

# Christmas Eve



4pm Come-As-You-Are Christmas Pageant & Candlelight Service | December 24th, 2023

**Welcome!** We are glad you are with us for Christmas Eve worship. Wherever you may be on your journey, you are welcome here. If you would like more information about FPC, please fill out an Connect card in the pew rack, drop it in the black box in the foyer and pick up a Welcome Packet in the foyer. Please silence your cell phones, open your hearts, and sing and celebrate with joy. Tonight's offering, in its entirety, goes to The Lighthouse Mission: if you would like to participate please make your checks out to the Lighthouse Mission (and not FPC) and place in the offering plate OR visit their website [thelighthousemission.org](http://thelighthousemission.org) (QR code found on the back of this bulletin).

**Christmas Pageant Instructions** All ages are invited and encouraged to participate in our Come-As-You-Are Pageant. Simple costumes are available in the foyer for your use. Those wishing to be angels, please sit in the balcony. The worship leader and stage hands will give you instructions about how to join us as we playfully enter into the Christmas story.



**FPC BELLINGHAM**

*Sharing a living faith across generations.*

Prelude

Welcome and Prayer

Doug Bunnell

Lighting the Lament Candles

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Prologue

Kerrie Bauer

Scripture Reading

Micah 5:2, Isaiah 9:6-7

Special Music

*Emmanuel*

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:2-3, 6

**Come as you are Pageant—Children who would like to be manger animals are invited to come forward during the music.**

Carol

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Scripture Narration

Luke 2:1-7, Pew Bible Page 832

Carol

*Away in a Manger*

**Come as you are Pageant—Shepherds & sheep fill the aisle during the music. Angels be ready in the balcony.**

Scripture Narration

Luke 2:8-20, Pew Bible Page 833

Carol

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

Serving & Giving To Others

Cindy Louws

Offertory

The offering in its entirety will be given to the Lighthouse Mission.

*Please make your checks out directly to the Lighthouse Mission or visit [thelighthousemission.org/donate](http://thelighthousemission.org/donate)*

**Come as you are Pageant—Magi gather in the aisle**

Scripture Narration	Matthew 2:1-12, Pew Bible Page 783
Carol	<i>The First Noel</i>
Scripture Reading	1 John 1:1-4
Christmas Meditation	<i>Rosetta Stone</i>
Lighting the Christ Candle	The Rhea Family
Passing the Light	
Special Music	<i>Silent Night</i>
Carol	<i>Joy to the World</i>
Benediction	Doug Bunnell
Postlude	

*Jocelyn Meyer, Music  
Kerrie Bauer, Narrator  
Laurie Bunnell, Liturgist  
Doug Bunnell, Preacher*

Christmas Is Waiting to be Born  
Where refugees seek deliverance that never comes  
And the heart consumes itself as if it would live,  
Where children age before their time  
And life wears down the edges of the mind,  
Where the old man sits with mind grown cold,  
While bones and sinew, blood and cell, go slowly down to death,  
Where fear companions each day's life,  
And Perfect Love seems long delayed.  
CHRISTMAS IS WAITING TO BE BORN:  
In you, in me, in all humankind.

—Howard Thurman, *The Mood of Christmas & Other Celebrations* (1985)



Participate in **what's happening now** at the Mission for 2,500 people annually.



## Join us for Sunday Morning Worship

On Sunday, **December 31 we welcome all ages to our Comfy Cozy Sunday** service. In the event of snow, our services are still held in the building and available on livestream: [fpcbellingham.org/online-worship](http://fpcbellingham.org/online-worship)  
No children's programs or childcare but the service will include a story for children. On January 7 we resume all programs.

## FPC Office Holiday Closure

The church office will be closed through 12/30. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, leave a message at 360.734.5510 or email [info@fpcbellingham.org](mailto:info@fpcbellingham.org)

## Prayer Praxis Community Group

Sundays 6:30-8pm January and February | In person and on Zoom  
Come and join us as together we seek for a deeper experience of the Spirit in our lives. We will be Reading Mike Neelley's book, Hearing the Heartbeat of God and also practicing the exercises that Mike talks about.

## Art + Faith Conference

Join us March 15-17, 2024 for a weekend of gathering with other creatives, getting inspired, and doing art together! We have a wonderful line-up of featured speakers, opportunities to do art and experience the arts scene in Bellingham, and chances to network with other artists and creators. This special event is presented by our community art space, The Commons Bellingham. Tickets: [fpcbellingham.org/the-commons](http://fpcbellingham.org/the-commons)

Cover art L to R: Nicki Lang, Gini Bunnell, Kathy Harvey and Jennifer Newell



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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