

First Presbyterian Church of Inverness

December 22, 2025

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



— *Gathering* —

Prelude

Dr. Marina Veiler

Welcome

Introit

What Can I Give Him

Chancel Choir

Lighting the Advent Candle

Toni & Mark Scott

When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem ...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O First Presbyterian Church of Inverness, from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

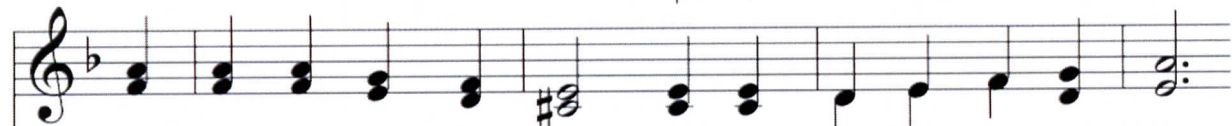
We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation. *Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.*



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!



Confession and Pardon

O God, giver of all good gifts, we come before you as children in need of your wisdom and grace. Our fears and our hopes are braided together in the rhythm of daily life.

Our visions of the future depend on our own hands and ability. Our expectations remain reasonable and within our control. Break into this tangle of fear and hope, bringing peace to our souls. Break into our vision of the future, returning us to your hands. Break into our expectations, awakening us with curiosity and wonder; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (silent confession) Let all God's children say, Amen.

***Passing Christ's Peace**

***Gloria**

Angels We Have Heard on High (chorus)

Children's Sermon

Lori Wolford

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Emmanuel, come; O come and save us.

Anthem

The Lamb of Christmas

Chancel Choir

— *Word* —

Prayer for Illumination

God of hope, who never lets us go, draw near to us in these ancient words. By your Holy Spirit may we be filled, lifted up, and leveled as you prepare in our hearts the path of your coming. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:46b–55

Sermon

***Affirmation of Faith**

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity.

He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. (Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19)

— *Thanksgiving* —

***Invitation to Offering**

***Prayer of Dedication**

— *Sending* —

*Hymn #100

My Soul Cries Out



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



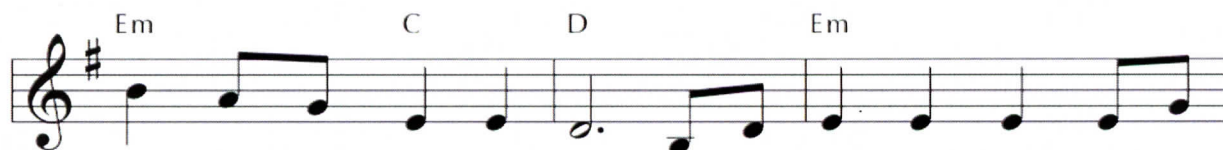
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

***Blessing and Charge**

***Postlude**



Church Staff and Contact Information

Church Office 352-637-0770, fpcinvoffice@gmail.com

Lou Ellen Hartley, Pastor – revhartley1000@gmail.com

Lori Wolford, Dir. of Outreach & Christian Education, dcelori.fpc@gmail.com

Lesa Shelton, Volunteer Choir Director

Marina Veiler, Organist

Danny Birstler, Sound Booth Coordinator

Vicki Oorbeck, Child Care Attendant

Laura Morrow, Office Administrator

Bruce Cook, Prayer Warrior

Danny Sullivan, Facilities Manager

Gary Oorbeck, Grounds |Maintenance |Security

Rev. Dr. Mark Scott, Parrish Associate for Visitation

Treasurer Email: fpcinvFinance@gmail.com

Church Office Hours

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday

Closed on Friday

Our Elders

Class of 2024: Caryl Birstler (clerk), Alicia Downing, George Schumacher, Carolyn Smith

Class of 2025: Barbara Dee Cawley, Jerry Reynolds, Leah Robinson

Class of 2026: Barbara Caudill, Bruce Cook, Lesa Shelton, John Morrison

Our Deacons

Class of 2024: Wilma Abel, Ron Shafer, Mary Beth Smith

Class of 2025: Toni Scott, Amanda Morrison

Class of 2026: Ray Birstler, Donna Dublo, Adele Wardrup

WORSHIP FLOWERS

Worship Flowers are given today by Frank & Audrey Mattox in awe and gratitude for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and also in celebration and amazement of their 67th wedding anniversary.

Nursery and Sunday School for All Ages

Infants and Pre-K

CE Hall, Room 2

Ms. Vicki

Elementary (K-5)

CE Hall, Room 4

Ms. Mary Beth

Men's Bible Study

Parlor

Rev. Dr. Mark Scott

Adult Sunday School

Library

Barbara Caudill

Secondary/Youth Group (6-12)

CE Hall, Room 5

Ms. Lori, Mr. Ron &

6:00 p.m.

Miss Krysa

ADVENT SUNDAY 4
CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING – TODAY

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Please prayerfully consider your gift this year and note on the memo line of your check that your gift is designated to “Christmas Joy Offering.”

DECEMBER SERVICES

Join us on **December 24th at 5:30 p.m. for our Christmas Eve Carols and Candlelight service.** On **December 29th**, Lori Wolford will be preaching our regular Sunday morning worship service.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

We would like to give a heart-felt thank you to everyone who turned in a 2025 Estimate of Giving card. We appreciate your commitment to our mission and ministry at First Presbyterian Church. If you have not yet turned in a card, you will find them in the pews. Please fill it out and put it in the offering plate as you leave. This will help us create a more accurate spending plan for the upcoming year. Thank you!

SINGLES EATING TOGETHER

SET is meeting on **January 8th at 3:00 p.m.** at the Salty Dog, 107 Courthouse Square, in downtown Inverness. Please note the new date and time for our meeting.

SEEKING 2024 USHERS AND ASK ME DESK VOLUNTEERS

As we prepare for the incoming year, we are seeking ushers and volunteers for the Ask Me Desk. Would you be willing to serve one Sunday a month? Put your name and phone number on the list at the Sign-Up Station. “My Father will honor the one who serves me.” John 12:26

NEW CRAFT GROUP

Do you have a craft that you enjoy? Would you like to learn a craft from others? Would you like to gather with old friends and make new friends? Please join us for our initial gathering of a weekly craft group in the Youth Room (in the Sunday School wing) on **Thursday, January 9, 2025, from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.** There is a sign-up sheet at the Sign-Up Station.

CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULE

We will not hold choir practice on Christmas Eve or New Year’s Eve. Practice will resume on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Advent Sunday 4

9:00 Men's Bible Discussion—Parlor

10:00 Worship Service

10:00 Children's Sunday School

Monday, December 23, 2024

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

10:00 Prayer Gathering – Parlor

11:00 Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

5:30 Christmas Eve Lessons & Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Merry Christmas

Church Closed

Thursday, December 26, 2024

Church Closed

Friday, December 27, 2024

Church Closed

Saturday, December 28, 2024

Sunday, December 29, 2024

10:00 Worship Service – Lori Wolford is preaching

*Outside Group

FH = Fellowship Hall

A SPECIAL

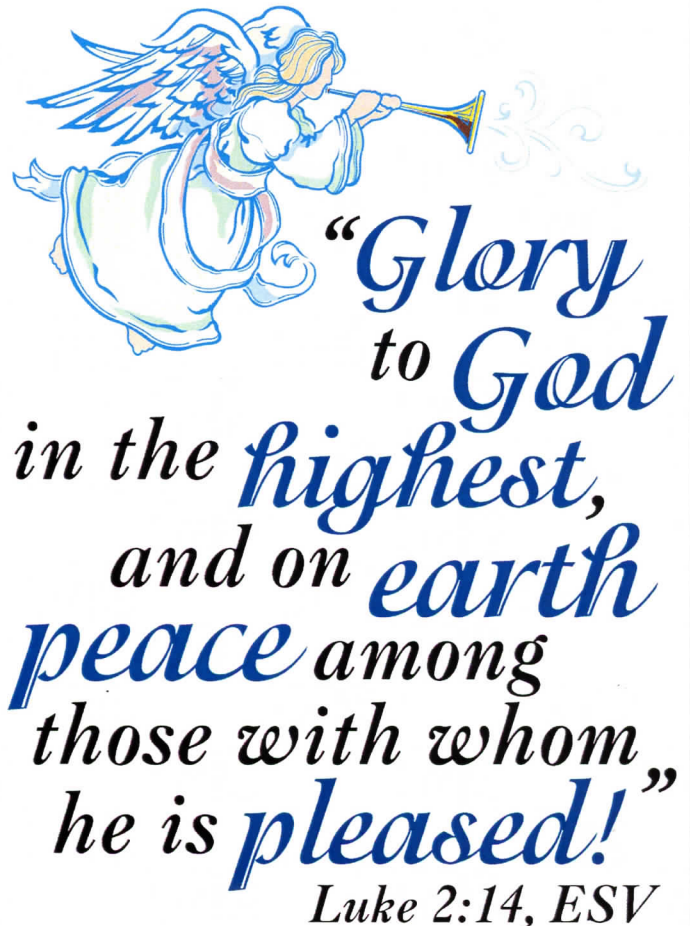
Thank You

TO THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ushers

Frank & Donna Dublo

Ask Me Desk



*“Glory
to God
in the highest,
and on earth
peace among
those with whom,
he is pleased!”*
Luke 2:14, ESV