

First Presbyterian Church of Willmar, MN
December 21, 2025

*Receiving the Gift:
Why Did You Give Me This?*



Welcome to worship this morning at First Presbyterian Church! This is the place where we bring our whole selves to God and worship the one who created us and loves us. It is also the place where we grow in community with each other, discovering a family of faith where we love and support each other, accepting one another as we are and learning to follow Jesus more closely in our lives. We are all better because you are here, part of this community.
You are welcome just as you are!

We will be passing the offering plate today during worship. This is about much more than collecting an offering; it is a spiritual discipline that helps us form connections. As the plate is passed to you, we invite you to take a moment to silently dedicate your gifts to God, whether you place something in the plate or give electronically. Or use the opportunity to share your prayer requests or contact information using one of the cards available.

Prelude

Welcome & Announcement

***Call Worship & Advent Candle Lighting**

Joy to the world!
Our God is now coming to bring us "good news."
May we sing songs of praise and gladness.
We know that our Savior reigns.
Let us light the Candle of Joy.

***Song of Adoration #137(GG) "He Came Down"** ©1986 Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications)

Call to Confession and Lament

Prayer of Confession and Lament

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hymn of Gratitude #128(GG) "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Polish Carol

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Isaiah 41:17-20
Ephesians 2:4-9

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon "Receiving the Gift: Why Did You Give Me This?"

Hymn of Affirmation #110(GG) "Love Has Come" ©1996 LNWhymns.com, ©2012 Eric T. Myers

Prayers of the People and 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; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Musical Offering

Prayer of Dedication

***Sending Song #134(GG)** "Joy to the World" ANTIOCH

***Charge & Benediction**

***Sharing the Joy of Christ**

The Joy of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Postlude