



FIRST PRES OF SANTA FE
Welcome! Our community is
made stronger by your presence.

DECEMBER 14, 2025

Worship 8:30 Pope Hall and 11:00am Sanctuary
Christmas Joy offering
Children's Program begins at the
Worship Service

Adult Ed, Dec 14, 9:45am
Diana Butler Bass writes, "Advent is more than
waiting for Christmas presents and even more
than waiting for the birth of baby Jesus. Advent
is about longing for another world, groaning
for justice, and aching for oppression to end.
For Christians, Jesus' birth marks the beginning
of the end for the empires of the world." Join
San Williams to discuss this quote.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS
with Howard Thurman

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Psalms 62:1-2, Mark 13:24-26
"What are you waiting for?"
the Rev. Andrew Black



EVENTS COMING SOON

TGIF CONCERT CHANCEL BELL CHOIR

Dec 19, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

This Friday begin your weekend by enjoying an enchanting evening of bell music as Travis Bregier directs our own Chancel Bell Choir. Sanctuary doors open at 5:15 pm and the concert begins at 5:30.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPREAD JOY WHILE HONORING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!

DONATE BY DEC 21

This month, sponsor a poinsettia plant to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas and honor your friends and family! Your \$50 sponsorship of a holiday plant will have an additional benefit this year; all proceeds will be designated to help address food insecurity in Santa Fe.

USHERS NEEDED

Christmas Eve and Beginning January

Worship and Music is seeking ushers...both for Christmas Eve and beginning in January, for the 4th Sunday of the month team. It's a good way to have the chance to greet other members and to be the face of welcome to our visitors. Please let the office know or send an email to Allen Gullede at allengullede3@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

Wednesday, Dec 17, 5pm, Sanctuary

Join us as we sing our way through the season. Linda Raney leads us in songs from our hymnal, and perhaps a few secular favorites, on December 17, 5-5:30pm in our sanctuary. All ages welcomed and encouraged to celebrate the season together!

ONE SERVICE DECEMBER 28TH!

Dec 28 10:00am, Sanctuary

Guest Preacher: Janis Chitwood

In Memoriam of Kevin Thorne

We have learned that Kevin Thorne, the brother of Juanita Thorne-Connerty, passed away Wednesday, December 10th. Please keep Juanita and her family in your prayers.

PRELUDE *Vater Unser Im Himmelreich (Orgel Messe)*

J.S. Bach

WELCOME &
ANNOUNCEMENTS *please sign and pass blue Friendship pads*

the Rev. Andrew Black

ADVENT WREATH *Watch and wait for Christ's coming!
Light candles of hope, peace, joy and love,
remembering the promises of God with prayer.*

Kira Howard and Hugh,
Alison Sabatino and Leo

+CALL TO WORSHIP "Christmas Returns"

Sharon Eklund

+please stand
as you are able **with its assurance that life is good.**

(**bold** in unison) It is the time of lift to the spirit,

Howard Thurman from When the mind feels its way into the commonplace,

The Mood of Christmas **And senses the wonder of simple things: an evergreen tree,
Familiar carols, merry laughter.**

It is the time of illumination,
**When candles burn, and old dreams
Find their youth again.**

It is the time of pause,
**When forgotten joys come back to mind, and past
Dedications renew their claim.**

It is the time of harvest for the heart,
**When faith reaches out to mantle all high endeavor,
And love whispers its magic word to everything that breathes.**

Christmas returns, as it always does,
with its assurance that life is good.

OPENING PRAYER Christmas is the Season of the Heart

Sharon Eklund

Howard Thurman from **The Time of forgiveness for injuries past,**
The Mood of Christmas The Sacrament of sharing without balancing the deed,
The Moment of remembrance of graces forgotten,
The Poem of joy making light the spirit,
The Sense of renewal restoring the soul,
The Day of thanksgiving for the goodness of God.
CHRISTMAS IS THE SEASON OF THE HEART.

LESSONS & CAROLS

+HYMN 94 *Now the Heavens Star to Whisper*

Genesis 1:14-16

Ellery Truesdell

And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.

Seek Him That Maketh the Seven Stars
Chancel Choir

Jonathan Dove

Isaiah 40:1-2 9-11

Mary Ann Amos

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"
Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

The Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

The Chancel Choir, Nancy Maret, Soprano

Matthew 1:20-23

Allen Gullledge

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

What Sweeter Music

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Chancel Choir

Isaiah 35:1-6, 8a, 10

Sharon Eklund

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

The Work of Christmas

Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir

Revelation 22:12, 16-17, 20

Ellery Truesdell

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

+HYMN 348 *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

SCRIPTURE Psalm 62:1-2, Mark 13:24-26

Rev. Andrew Black

SERMON "What are you waiting for?"

OFFERING AND
OFFERTORY 105 *People, Look East*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE **This is Christmas.**
The evergreen singing aloud its poem of constant renewal,
The festive mood spreading lilting magic everywhere,
The gifts of recollection calling to mind the wisdom of hope,
The warmth of candlelight glowing against the darkness,
The birth of a child linking past to future,
The symbol of love absorbing all violence.
This is Christmas.

+DOXOLOGY 607 *Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow*
Sing words that are meaningful for you

PRAYERS OF THE
PEOPLE

PRAYER CANDLES *I Wonder As I Wander*

Mark Hayes

LORD'S PRAYER

PASSING OF PEACE

+HYMN 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

+BENEDICTION

the Rev. Andrew Black

POSTLUDE Fuga Super Jesus Christus Unser Heiland (Orgel Messe)

J.S. Bach

WE PRAY FOR:

Seth Hinshaw For the family and friends of Kevin Thorne (brother of Juanita Thorne-Connerty)
Mary Black Marcus Clark (friend of Judy Crawford)
Arthur Neudek Tami Martin (sister of Judi Haines)
Kay Duke Ingalls Unknown name (daughter of a friend of Donna Shands)
Larry Haslam Will Hester (brother of Arlena Jackson)
Lynne West Janet Wray (sister of M'Lea Walsh)
Nancy Armbruster Bob Archer (friend of Dennis Sanderson)
Annetta Grace-Darmitzel Rob Smillow (friend of Elizabeth and Alan Hook)
Mary Lou Williams Patricia Kingston (Tom's and Sue's sister-in-law)
Bill Gee David Moody (friend of Dennis Sanderson)
Sara Romer Eva Reneau (mother of Donna Shands)
Chuck Poitras Gayle Green and her family (friends of Madeleine Wright)
Jennifer Elliott Mary Ann and Greg Edwards (friends of Leah Pallman)
Steve Kinnett Elaine Lea (mother of Leah Paalman)
Simon Bredbeck (great nephew of Janis Chitwood)
Carolyn Bell (mother of Rebecca Hodges)
Daniel Weir (son of Heather Weir)

CHRISTMAS 2025

WEDNESDAY

5:00pm Carol Sing

5:30pm Celtic Evensong

Sanctuary

6:00-8:00pm Community Dinner

Pope Hall

FRIDAY

5:30pm TGIF Concerts

Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS EVE

with the Rev. Andrew Black

Lighting of candles at both

5:00pm Family Service

Children's Nativity

8:00pm Traditional Service

PERMISSIONS

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