

## John 1:9-14

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## Romans 8:15-17

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

## 1 John 3:1

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

### Questions for Reflection & Discussion:

1. What thoughts or feelings do you have about the Christmas season having begun again?
2. What phrases or truths in the 4 passages the Heidelberg points to most stood out to you during the sermon?
3. How could you actively remind yourself of your status as a beloved, adopted child of God this Christmas season?

**Congregational Meeting Called to Elect New Officers:** Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 15 at noon** when session has called a Congregational Meeting to elect a new class of officers. We will meet in the Sanctuary for this important vote. The 2024 Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of Covenant Partners which has also been approved by session: **Elder nominees:** Bobby Phillips, Patricia Curtis, Arlene Rotenberry, and Jim Stewart. **Deacon Nominees:** Carl Boswell (1-year term), Vic Skaar, Chuck Mahaffey, Carol Chappell, and Suzy Schulz. **Nominating Committee members:** David Shaw and Linda Brammer.

**Graduate Luncheon:** All graduating college & graduate students as well as their families & friends are invited to join the F&C Campus Ministry Committee to celebrate our December graduates! Please join us on **Sunday, December 15th, at 12:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall for food, fellowship, and recognition of our graduates. We wish to honor your perseverance and hard work! RSVP through the link in the weekly update.

## Family Business

### Upcoming:

#### Sunday 12/1

9:45 am – College Final Care Project / Fellowship Hall

11:00 am – Service / Sanctuary

#### Monday 12/2

10:00 am – Hanging of the Greens

#### Tuesday 12/3

6:30 pm – Deacon's Committee Meeting / Conference Room

6:30 pm – Men's Bible Study / Room 015

#### Wednesday 12/4

10:00 am – Mom's Play Group / Nursery

6:00 pm – Adult Pickleball / Gym

6:15 pm – Bell Choir Rehearsal / Bell Choir Room

7:15 pm – Chancel Choir / Choir Room

#### Thursday 12/5

11:00 am – Prayer Meeting / Prayer Room

#### Friday 12/6

12:00 pm – Women's Table Talk / Room 114

#### Saturday 12/7

10:00 am – Celebrate While We Wait!

### Advent & Christmas Events

**2024 Advent Reading Plan:** This year, we are reading through the Gospel of Luke one chapter a day beginning the first day of Advent – December 1<sup>st</sup>. We will also be posting these readings on our church app and website to include supplemental scripture and reflection questions. To participate in the online version of the plan, you can prepare by making sure you have downloaded our free First and Calvary app on your phone.

**Celebrate While We Wait- 12 PM | Dec. 7 - 10 AM**

**92nd Annual Candlelight Musical Service | Dec. 8 - 6:30 PM**

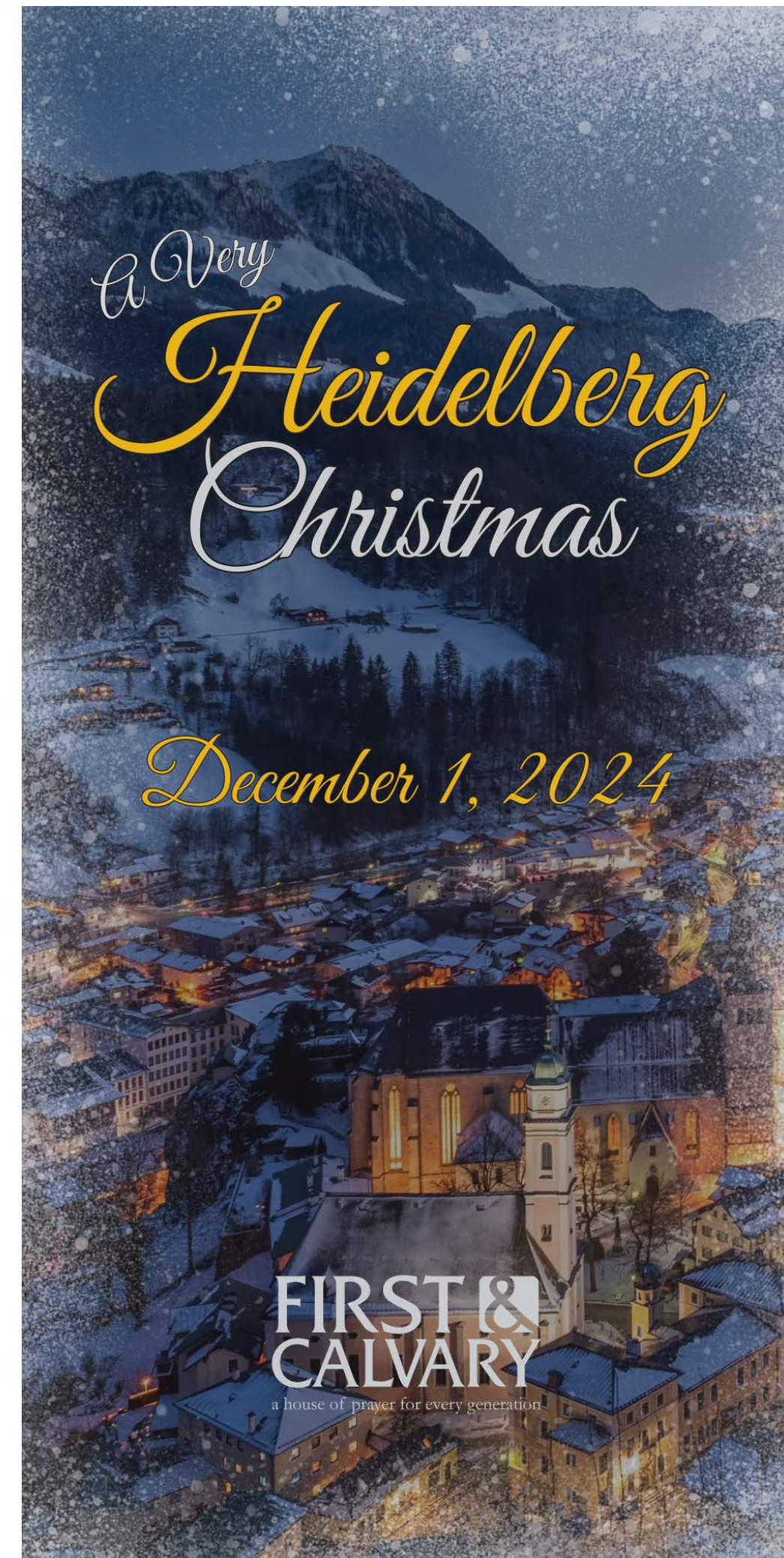
**Christmas Eve Service | Dec. 24 - 4 PM**

**Christmas Eve Service | Dec. 24 - 7 PM**

For more information, visit the Christmas page on the website.



417-862-5068 | [firstandcalvary.org](http://firstandcalvary.org) | App “First & Calvary”  
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# The House of Prayer

## Prelude | Dr. Jim Davidson

### \*Advent Candle Lighting | Tyler Heckman Allyssa Clayton

Leader: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

**All: The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—**

We light this candle as a sign

of our waiting and hope for the coming Christ.

—based on Isaiah 11:1-3, NIV

### \* 163 Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming, Verse 1

“Come now, let us settle the matter,”  
says the LORD.

“Though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red as crimson,  
they shall be like wool.”

—Isaiah 1:18, NIV

Holy and merciful God,  
for the times we have followed the path of the wicked,  
stood in solidarity with those who were wrong,  
or sat quietly and allowed sin to happen, forgive us.  
Help us to meditate, even delight, in your Word  
so that we will flourish with the fruit of your Spirit. Amen.

### \* Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming, Verse 2

The LORD is faithful in all his words,  
and gracious in all his deeds.

The LORD upholds all who are falling,  
and raises up all who are bowed down.

—Psalm 145:13-14, NRSV

### \* Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming, Verse 3

## Gratitude Video | The Elders of First & Calvary

### Invitation to Offering

*Feel free to use the offering plates or contact the church for online or direct deposit giving. Guests, please do not feel obligated.*

### Offertory | Miles Stamper

*I am a Child of God*

Words and Music: Douglas Wagner

### \*Doxology

*To the tune of The First Noel*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel

### \*Offering Prayer

### Time for Children | Trevor Clayton

*Jesus Loves Me*

*Oh How I Love Jesus*

### Scripture Readings

*See Scripture Panel*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

### Sermon | Rev. Don Everts

*The Only Begotten Son*

## Invitation to the Table

## Words of Institution & Communion

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### \*Closing Hymn

*145 Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Words: Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th C.; tr. John M. Neale, 1854, and Henry W. Baker, 1859, alt.

Music: Plainsong, c. 13th C.; arr. based on C. Winfred Douglas, 1916

### \*Benediction

### \*Postlude

## Notes