericksburgpc.org/give.

- ✠ Song of Praise (Hymn 143, verse 4) and Prayer of Dedication
***All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ,
the newborn king!***

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Statement on Ordination and Presentation Amy Talmadge, Clerk of Session

Constitutional Questions

Do we, the members of The Presbyterian Church, accept Chelsea as deacon, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for her, to encourage her, to respect her decisions, and to follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Prayer of Ordination and Installation and the Lord's Prayer

... forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors ...

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

SENDING

- ✠Hymn 726 *Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)*

during the hymn, children and youth are dismissed to the Undercroft for vespers rehearsal

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

*“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”*

*“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”*

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* arr. Johann Gotfried Walther

Go in peace, holding quiet space for those who wish to reflect and pray.



The flowers on the pulpit are given anonymously. Hope that trembles is still hope.

Serving in Worship Today:

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Ushers: Mike Gibson, Tom Theado

Elevator Assistant: Bill Stewart

Sanctuary Guild: Joan Darby, Mary Ann Casey

Videographers: Kristen Betsill, Ed Foresman

Church Family News

We pray for: Laura Miller

We continue to pray for: Carole Fariss, Kaci LeFebre, Mary Lowman, Scott Fischer, John Adamski (nephew of Lynn Simms)

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates – Text: Georg Weissel, 1642; Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863 Music: *Musica Sacra*, 1778;
Public Domain

Angels We Have Heard on High-- Text: French carol; arr. James Chadwick 1860, alt.; Music: French Carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937;
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I Would Have Been Surprised, Too—Text :Schlosser; Choristers Guild; ©2010

Who But the Lord?—Text: Courtney; Beckenhorst Press; ©2017

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Angels, from the Realms of Glory – Text: Stanzas 1, 2, James Montgomery, 1816, 1825; stanza 4, *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857; Public Domain

Will You Come and Follow Me – Text: John L. Bell and Graham Maule; © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications Inc.)

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The Presbyterian Church
Poinsettia Memorials & Honoraria
Christmas 2025



The Poinsettias at the front of the Sanctuary are:

Given by:

Anonymously
Elizabeth and Steve D'Andrea
Joan Darby
Susie and Steve Davis
Caroline Deaderick
The Eland Family
Tristin and Robert Fidler
Debe and John Garrison
Lee and Jeannette Gibbons
John and Barbara Howe
Karen and David Johnson
Tom Lewis
Laura Miller
Nelen Family
Bill and Jacqueline Nix
Katharyn Poplin
Dick and Mary Szymanski
Jim and Patty Toler
Doreen and Gary Vaughn

in honor of:

Grab 'n Go Peeps!
the glory of God
Kristina & Adam, David & Erin, Sophia & Alec
our grandchildren, Davis and Sophie Taylor
all the ladies and leaders of the Ladies' Thursday Morning Bible Study Group
our parents and grandparents
McCray, Ben, and Katie Fidler
our grandchildren: Noah and Allie, Chloe, Evan, Flynn, Nolan, Callie
our children, Jac, Connie, and Clifton
our grandsons, Riley and Rowan Eland; McCully, McCrae, and McKane Kave
our grandchildren, Molly and Eoin
Jacob Lowe, John and Sita Lewis
Paulla Loder and Jamie and Lexi Loder, daughter and granddaughters
our parents, Ethel and Jim Nelen, and Valerie and David Haubrich
our daughters, Jessica and Courtney
John Poplin
the Szymanski family and the Rowell family
Will, Amanda, Maddy, Jack, Nick, Dorothy, & Billy Toler; Andy & Nora Toler
the Lefebre and Fariss families

Given by:

Kim Baker
Linda Benn
Sherman Brown & Jerry Zekert

George G. Cralle, Jr.
Mary Lou Cramer
Caroline Deaderick
The Eland Family
Tristin and Robert Fidler
The Fino Family
Lee and Jeannette Gibbons
Mike and Michelle Gibson
Mary Katherine Greenlaw
David and Tammy Hancock

in memory of:

Peter Fitzgerald Baker
Bob Benn
Gerry & Helen Zekert (Jerry's parents), George & Georgiana Brown
(Sherman's parents) and our grandparents
Mr. and Mrs. George G. Cralle, Sr. and Alex B. Cralle
my sister, Sally R. Doerner
my beloved husband, Bob Deaderick
Gina Eland, mom and Nana
Martha and Walther Fidler
Raymond and Jean Fino
our parents, Clifton and Olyve Gibbons, John and Jeannette Harris
Lloyd and Becky Gibson (Mike's Parents)
Wilson Greenlaw
Thomas John Hancock, Kathryn Vaughn Hancock

Given by:

John and Barbara Howe

David and Doris Johnson

The Land Family

Patricia Langfitt

Ralph and Betsy Lewis

Tom Lewis

Krista and Tom Lovell

Judy Lowman

Cheryl May

Laura Miller and family

Mike and Dorothy Mondak

Bill and Jacqueline Nix

Katharyn Poplin

Nancy Raines

Theresa Roys

Lois Siler

Steve and Linda Spratt

Opal Stroup

Jim and Patty Toler

Nancy Wilson

in memory of:

our parents, Bud & Ruth Morie, and John & Donna Howe, also grandparents
to Heather Eland and great grandparents to Rowan and Riley Eland

our parents and grandparents

Robert Pierson Jr., Chelsea's father and Penelope and Benji's grandfather

The Reverend Dr. Donald K. Langfitt

Becky Franklin, Rod and Neola Lewis

Karla C. Lewis

our parents and Aunt Colleen Story

my sweet sister, Anne DeFreytas

Curtis Gore

Norm Miller

our parents

our grandsons, Myles and Elliott

Pete Beattie

Bill Raines, my husband

Kevin Elkins, Frank Roys

my parents, Margaret and Tom Fravel

our parents, Campbell & Patsy Spratt, Ruth Spratt, Fayette & Jackie Wiatt

Earl Stroup, Iris Soscia

Jack and Dorothy Toler, Bill and Jane Fuller

Don Wilson