

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**  
**Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Eve**  
**Wednesday, December 24, 2025**



**First Evangelical & Holy Cross Churches**  
**2740 Parker Ave.**  
**West Palm Beach, FL 33405**  
**[www.felcwpb.com](http://www.felcwpb.com)**

*"We are a community of churches and a church to the community."*

Welcome to worship with First Evangelical and Holy Cross churches. We come together for worship each Sunday to share in the ministry and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ with our own unique traditions and history. Seven other Christian ministries are located onsite with us.

If you are a guest or visitor and would like to know more about First Evangelical or Holy Cross, please reach out to one of our ushers, pastors, or fill out a welcome card and drop it in the offering boxes. Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. May God bless you.

**PRELUDE** – *“Mary Did You Know”* – with Susan Rodberg & James Binion

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: For you who are filled to the brim with happiness,

**C: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**

L: For you who are mourning the loss of family and friends,

**C: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**

L: For you who feel like you are tripping about in darkness,

**C: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**

L: For you who rest in gratitude and contentment,

**C: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**

L: For you who feel the ache of loneliness,

**C: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**

L: For you who are surrounded by unlikely yet beautiful companionship,

**C: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.**

L: Come, let us worship the birth of our Savior!

**C: Come, let us worship God who came to dwell among us!**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN** – *Angels We Have Heard on High*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



## OPENING

**L:** God of surprising generosity and unexpected grace, we have come to witness a miracle; to prepare our hearts for a new invasion of Your light; we have come once again to open our souls and our lives to the divine birth. In this sacred moment we ask for Your gentle presence to captivate and challenge us. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

## HYMN – “O Come All Ye Faithfull”

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the king of angels:

### *Refrain*

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy,  
light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing!

### *Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
in the highest:

### *Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:

### *Refrain*

## **PRAISE & CONFESSION**

**L:** We express our praise and confession

**C:** **We celebrate You and praise You,  
God of new beginnings and surprising opportunities  
Because You never cease to make Yourself available to us.**

**L:** We appreciate You and thank You,

**C:** **God of unquenchable life and irrepressible grace  
Because You continue to offer us the resources of Your Spirit.**

**L:** We love You and embrace You,

**C:** **God of unfailing compassion and constant companionship  
Because You walk beside us and transform us into agents of love.**

**L:** Forgive us, O Lord,

**C:** **When we seek to keep You to ourselves  
and shut others from Your influence.**

**L:** Forgive us, O Christ,

**C:** **When we wallow in our own weakness  
and take advantage of the weakness of others.**

**L:** Forgive us, O Spirit,

**C:** **When we deny Your friendship  
and withhold Your compassion from others.**

**L:** Forgive us, O God.

### *Silent Confession*

**L:** Heal us, restore and empower us, O God, we pray.

**C:** **For the sake of Your kingdom which has broken into our world as we  
celebrate your coming at Christmas in Bethlehem. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. . .

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Welcome!** Thank you for worshipping with us this Christmas Eve. Join us for some **cookies and beverages** in the back of the church following the service.
- Please **pick up a candle** after receiving communion. We will be lighting them for the closing hymn, Silent Night. When passing the flame to the person next to you, carefully tip the unlit candle into the lit candle so we don't drip any wax. Carefully extinguish the candle by placing your hand behind the flame and gently blow it out. Place them in the bins as you depart.
- Thank you to everyone who donated **Christmas Poinsettias**. You may pick them up and take them home after the Christmas Eve service tonight.
- Thank you **Christian, Tracy, & Melania Murray** for being our live nativity.
- Thank you to our special guest musicians **James Binion, Susan Rodberg, Elijah Bartimore**, and everyone who helped decorate the church.
- Next Sunday, our missionaries in Egypt, **Pastors Anthony and Soyoung Sellari**, will be our guest speakers, sharing about their mission work in Cairo
- Are you looking for a **church home**, or do you know someone who might be? Please contact the office or talk to one of the pastors for more information.
- Do you like to help others in times of an emergency? Mary Bates from the **NALC Disaster Response** will be here to help train us in how to be of help in times of crisis like hurricanes, fires, and tornados. She will lead workshop for us on January 17<sup>th</sup> from 10-1 in the chapel. Sign up with the office if you can take part in this wonderful opportunity.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

*The center Christ Candle represents Jesus, the Light of the World, who has come to bring salvation and light to all. White symbolizes purity and holiness, reflecting the sinless nature of Christ.*

*Lighting of all the candles in the Advent Wreath*

**Prayer:** Gracious God, as we light the Christ Candle, we celebrate the birth of Your Son, Jesus, who came to be with us. We adore You, Jesus, and welcome You into our hearts and homes. May Your light fill us, and may we reflect Your love, joy, peace, and hope to a world in need. Thank You for the gift of Christ, our Savior and King. Amen.

**ADVENT WREATH HYMN:** “*O Come O Come Emmanuel*” (verses 7-8)

7     O come, O King of nations, come,  
      O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
      refresh the hearts that long for you;  
      restore the broken, make us new.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

8     O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
      and ransom captive Israel,  
      that mourns in lonely exile here  
      until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the Lord Almighty  
will accomplish this.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

## **SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

## **GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:1-20**

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”



<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Pastor Daniel Baker

**SPECIAL MUSIC** - *“How Many Kings”*

## THE OFFERING

*Your OFFERING is received in the back of the church.  
Separate BOXES are available for both Holy Cross &  
First Evangelical churches.*

**For First Evangelical only, you can give online at  
[www.felcwpb.com](http://www.felcwpb.com) or TEXT2GIVE 844-504-1678  
or Scan QR Code.**



*Please turn in any gifts you want counted in 2025 by December 28th. Any gifts received or postmarked after the 31<sup>st</sup> will be counted in 2026. Thank you!*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and Praise.**

**SANCTUS** – *Holy, Holy, Holy (to the tune of “Angels We Have Heard on High”)*  
**Holy Holy Holy Lord,**  
**God of power, God of might.**  
**Heaven and earth are...full of your glory.**  
**Hosa...nna in the highest.**  
**Blessed is he who comes**  
**in the name of the Lord.**  
**Hosa...nna in the highest.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD’S PRAYER**

**C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever.**  
**Amen.**

## **THE DISTRIBUTION – CONTINUOUS FORMAT** *(Silence is appreciated)*

We practice Open Communion at Holy Cross and First Evangelical. If you believe that the Holy Sacrament carries with it the promises of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life and are a **baptized Christian** – you are welcome to receive. We do ask, however, that younger children who have not yet been instructed in the meaning of the sacrament - please come to the chancel for a blessing but refrain from receiving. Grape juice is available in the center of the communion trays.

## **DISTRIBUTION & SPECIAL MUSIC**

*O Holy Night & Emmanuel*

*A special thank you to Christian, Tracy, and baby Melania Murray for being our live nativity this Christmas Eve. You may pause to view the nativity as you receive the Lord’s Supper, and reflect on the miracle of the incarnation.*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

*The ushers will walk down the center aisle to light everyone’s candle. Carefully tip the unlit candle into the lit candle, passing the light to one another.*

## HYMN - *Silent Night*



*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



*Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

**EXTINGUISH CANDLES** – *Carefully shield the candle when blowing it out so as to not to spill the wax. Please return the candles in the bins as you exit.*

## BENEDICTION

Beloved, may you go in the blessing of Emmanuel, God-with-us, the joy of the world, and may you carry this gift of joy everywhere you go, working for peace, unity, justice, and mercy for all people. Amen.

## DISMISSAL

L: Christ the Savior is born. Go and spread the good news everywhere!

C: Thanks be to God.

**WELCOME** to all and thank you for joining us in worship today as we give thanks and praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray that the service will be meaningful and uplifting for you. If you are a first-time visitor, please sign the Guest Register. You are invited to stay for coffee and refreshments following the service. We very much would like to greet you and hope to make you feel welcome.

### **Serving in Worship**

<b>Pastors</b>	- Rev. Daniel D. Baker & Rev. Dr. Michael Breznen
<b>Crucifers</b>	- Tom Kalorgis, Hilkka Schroderus-Rowe
<b>Liturgists</b>	- Dianne Breznen, Sera Butz
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	- Dianne Breznen, Sera Butz, Hilkka Schroderus-Rowe
<b>Sound/Live Stream</b>	- Ken Burton
<b>Video</b>	- Sera Butz, Scot Alexander

<b>Christmas Eve - 7:00pm</b>		<b>Sunday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> - 10:00am</b>
<b>Reader:</b> Patty Krause <b>Ushers:</b> Bob S. & Susan M., Bobby H., Kadence H. <b>Nativity:</b> Christian, Tracy, & Melania Murray	<b>Musicians:</b> Sandra Baran – Piano James Binion – Soloist Susan Rodberg – Violin Elijah Bartimore – Drums Pastor Dan Baker - Guitar	<b>Preaching:</b> Anthony Sellari
		<b>Music:</b> CAC-WPB Praise Team
		<b>Readers:</b> Bob Krauss & Soyoung Sellari
		<b>Ushers:</b> Katherine S., Judith M. Bob S. & Susan M.

### **Remember in Prayer**

We pray for peace between nations and peoples and for just resolutions to the conflicts throughout the world – especially the people of Israel and fellow believers facing life-threatening persecution; those in war-torn countries; for all members of our armed services and law enforcement personnel; for our country and our nation’s leaders; for the Church, Church leaders, for **Youth for Christ**, and all faithful witnesses to the Gospel; for our missionaries – **Anthony and Soyoung Sellari** and their work in Egypt.

We pray for God’s healing presence to be with: **Dennis, Bill, Cynthia A, Dylan B, John, Leona, Lisa & Don, Raj, Sandy, Carl, Trish, Lou, Allan, Carson, David S, Gertrude, Holly, Katie, Linda, Marilynn, and Patrick; Lesley H** (friend of Katherine Summers); **Linda Z** – lung cancer (Lori Kinney’s friend); **Cyndy S** (for healing); **Joan Cannon** (health issues); and members of the **Holy Cross and First Evangelical Church** families who are at home and unable to attend.

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### **First Evangelical & Holy Cross Churches**

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Website: [felcwpb.com](http://felcwpb.com)  
Email: [info@felcwpb.com](mailto:info@felcwpb.com)

Church Office Hours  
Monday – Wednesday – Friday  
9 a.m. until 1 p.m.



# The 2025 Christmas Poinsettias

adorning our sanctuary were given by:

**Jody & Scot Alexander** in memory of Don & Arlene Alexander.

**Pastor Dan & Karina Baker** in memory of Charles Baker.

**Pastor Dan & Karina Baker** in memory of LuVerne & Mary Corhus.

**Frank & Sandra Baran** in memory of The Baran Family.

**Frank & Sandra Baran** in memory of The Cricchio Family.

**Vania Benhart** in honor of Marcelo & Ana Carolina.

**Vania Benhart** to the Glory of God.

**The Bedwell Family** in honor of Family, Friends & Loved Ones.

**The Bedwell Family** in recognition of Sylvester, Galaxy, Runner & Tiger.

**Reverend Michael A. & Dianne Breznen** in memory of  
Michael & Anne Breznen.

**Reverend Michael A. & Dianne Breznen** in memory of  
Ralph & Ida Sabatini.

**Elijah Bartimore** in memory of Mommy.

**Eric Bartimore** in memory of my sister, Bridget Inez Bartimore.

**Dorothy Gravelin** in memory of Loved Ones.

**Dorothy Gravelin** in honor of Christina Bedwell.

**Dorothy Gravelin** in honor of Emily Bedwell.

**Robert & Patty Krauss** in memory of Robert & Ardelle Krauss.

**Robert & Patty Krauss** in memory of Thomas & Helen Kinney.

**Robert & Patty Krauss** in honor of God the Father, Son  
& Holy Spirit; our living God.

**The Latiff Family** in memory of beloved son, Sean.  
**Andrea Leach** in memory of beloved son, David Wiesbauer.  
**LeeAnne Mansfield** in memory of Grandma Kinney.  
**Judith Miller** in memory of Mom & Dad.  
**Rajendra Rai** in memory of our beloved mother, Joan Khan.  
**Rajendra Rai** in memory of our friend, Judith Bernstein.  
**Carol Roberts** in memory of Mom & Dad.  
**Hilkka Schroderus-Rowe** in memory of brother, Juhani Schroderus  
and parents, Aarre & Sivia Schroderus.  
**Marion Sallenbach & Anastasia Williams** in recognition of  
Natasha's graduation from PBSC!  
**Gary & Cyndy Sellari** - Merry Christmas!  
**Gary & Cyndy Sellari** in memory of Anthony Sellari.  
**Gary & Cyndy Sellari** in memory of Don Beattie.  
**Gary & Cyndy Sellari** in memory of Ed & Jeanne Beattie.  
**Katherine Summers** in memory of grandmother, Mary Hoormoozis.  
**The Taylor Family** in memory of our beloved sister, Winsom.  
**Kay Taylor** in memory of my son, Jerry & granddaughter, Sariah.  
**Joe & Nancy Thaler** in honor of Gertrude & Martha.  
**Debra VanDette & Arthur D. Crouse** in memory of Art & Delores Crouse.  
**Christine Webb** in memory of our parents, Albert & Eleanor Dague.  
**Christine Webb** in memory of Helen Webb.  
**Anastasia Williams** in memory of Grammy, Ruth Sallenbach.  
**Anastasia Williams** in recognition of Pastor Dan & Karina Baker.

*Poinsettias may be taken home following Christmas Eve service.*

