



November 30, 2025, 10:30 am
1st 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

Andante from Sonata #3

Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Prayer

On Sundays and Mondays, on good days and bad days, early in the morning and very late at night, here in this room, and out in the world, God we long for you to break in. Meet us in this space. Surprise us with your presence. Fill this room with your good news. With hope we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen.

Introit

The People Who Walked in Darkness (Hymn 86)

Lighting the Advent Candle

Ladies' Thursday Morning Bible Study Group

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

We see hope when we look to the next generation.

We feel hopeful when we gather together.

We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.

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

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

May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

✠Hymn 97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.

Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory beaming star.

Watchman, does it beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?

Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.

Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.

Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?

Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

*Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!*

✠Prayer of Confession

Liturgist: Kathy Pecka

Ever-present God, we long to feel you close. We long to feel your presence in our lives. We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world. However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing and distractions. Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space. Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

✠ Assurance of Pardon

Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:
**Nothing can keep God's love away.
We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. 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: *Lamentations 3:55-57*
Psalms 122:1-9

p. 938 in the pew Bible
p. 702 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Anthem

There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob

Mendelssohn

*There shall a star come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.
With might destroying princes and cities, there shall a star come out of Jacob.
As bright the star of morning gleams,
So Jesus shedeth glorious beams of light and consolation.
Thy Word O Lord, Radiance darting, Truth imparting, Gives salvation;
Thine be praise and adoration!*

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

Sermon

In the Time of Herod, Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠ Hymn 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

✠ Affirmation of Faith *based on Luke 1:67-70, 76-79*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he came and set his people free. He sets the power of salvation in the center of our lives. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David, just as he promised long ago through the mouth of his holy prophets . . . the “prophet of the highest” will go ahead of the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. Through the heartfelt mercies of our God, God's Sunrise will break in upon us, to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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

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)

***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!***

✠ Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

✠Hymn 314 *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness (Christ, Be Our Light)*
during the last verse, children K-5th grade are dismissed to Covenant Choir

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.*

*REFRAIN: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

*Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. [Refrain]*

*Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. [Refrain]*

*Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. [Refrain]*

*Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. [Refrain]*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude *Fling Wide the Door* Henry Balcolm
Go in peace, holding quiet space for those who wish to reflect and pray.



*The flowers on the pulpit are given by Paulla Loder in loving memory of
Norman Miller, husband to Laura Miller,
dad/grandpa to Paulla, Jamie and Lexie Loder*

Serving in Worship Today:

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Ushers: Porter Blakemore, Mike Gibson

Elevator Assistant: Bill Stewart

Sanctuary Guild: Joan Darby

Videographers: Kristen and Brett Betsill

Church Family News

We continue to pray for: Shirley Eye, Carole Fariss, Kaci LeFebre,

Mary Lowman

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

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Watchman, Tell Us of the Night--Text: John Bowring, 1825, alt. Music: Joseph Parry, 1876; 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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Angels, from the Realms of Glory – Text: Stanzas 1, 2, James Montgomery, 1816, 1825; stanza 4, *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857; Public Domain

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