

First Presbyterian Church Kasson, MN

Brian Rohr - Music

December 21, 2025

Pastor Loren Olson

10:00 AM

**We Approach God
Prelude**

***Call to Worship:**

L: God calls to us—like Joseph—through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit’s guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions.

P: Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real—realer than real—to ignore.

L: For generations, God has sent signs of God’s coming kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.

P: Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

***Hymn No. 145**

“What Child Is This”

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Paul & Connor Pogalz

First Reader: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary’s womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God’s love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world’s judgment.

Second Reader: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

Light the Fourth candle of the Advent Wreath

***Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, and touch, and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy; you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us when we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe.

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Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin –the one who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

Silent Confession

***Assurance of Grace**

L: Our God is faithful to offer us mercy and the opportunity to leave behind our sin and begin anew,

P: Thanks be to God who speaks words of grace and understanding to us even as God spoke wisdom and reassurance to Mary and Joseph. Amen.

We are Inspired by God

Hymn No. 188

“Jesus Loves Me!”

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Children’s Time

Prayer of Illumination

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 80:1-7

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

P: before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

L: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

P: O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people’s prayers?

L: You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

P: You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

All: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved

Scripture Lesson:

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

Message:

A Season of Dreams

Pastor Loren Olson

*Hymn No. 113

“Angels, We Have Heard on High”

We Respond to God.

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***Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles Creed (in Unison)**

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

Call for Offering: Anything \$20 or less is counted for our loose offering and goes toward supporting local and international church mission.

Offertory

***Doxology No. 606**

***Prayer of Dedication:**

Faithful God of unfolding plans, when our certainty falters and our expectations collapse, you are still at work, inviting us into grace that redefines and redeems. Like Joseph, we bring our gifts and lay down our plans, trusting that your Spirit can shape our offering into something greater than we imagined. Let these gifts and our lives be signs of obedience, humility, and hope. May they help carry Christ into a world still longing for peace, hungry for love, and needing redemption. We pray in the name of the one who is Emmanuel—God with us. Amen.

***Hymn No. 119** *“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”*

***Benediction**

***Hymn 541** *“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”*

Postlude

WELCOME VISITORS.

Please pray for: Bill Stromme, Carol Prenzlów, Bill Kase, Rosemary Horseman, Howard Gransee, Ruth Allen, Joyce Olson, Dick Wolff, Jack Heisermann and Dick Hewitt for strength and healing.

Events:	December 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	December 24	Christmas Eve Service @ 5:30 PM
	December 25	Christmas Day - NO Service
	December 28	Last Worship in 2025 @ 10:00 AM
	January 11	Communion
	January 13	Session Meeting
	January 18	Worship & Congregational Meeting

Notice to Committee Chairs: Committee Annual Reports are due to Ann by January 6th



Sunday, December 21, 2025

First Presbyterian Church

101 - 6th Ave. NW

Kasson, MN