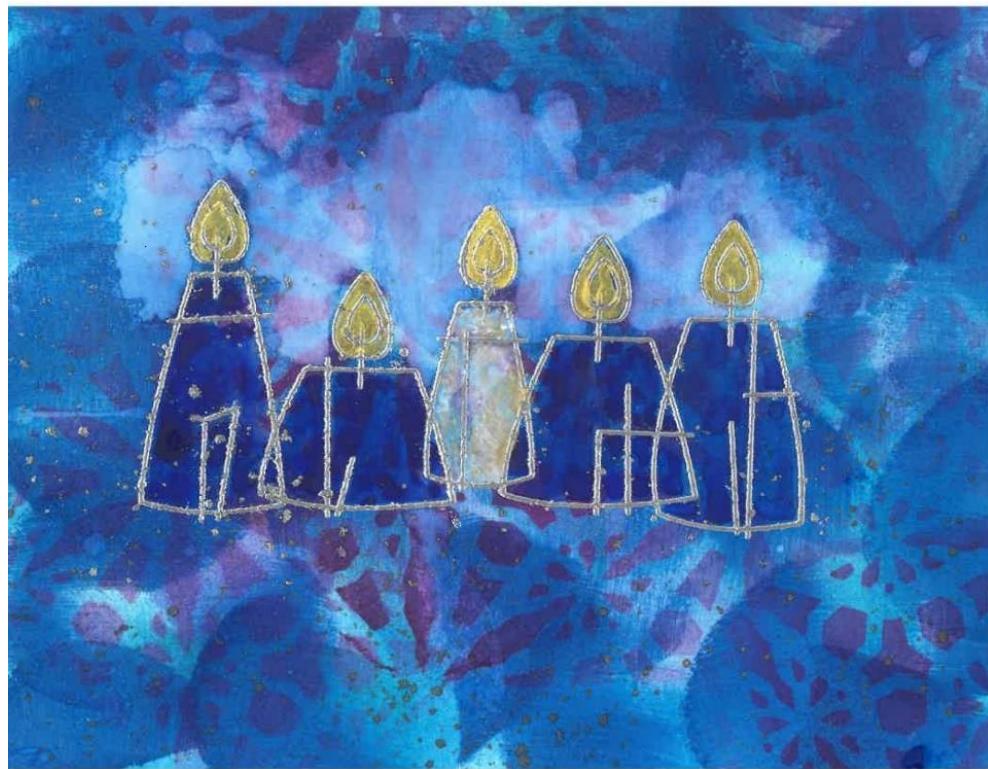




December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
8:00 p.m.

Gathering those who fear they are not enough,
so we may experience grace, wholeness, and renewal as God's beloved.



Advent Artwork by Megan Klose, 2025

We Gather to Praise God

PRELUDE

Away in a Manger

arr. Gordon Schuster (1922-2007)

Allegro from Horn Concerto in E-flat major

Christoph Förster (1693-1745)

Elliott Mihelic, horn; String Quartet

RINGING OF THE BELL & INTROIT

O Holy Night

arr. Sally Deford (b. 1959)

Chancel Choir, String Quartet

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining; It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope—the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

O night divine, O holy night, O night divine!

Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever! His power and glory evermore proclaim!

WELCOME

Yena Hwang

CALL TO WORSHIP & ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Carlin, Steve, Chloe, and Reid Schwartz

ONE: Come, hear the prophet's song:

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2)

ALL: We hear the Angel's proclamation:

“Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10–11)

ONE: And with Mary we sing:

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” (Luke 1:46–47)

ALL: On this holy night, we gather in awe and wonder. The waiting gives way to glory. The promise takes on flesh. The Word becomes Light among us.

ONE: We light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, each flame a testimony to God's unfolding story.

ALL: Tonight, we also light the Christ Candle, rejoicing that the long-awaited One has come to dwell with us. Like Mary, we magnify the Lord with joy that overcomes fear.

* Please rise in body or spirit

ONE: Come, let us worship the One who drives away our fears and replaces it with hope, peace, joy, and love.

ALL: Tonight, we also light the Christ Candle, rejoicing that the long-awaited One has come to dwell with us. Like Mary, we magnify the Lord with joy that overcomes fear.

ONE: Come, let us worship the One who drives away our fears and replaces it with hope, peace, joy, and love.

* **GATHERING HYMN 107** (vv. 1, 4) *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
He opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and
fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless
story; may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

* **PRAYER**

Megan Klose

Living God, on this holy night we gather—to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy; for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

* **SUNG RESPONSE 113** (v. 1)

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

* **PASSING THE PEACE**

Megan Klose

ONE: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Lessons and Carols

LESSON I

Patsy Acheson

God promises Abraham that all the nations of the earth shall be blessed through him.

Genesis 12:1-4

HYMN 129 (vv. 1, 2)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

LESSON II

Kevin Ayers

A Messiah, the Prince of Peace, is foretold by the prophet.

Isaiah 9:2-7

HYMN 119 (vv. 1, 2)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

LESSON III

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Mary Soule

Micah 5:2-5a

ANTHEM

When the Son of God was Born

Sally DeFord (b. 1959)

Chancel Choir; Patrick Lin, violin

*In the darkness o'er Judea, In the silence of the night,
As Bethlehem lay dreaming 'neath the still and starry skies,
Holy angels came rejoicing, Bright with glory like the dawn
And set the heavens singing, When the Son of God was born*

*In the darkness o'er Judea, newly kindled o'er the earth,
A wondrous star was gleaming, to proclaim Messiah's birth,
And as wise men came a-seeking, Heaven's light went on before,
And set their hearts a-singing, When the Son of God was born*

*In the shadows of a stable, In a manger, sweet with hay,
The Holy Child lay sleeping, E'er the coming of the day,
And the light of love descending, Round the cradle of the Lord,
Set the world a-singing, When the Son of God was born.*

LESSON IV

An angel appears to Mary.

Cali Bronkema

Luke 1:26-38

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Adagio from Horn Concerto in E-flat major Christoph Förster (1693–1745)
Elliott Mihelic, horn; String Quartet

LESSON V

Joseph and Mary journey to Bethlehem where Jesus is born.

Catriona McCormack

Luke 2:1-7

HYMN 121 (vv. 1-2)*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

LESSON VI

Jeremy Schneider

The shepherds learn of the birth of Jesus and go to Bethlehem. Luke 2:8-16

*** HYMN 133** (VV. 1, 3, 4)*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

LESSON VII

The Word, the Light that shines in the darkness.

Yena Hwang

John 1:1-5, 10-14

ANTHEM

Carol of Joy

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Chancel Choir, String Quartet

*Green leaves all fallen, withered and dry, Brief sunset fading, dim winter sky.
Lengthening shadows, Dark closing in... Then, through the stillness, carols begin!
Oh, fallen world, to you is the song—Death holds you fast and night tarries long.
Jesus is born, your curse to destroy! Sweet to your ears, a carol of Joy!
Pale moon ascending, solemn and slow; Cold barren hillside, shrouded in snow.
Deep, empty valley veiled by the night; Hear angel music—hopeful and bright!
Oh, fearful world, to you is the song—Peace with your God, and pardon for wrong!
Tidings for sinners, burdened and bound—A carol of joy! A Savior is found!
Earth wrapped in sorrow, lift up your eyes! Thrill to the chorus filling the skies!
Look up sad hearted—witness God's love! Join in the carol swelling above!
Oh, friendless world, to you is the song! All Heaven's joy to you may belong!
You who are lonely, laden, forlorn—Now unto you, A Savior is born!*

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Megan Klose

Please support the mission and ministry of the church with your financial contributions. Offerings can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, given online through our secure giving portal (fcpc.breezechms.com/give/online), texted to give at 7037751355, or scanned using the QR code.



OFFERTORY

What Child is This?

arr. Lloyd Larson (b.1954)

Christine Connor, Bailey Coleman, String Quartet

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?*

Chorus: *This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste
to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading. [Chorus]
So, bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him. [Chorus]*

* **DOXOLOGY** (tune: *The First Nowell*)

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. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell. Born is the King of Isra-el!

* **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Megan Klose

We pray the prayer our Lord taught us to say:

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Candlelight Carols

During the singing, ushers will bear the light to the congregation.

Please dip unlit candles into the lit candles.

HYMN 123 (v. 1)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious
King”: the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

HYMN 115 (v. 1, 3)

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

HYMN 122

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
‘Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

The Light Shines In the Darkness

As we celebrate the light that shines in the darkness, God incarnate given to us at Christmas, we also remember that we are called to be light for the world. The Church is the living body of Christ, and as individuals, we are each joined to Christ. And so, together and individually, we can carry the light of Christ into the darkness of our world. We will extinguish our candles before leaving tonight, but the light of Christ still burns in us. Let us walk in the light of the Lord and bring that light to the world.

*** HYMN 134**

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

*** CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Yena Hwang

*** POSTLUDE**

“Hallelujah” from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

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A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this Christmas Eve. Please sign the red welcome pad which can be found at the end of the pew, then pass the pad along to your neighbor.

Large-print bulletins are available at the sanctuary entrances. Portable electronic assistive listening devices are available in the narthex.

A recording of this service can be found at www.fallschurchpresby.org/sermon.

If you would like to learn more about our family of faith, talk to one of the pastors or email Pastor Yena (yhwang@fallschurchpresby.org) or Pastor Megan (mklose@fallschurchpresby.org). Please visit our website for more information.

Children in Worship

Children are always welcome in our services. Children's bulletins and coloring sheets are available for children of all ages. Child care is available for infants and toddlers in Room 201 during this service.

Supporting Us in Worship

Worship Leaders	Carlin, Steve, Chloe, and Reid Schwartz; Patsy Acheson; Kevin Ayers; Mary Soule; Catriona McCormack; Jeremy Schneider
Ushers/Greeters	Jay Campbell, Rex Campbell, Jack Sarver, Marnie Sarver, Rachel Skomra, Shelly Skomra, Clay Warner, Gail Warner
Audio/Video	Xander Burdette
Musicians	Patrick Lin and Ryo Usami, violins; Erica Schwartz, viola; Atticus Mellor-Goldman, cello; Sara Budnik, alto

Thank you to Marnie Sarver, Shelly Skomra, and others for decorating our church for the Advent and Christmas season.

Announcements

The Christmas Joy Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need, and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Special Offering envelopes are in the pews.

City of Falls Church Watch Night New Year's Eve events at FCPC,
Wednesday, Dec. 31, 7-11 p.m. Free events include the Northern Lights Big Band Orchestra, a Victorian Society photo parlor, and children's activities. Sponsored by the Falls Church Village Preservation & Improvement Society.

Welcome Table served dinner to 552 guests in December. Our next dinners will be Jan. 7 and Jan. 21, 2026 (first and third Wednesdays). New volunteers are always needed and most welcome! Sign up using the link in the Friday egram or contact the church office at office@fallschurchpresby.org or 703-532-6518.

Want to learn more about Falls Church Presbyterian Church? Pastor Yena is holding a class for those who are considering becoming a part of this community of faith, those who are new to the community, or those who would simply like to explore what it means to follow Jesus in the Presbyterian tradition. Class will meet Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., in the Conference Room. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

Church Calendar

Thursday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day – Church office closed

Sunday, Dec. 28 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, in person or online

Wednesday, Dec. 31 – City of Falls Church Watch Night events at FCPC, 7:00-11:00 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 1 – New Year's Day – Church office closed

Sunday, Jan. 4 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas/Epiphany of the Lord

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, in person or online

Sunday, Jan. 11 – Baptism of the Lord

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, in person or online

Falls Church Presbyterian belongs to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, “working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.”

Falls Church Presbyterian is also a Matthew 25 church seeking to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty.

The Rev. Yena Hwang, Pastor | The Rev. Megan Klose, Associate Pastor

Cali Bronkema, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Dr. Don Armstrong, Director of Music | Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

225 East Broad Street, Falls Church, VA 22046 | 703-532-6518 | www.fallschurchpresby.org