

## Pilgrim Church Calendar

### Sunday, December 26

9:00 a.m. Worship & Children's Time

### Monday, December 27

Food Pantry CLOSED

7:00 p.m. AA—Women

### Wednesday, December 29

10:00 a.m. Prayer Group

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, December 31

4:30 p.m. Serving at The Homeless Coalition

### Sunday, January 2

9:00 a.m. Worship & Children's Time

Merry  
Christmas



## Save the Dates

Adult Bible Study resumes on **Sunday, January 9.**  
Annual Meeting **Sunday, January 23, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**

24515 Rampart Boulevard, Port Charlotte, FL 33980  
941-629-2633 office open: M-Th 9:30 am - 2:30 pm  
[www.pilgrimonline.org](http://www.pilgrimonline.org) [office@pilgrimonline.org](mailto:office@pilgrimonline.org)  
Facebook page: "Pilgrim Church of Port Charlotte"  
CCLI License #1352902 CVLI License # 504338840

Rev. John Barnette, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Ken Ewing, Associate Pastor  
Katy Yoder, Music Director  
Jessica Warne, Sunday Children's Director  
Cheryl Huber, Organist  
Russ Whittaker, Handbell Director



# Friday, December 24, 2021 Christmas Eve

## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Greeting

Prelude

Invocation

**\*Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #123

### Lighting the Advent Candles

This night, this night is a night to remember. A night when home broke in on us. A night when we were not forgotten or alone or abandoned. This night. This night is the night when here and there became one, when past and future combined in a breathless present. This is a night when we are home, in ourselves, in this family, in the god who loved us enough to walk beside us.

**We gather in the night to proclaim the light. We shrug off despair and embrace hope. We set aside conflict and choose peace. We push away despair by claiming joy. We overcome hate by rising into love. Because this night we know, even in the shadows of our doubts, we know that we are loved. That's what it means to be home.**

We light these candles, hoping to become the light, hoping to radiate light by how we live. We light these candles to create a

space called home in this place, in our place, in inner places. We light these candles to declare that unto us a savior is born, who is Christ the lord. Welcomed home by angels singing and shepherds kneeling. Welcomed home by those like us who have worshiped for thousands of years. Welcomed home again tonight, right here, right now, in us.

**It's time to be home.**

### Lighting the Christ Candle

Tonight is the night for which we have all been waiting. Our advent wreath will now be completed by the lighting of our Christ candle. With the birth of Jesus, our lives will be forever changed. We will be transformed by his model and message, and we will be welcomed home.

**We light this candle to signify that Christ is truly the center of our lives. May his light shine from within us, illuminating a dark world. Amen.**

**Special Music** "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" Judi Wilson

### The Nativity Told Through Scripture and Carols

**Carol** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #141

**Gospel Reading** Luke 2:1-7

**Carol** "Away in the Manger" #157

**Gospel Reading** Luke 2:8-14

**Carol** "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" #128

**Gospel Reading** Luke 2:15-20

**Carol** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #145

**Holy Communion**

**Sending**

### \*Sharing of the Light

The prophet Isaiah prophesied, "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined." Tonight, we rejoice as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, the light God has given to a world in darkness. As we light our candles from the flame of the Christ candle, may they serve as a sign of our covenant to share Christ's light with those who still walk in darkness.

*(As the light progresses from the Christ candle to you, unlit candles bending to be lit by burning candles, the Handbell Choir will begin "Silent Night! Holy Night!" Our Handbell Director will invite you to raise voices together with the second verse.)*

### Sending

**Carol** "Silent Night! Holy Night!" #147

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

\*Please rise in body or spirit.