

First
Presbyterian Church
Port Charlotte, FL



Sunday, December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent (Love)

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God Calls Us to Worship



CHIMES, GREETING & PRELUDE

Mary Had a Baby

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

#247 Let's Worship and Adore Him

EXCHANGE OF PEACE †

CALL TO WORSHIP †

One: One: God who spoke to Mary and Elizabeth,

All: speak your Word to us now.

One: God who blessed them with new life,

All: bless us with great expectation.

One: God who gave them songs of praise to sing,

All: receive our joyful praise.

One: One: God who loves beyond all measure,

All: we are here to worship you with hearts full of love.

OPENING HYMN †

#265 The First Noel

4TH ADVENT CANDLE LITANY

Reader 1: We are people of love.

Reader 2: God has loved us so much that God has chosen to come as Immanuel, the God who is with us.

All: We are free to love others, because God first loved us.

Reader 1: The fourth candle of Advent invites us to reflect God's love in our lives.

† Please stand in body or in spirit.



Reader 2: We light this candle so that we can see who we are called to love today.

(Light the candle of LOVE)

Reader 1: Let us pray:

All: Holy One, help us to know we are deeply loved and to share that same unconditional love with others. May our lives reflect the warmth and wonder of this flame. Make your church a place of love and acceptance in our community. Amen.

Interlude: *Hope is a Star* (Stanza 4)

We Renew Our Relationship With God

PRAYER OF ADORATION

LORD’S PRAYER HYMN

Our Father In Heaven

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Although we have found love in Christ, we are a people divided against ourselves and against one another.

We have not loved as you love us and we have too often been careless with our words, our bodies and how we treat others and your world.

We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

Lord have mercy upon us. Heal us, forgive us and set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON





We Respond to God



MINOR DOXOLOGY

#813 Glory Be To The Father

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

ANTHEM-CHANCEL CHOIR

Mary, Did You Know?

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

OFFERTORY

"Un Flambeau, Jeannette, Isabella"

OFFERING HYMN✝

#816 We Give Thee But Thine Own

PRAYER OF DEDICATION✝

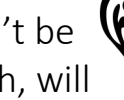

HYMN OF DEDICATION✝

Father Take The Gifts We Bring

God Speaks to Us

SCRIPTURE READINGS Luke 1:5-14, 18-25 (NLT)

⁵ When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. ⁶ Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. ⁷ They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old. ⁸ One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. ⁹ As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying. ¹¹ While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. ¹² Zechariah was shaken and over-



whelmed with fear when he saw him. ¹³ But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. ¹⁴ You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, [...] ¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.” ¹⁹ Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! ²⁰ But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.” ²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the sanctuary, wondering why he was taking so long. ²² When he finally did come out, he couldn’t speak to them. Then they realized from his gestures and his silence that he must have seen a vision in the sanctuary. ²³ When Zechariah’s week of service in the Temple was over, he returned home. ²⁴ Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months. ²⁵ “How kind the Lord is!” she exclaimed. “He has taken away my disgrace of having no children.”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

HYMN FOR ILLUMINATION

#633 Open Our Eyes, Lord

THE PREACHED WORD

“Zechariah, Have Some Faith Man!”

God Sends Us Into the World

CLOSING HYMN †

#272 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION †

SENDING HYMN †

Song of Hope

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS



December 24 at 6 PM

Please join us as we celebrate our Savior with a candlelight evening service at 6 PM.



January 11th at 9 PM

We need volunteers. Please join us as we pack up and cleanup our Christmas decorations.



Beginning January 7, 2025

Join us for season 4 of **The Chosen**

Held in the sanctuary on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM.



Beginning January 9, 2025

Join us for our mid-week Worship Service every Thursday at 7 PM, from January to March 2025.

PRAYER LIST

Adams Family	-	<i>strength & comfort</i>
Bernadine & Tom Allesee's Family	-	<i>safety & health</i>
Susan Baivey	-	<i>health needs</i>
Charlie Brox	-	<i>health needs</i>
Barbara Edwards	-	<i>health needs</i>
Jean Heim	-	<i>health needs</i>
Ruth Hester	-	<i>health needs</i>
Alzie & Senior Lee family	-	<i>strength & comfort</i>
Sue Littrell	-	<i>health needs</i>
Violet Logan/Green	-	<i>strength & comfort</i>
Donna & Loren Livengood	-	<i>health needs</i>
Margorie Hansen	-	<i>health needs</i>
Margorie Hill	-	<i>health needs</i>
Courtenay Mason	-	<i>health needs</i>
Brad Messick	-	<i>health needs</i>
Louis Miceli	-	<i>health needs</i>
Samantha & Derrick Reams	-	<i>strength & comfort</i>
Olin Scott	-	<i>housing needs</i>
Mavis Powell	-	<i>health needs</i>
Danny Webb	-	<i>strength needs</i>
Elaine & Ambrose Woods	-	<i>health needs</i>

FPCPC FAMILY -

If you know of any shut-ins or anyone who may need our prayers,
please call the church office at 941-625-5045.



CHURCH STAFF

Syl Estevez, Minister: pastor@fpcpc.com

Pamela Omar, Church Secretary: pastorsecretary@fpcpc.com

Jeanne Fell, Financial Secretary: finance@fpcpc.com

Susan Brembs, Music Director: singersue1@hotmail.com

ELDERS

CLASS OF 2024	CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026
Charles Brox	Cathy Asaro	Amy Rupert
Ambrose Woods	Joan Hawkins	Nancy Sharpless
—	Alzie Lee	Donna Young

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2024	CLASS OF 2025	CLASS OF 2026
—	Hazel Mason	Carol Dunkak-Dunekirchen
—	Carolyn Brox	Carol McLennon
Holly Parkin	—	Norma Campbell



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