



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
1, 3, 5 & 7 p.m.

"The more things change, the more they stay the same." So said French journalist Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr in 1849, captured by cynicism that politics might change the world for the better. This year on Christmas Eve, I ask, what has changed and what stays the same?

Our hearts long for the everlasting. We are searching near and far for things that last forever. It would bring such peace to rest our souls on a foundation that will last forever and ever. Jesus Christ is the Everlasting Light.

At times it appears that darkness might win. At times it seems that darkness is the constant; no amount of good intentions or human efforts can push the darkness back! But tonight, we celebrate with believers around the globe. To us a child is born. To us a Son is given. Light has entered the darkness, and the darkness will not endure.

Maybe you sit down to worship tonight to welcome the presence of the Light of Christ as you would welcome an old friend. You have walked in the light for years now, with growing faith and confidence. But maybe you sit down tonight asking yourself, "Do I know this light? Do I believe in Jesus and the light he brings? Or might darkness win in the end?" You are in the right place.

Open your heart to the presence of Christ as we worship together.



Merry Christmas!

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Tim McConnell".

Tim McConnell
LEAD PASTOR



Prelude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing | arr. Duane Funderburk

Introit

Glory to God in the Highest | G.F. Handel

Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. John Goodale (1 + 3); Rev. Greg Hartnett (5 + 7)

Hymn of Praise

Carols of the Season

Welcome & Prayer of Adoration

Rev. Dr. Tim McConnell

Song of Adoration

Angels We Have Heard on High

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Dave Steane (1 + 3); Rev. Dr. Mateen Ellass (5 + 7)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Call to Confession

Hymn of Response

The First Noel

Offering Our Gifts

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen | arr. Chris Owenby

A Christmas Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Suzanne Gradin (1 + 3); Ashley Anderson (5); Rev. Dr. Eunice McGarrahan (7)

Ministry of Music

O Little Town of Bethlehem | arr. Dan Forrest

Sermon

Everlasting Light | John 1:1-14 | Rev. Dr. Tim McConnell

Candlelight Hymn

Silent Night! Holy Night!

Prayer & Benediction

Postlude

A Joyful Noel | arr. Andrew Wainwright

Belong

AT FIRST PRES

**Belonging starts by
discovering the life God is
inviting you into**

We want to help you find
your pattern of worship,
your people to grow with, &
your place to live for others.



Pattern

Worship trains our hearts to beat for God. Sunday isn't just a service, it's a rhythm that sets the tone for your week ahead. What connects us all is the same hope: that Jesus would be glorified, and that we would be shaped by His Word; transformed to be **Light + Life for the City**.



People

Faith is not a solo sport. We weren't made to follow Jesus alone. We need people who know our name and walk with us. In groups, you'll find prayer, friendship, laughter, and the kind of belonging that grows your faith.



Place

You were made to live for others. Serving isn't a task, it's your chance to reflect the love of Jesus. Whether you're behind the scenes or on the front lines, your presence matters. Discover how your gifts make an eternal impact.

Take your next step in belonging at
firstprescos.org/belong