

**January 5, 2025; 9:00 am**  
Second Sunday of Christmas – Holy Communion

## **We Gather Together**

*Welcome to today's Service of Worship. Whether you are with us in person, joining us live on Zoom, watching on our YouTube channel, or listening on KFIZ, we are glad you are here. For those in person, please use the time before worship to fill in the Friendship Pad in your pew. We extend a special welcome to our visitors, and if you have not already received your welcome gift, please pick one up as you leave the sanctuary after worship.*

*Copies of the Glory to God hymnal and Common English Bibles are available at the back of the sanctuary for your use during worship.*

**Prelude:** "Come, Now is the Time to Worship" *arr. Carol Tornquist*

**Welcome & Announcements** *Joanne M., Worship Team*

### **Ringling of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ**

#### **\*Call to Worship**

*Dave E., Liturgist*

Come, let us praise our God and Creator,  
**who has given us every spiritual blessing in Christ.**  
Come, let us praise Christ our savior,  
**who has redeemed us by the riches of God's grace.**  
Come, let us praise the Spirit,  
**who marks us as beloved heirs of God.**  
Come with wisdom and understanding;  
**let us hope in Christ together**  
**and praise God forever. Amen.**

#### **\* Opening Prayer**

God our shepherd, you gather and watch over your flocks.  
You bring your people back from exile. You deliver us from our enemies.  
You make us like well-watered gardens and turn our mourning into joy.  
Grant us this day the gift of coming home to you and to your purposes,  
so that we might live together in the joy of our salvation. **Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn: GTG 401 “Here in this Place”**

*Elise C., Cantor*

**\*Call to Confession**

*Dave E.*

Our God, the God of grace and glory, can do all things. When we cannot do it, God can! God can change everything - our messes, the hurts we inflict on others, the way we stand around when we could be helping. God can renew, reshape, and restore us. That is how much God loves us, and this is why God calls to us to come and to be healed. Join me as we call out to our God, saying,

**\*Prayer of Confession**

*Dave E.*

**Holy God, we confess that we have lost your way. We have held grudges and called for revenge. We have allowed hate into our hearts and have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have at times ignored calls for justice and instead demanded blood.**

*Silent Confession*

*(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)*

**Forgive us, O God, when we forget your ways. Forgive us, O God, when we think our way is better. Call us back into living in the ways of love, restoration and healing. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon** (from Romans 13)

*Dave E.*

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. When you love, when you forgive, you allow God’s love and forgiveness into your hearts. You are forgiven, renewed, and restored. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*Sharing God’s Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

*(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula ‘The Peace of Christ.’ ‘And also, with you.’ Please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands or be too close. We encourage you to use this time to send a text or emoji to someone who cannot be here.)*

**\*Sung Response: GTG 583 “Glory to God”**

## **God's Word Is Proclaimed**

### **Psalm Reading: Psalm 147:12-20 (Common English Bible)**

(page 582 in the pew Bible, page 779 Common English Bible)

Worship the Lord, Jerusalem!

Praise your God, Zion!

**Because God secures the bars on your gates,  
God blesses the children you have there.**

God establishes your borders peacefully.

God fills you full with the very best wheat.

**God issues his command to the earth—  
God's word speeds off fast!**

God spreads snow like it was wool;

God scatters frost like it was ashes;

**God throws his hail down like crumbs—  
who can endure God's freezing cold?**

Then God issues his word and melts it all away!

God makes his winds blow; the water flows again.

**God proclaims his word to Jacob;  
his statutes and rules to Israel.**

God hasn't done that with any other nation;

those nations have no knowledge of God's rules.

**Praise the Lord!**

### **Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14 (Common English Bible)**

(page 192 in the pew Bible, page 1423 Common English Bible)

Bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing that comes from heaven. God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in God's presence before the creation of the world. God destined us to be his adopted children through Jesus Christ because of his love. This was according to his goodwill and plan and to honor his glorious grace that he has given to us freely through the Son whom he loves. We have been ransomed through his Son's blood, and we have forgiveness for our

failures based on his overflowing grace, which he poured over us with wisdom and understanding. God revealed his hidden design to us, which is according to his goodwill and the plan that he intended to accomplish through his Son. This is what God planned for the climax of all times: to bring all things together in Christ, the things in heaven along with the things on earth. We have also received an inheritance in Christ. We were destined by the plan of God, who accomplishes everything according to his design. We are called to be an honor to God's glory because we were the first to hope in Christ. You too heard the word of truth in Christ, which is the good news of your salvation. You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit because you believed in Christ. The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance, which is applied toward our redemption as God's own people, resulting in the honor of God's glory.

### **Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18 (Common English Bible)**

(page 91 in the pew Bible, page 1289 Common English Bible)

In the beginning was the Word  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God.

*Rev. Dan Schultz*

The Word was with God in the beginning.  
Everything came into being through the Word,  
and without the Word  
nothing came into being.

What came into being  
through the Word was life,[a]  
and the life was the light for all people.

The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

The true light that shines on all people  
was coming into the world.  
The light was in the world,  
and the world came into being through the light,

but the world didn't recognize the light.  
The light came to his own people,  
and his own people didn't welcome him.  
But those who did welcome him,  
those who believed in his name,  
he authorized to become God's children,  
born not from blood  
nor from human desire or passion,  
but born from God.  
The Word became flesh  
and made his home among us.  
We have seen his glory,  
glory like that of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.

John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace;  
as the Law was given through Moses,  
so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.  
No one has ever seen God.  
God the only Son,  
who is at the Father's side,  
has made God known.

**Children's Time**

*Jennifer Zander*

**Sermon:** "Mystery and Promise"

*Rev. Dan Schultz*

**Sung response: GTG 459 "O Word of God Incarnate"**

## We Respond to God's Word

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*\* The word "catholic" means "relating to the church universal"*

**Offering Music: GTG 314 "Christ Be Our Light" vs. 1,4**

*Elise C., Cantor*

**\*Offertory: GTG 607 "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

**GTG 509 "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"**

*(Remain seated, we sing this song as the table is being prepared for communion)*

### **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

This is neither a Presbyterian table, nor even the church's table. This is the Lord's table. It is prepared for those who love the Lord and for those who desire to love him more. All who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome to share in this meal.

## **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, almighty and eternal God, for by your word you have called forth creation, you have created us in your image. You led us from slavery to freedom, going ever before us with cloud and fiery pillar. With burning coals, you gave utterance to the prophets, demanding that justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

In the fullness of time, your Spirit descended like a dove upon Jesus, anointing him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who were oppressed, and to declare the reign of God in our midst.

When Jesus gathered together with his beloved disciples, he was known to them in the breaking of bread. Before feeding the multitudes, he broke bread and gave thanks. When two or three were gathered together, he broke bread and gave thanks. He sought the outcasts and broke bread with them, witnessing the fullness of your grace.

O God who is known to us in human flesh, send your Holy Spirit on us and on these elements taken from your creation, that this loaf and this cup may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and we may be the body of Christ, food and life for the world.

God of all nations, we give you thanks that we are all made in your image, with such rich diversity. On this day we are in solidarity with the faithful around the world. As we break bread together, we remember that we are still one body in you, even though we have different languages, cultures and traditions, different ways of worship, praying and praising.

In solidarity we drink the cup together of hope, of new life, knowing that your will is for your people to be one body. We are one body, but we are not the same—it is through the gift of diversity that we are able to be your body. We thank you and praise you for making us all who we are, individually and collectively. We each celebrate our own ancestry, culture and ethnicity. We ask these things through Christ, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit be glory now and forever.

Joining our voices with those from around the world, we pray as you taught us, saying...

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.**

**Amen.**

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD - (words of institution]**

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

### **SHARING OF THE MEAL**

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.

Come, share in the mystery of this holy meal.

**The Bread of Life**

**The Cup of Salvation**

### **Music during communion:**

GTG 504 "We Come as Guests Invited"

"Come, Share the Lord" arr. by John Carter

### **PRAYER OF THANKS**

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.



**\*Sending Song GTG 331 “God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”**  
v.1&4

**\*Taking the Light of Christ into the World**

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude: “God of Our Fathers”**

*arr. by Robert J. Hughes*

### **Prayers of the People**

Arnold L.	Gib D.	Pass Family
Bob & Ollive B.	Carol D.	Pat D.
Brian C.	Pete D.	Pat M.* (Bonnie H sister)
Chastity G. & Joan S.	Jesse F.	Paul W.
Corinne C.	Joan K. (Marcus A. mom)	Qualine S.* (Jodi A mom)
Danielle B.	Kathy A*(Kevin B sister)	Sherry M.
Darren B.	Liam A.	Steven B.*(Kevin B nephew)
Dick and Maryann*	Lynn M.	Vern A.* (Debra S dad)
Elias B* (Laurie C grandson)	Marie L.	

The names in **bold** are new to the prayer list. The names with an asterisk (\*) are not church members. However, a church member has received permission to ask that they be lifted in prayer.

If you or someone you know wants added to our prayer list, contact a Deacon or church staff. Prayer request cards are available in the Prayer Box in the Narthex, in the church pews, or online ([click here](#)). You can place your prayer request in the offering plate or the lock box at the church office door. For electronic prayer requests, please complete the form and click submit.

If you have a pastoral concern, that happens before or after office hours, please call the office (920.922.0425), press #2 for Pastoral Care.

**WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 29, 2024**

Individuals in Person: 66

Zoom Households: 10

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>NOTES</u></b>
12/29/2024	\$1140.00	Tithes/Offerings
	\$695.00	Special Offerings
12/23--27	\$ 881.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
2024	\$ 560.00	Special Offerings
	<u>\$3276.00</u>	<b>TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK</b>

**Financial Giving and Gratitude**

You can give online at [www.fdlpresbyterian.org](http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org) Giving page. (Click on 'Online Giving'.) You can also give by cash or check on Sunday morning, or by mail. We are so very thankful for your contributions that help us do God's work in our church and in our community.

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**GETTING CONNECTED:**

Office Phone

920.922.0425

Office Email

[fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:fdloffice@fdlpresbyterian.org)

Website

[www.fdlpresbyterian.org](http://www.fdlpresbyterian.org)

Breeze Subdomain:

[FDLFirstPresb](http://FDLFirstPresb)

Facebook

[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)

YouTube

[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](#)

**January**

**Deacon of the Month:**

Orv Kamphuis

**Elder of the Month:**

Mary Bacon

**STAFF:**

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin

[pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org)

Jennifer Zander

[jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org)

Kris Bartelt

[kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org)

Mary Robotka

[mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org)

## **This Week**

### **Sunday**

9:00-10:00am  
10:15-11:15am  
10:15-11:15am  
  
10:15-11:15am  
11:30-12:30pm  
6:00-7:30pm

### **January 5**

Worship  
Fellowship Time  
Growing Connections-  
Sermon Discussions-Pedro Arellano  
Sunday School in the Gathering Room  
Learning Team Meeting  
Boy Scout Committee Meeting

### **Monday**

9:00-10:30am  
10:00-11:30am

### **January 6**

Deacon Meeting and Decorating Changes  
Staff Meeting

### **Tuesday**

1:00-2:00pm  
1:30-2:30pm

### **January 7**

Loving Team  
Nominating Team

### **Wednesday**

8:00-9:00am  
1:00-2:30pm  
2:30-3:30pm  
4:00-5:00pm  
5:30-7:30pm

### **January 8**

Men's Breakfast  
Growing Connections Meeting  
Personnel Team  
Handbell Rehearsal  
Women in Faith

### **Thursday**

1:00-2:00pm  
6:00-8:00pm

### **January 9**

Serving Team  
GriefShare

### **Sunday**

9:00-10:00am  
10:15-11:15am  
10:15-11:15am  
10:15-11:15am  
11:30-1:00pm  
11:30-1:00pm

### **January 12**

Worship  
Fellowship Time  
Growing Connections-Fondy Food Pantry  
Sunday School in the Gathering Room  
Worship Team Meeting  
PYA Lunch and Souper Bowl of Caring Planning