



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

SECOND SUNDAY
OF CHRISTMAS

January 4, 2025
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.



To know Christ, to make Him known and to exhibit His love through worship, education and service.

WORDS OF PREPARATION

What are you doing, O Magi? Do you adore a little Babe, in a wretched hovel, wrapped in miserable rags? Can this Child be truly God? ... Are you become foolish, O Wise Men...Yes, these Wise Men have become fools that they may be wise.

—Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on 'In dulci júbilo,' BuxWV 197
Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME

INTROIT

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
REGENT SQUARE

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar; seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king! All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Sandra Randleman

Leader: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

All: Give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people."

Leader: They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion;

All: They shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

Leader: With expectation and joy as we begin a new year, let us worship the living God!

*OPENING HYMN

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright
PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?**

**'Tis sent to announce a newborn king,
glad tidings of our God to bring.**

**'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed";
and lo! the eastern sages stand
to read in heaven the Lord's command.**

While outward signs the star displays,

**an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might,
to seek the giver of the light.**

**O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of your light to use.**

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Mallory Hammond

FIRST LESSON | Psalm 147:12-20 (page 525)

Chan Sheppard (8:30)
Sarah Fala (11:00)

¹² Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion! ¹³ For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. ¹⁴ He makes peace in your borders; he fills you with the finest of the wheat. ¹⁵ He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. ¹⁶ He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. ¹⁷ He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs; who can stand before his cold? ¹⁸ He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow and the waters flow. ¹⁹ He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and rules to Israel. ²⁰ He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his rules. Praise the LORD!

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Adrian Taylor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We cry out: “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel,” for we are a people in need of saving. You promise to gather your people, but we confess that we want to put limitations on who is saved. We want you to save those we define as strong and beautiful and wise; you call the blind and the lame, the children and those in labor. Forgive us, O Holy God, for our prejudice and narrow vision. Forgive us for our lack of faith. Forgive us for doubting your promise and declining your invitation. By your Spirit, renew us. Turn our mourning into joy and our sorrow into gladness that we might return to you and your way.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High
GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son

our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Whether you are a longtime member or a guest, please mark your presence by signing the friendship pad and greet those seated near you as you pass it along.

‡BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

‡During the 8:30 and 11:00 services, PreK and Kindergarten children (ages 4–6) are invited to join Young Children & Worship.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00)

Rev. Sara Hill

PRESENTATION OF CHILD

Jennifer and David Peterson are presenting their daughter, Freya Scarlett Peterson, for baptism.
Assisting Elder: Benjamin Carswell

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE BAPTISM

HYMN OF PREPARATION

We Three Kings of Orient Are
KINGS OF ORIENT

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

*Refrain:
O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. *Refrain***

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High. *Refrain***

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,**

sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

**Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Ephesians 1:3-14 (page 976)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him. ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

A New Year Blessing

Dr. Ryan Moore

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places... —Ephesians 1:3

OFFERTORY

Three Kings

Peter Cornelius | arr. Ivor Atkins

Three kings from Persian lands afar, to Jordan follow the pointing star. And this the quest of the travelers three, where the newborn king of the Jews may be. Full royal gifts they bear for the king; gold, incense, myrrh are their offering. The star shines out with a steadfast ray. The kings to Bethlehem make their way. And there in worship they bend the knee, as Mary's child in her lap they see. Their royal gifts they show to the king; gold, incense, myrrh are their offering. Thou child of man, lo to Bethlehem the kings are traveling, travel with them! The star of mercy, the star of grace, shall lead thy heart to its resting place. Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring. Offer thy heart to the infant king. Offer thy heart!

As you reflect on the Lord's goodness, you can make an offering by dropping your gift in the offering plate, texting "GIVE" to 707-475-3005, or donating online at fpcnashville.org.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gage Arnold

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

Arise, Your Light Has Come!
FESTAL SONG

**Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty,
good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
GO TELL IT

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Festival Prelude for the New Year
Carl Nielsen

** Those who are able, please stand.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*
Mallory Hammond, MDiv – *Parish Associate, Director of Ministry to Children and Their Families*
Sara Hill, MDiv – *Parish Associate for Congregational Care*
Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions*
Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*
Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*
Ryan Bede, Bass
Acolytes – Lauren Pitman and Ryan Pitman

SUPPORTING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

You can make a gift or fulfill a pledge payment by placing your gift in the offering plate,
texting "GIVE" to 707-475-3005, donating online at fpcnashville.org, or scan the QR code.



WELCOME

First Presbyterian Church extends a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us today. Since 1814 First Presbyterian has sought to be faithful in service to Jesus Christ and the common good. We are rooted in the Reformed, orthodox, and evangelical traditions of the larger church. If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you!

Hearing Assistance App Directions

Join FPC_guest WiFi network. You must be connected to this network for the app to work. Download the WaveCAST app. Open the app and select “First Pres Sanctuary.” Plug in your headphones and adjust the volume to your preference.

To **livestream** worship and special events or view past services, visit youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofnashville.

Sunday Morning for Families

On Sunday mornings, children are welcome in worship alongside their families. **Nursery** care is available for ages 0–3 in the Nursery Wing from 8:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m., with a Mother and Infant Quiet Room nearby. **Children ages 4–6** are invited, following the Blessing of the Young Disciples, to Young Children & Worship (Pickup in Room CW 110 after the service). **Older children** remain in worship, where activity bags are available at each Sanctuary entrance. At 9:45 a.m., children of all ages are invited to the Education Hour. Nursery through 3rd grade gather in the Children’s Ministry lobby for check-in and pickup. Preteens (4th–5th grade) check in outside Room CC 131, while 6th graders in Confirmation gather outside Room E201 in the Oak Hill C-Wing.

STAY CONNECTED

*Stay informed about FPC by:
reading our weekly email, **Parish News**,
or seasonal print newsletter, **First News**.*

*To sign up, email communications@fpcnashville.org
or update your subscriptions at:
fpcnashville.org/my-subscriptions.*



VISIT [LINKTR.EE/FPCNASHVILLE](https://linktr.ee/fpcnashville) TO REGISTER, DONATE, OR LEARN MORE

MUSIC NOTES: *Arise, Your Light is Come!* Text: Ruth Duck - ©1992 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *The Three Kings* by Peter Cornelius arr. Ivor Atkins Text: © 1930, Oxford University Press All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *Festival Prelude for the New Year* - Carl Nielsen (c) 1963 (Wilhelm Hansen, Copenhagen All rights reserved).

COVER IMAGE: Master of the Kefermarkt Altar (attributed). *Nativity of Christ*, ca. 1490–1497. Polychromed limewood relief. Kefermarkt Winged Altarpiece, Parish Church of St. Wolfgang, Kefermarkt, Upper Austria.

Room In The Inn—As we welcome guests each Wednesday through March, we especially need help in two crucial areas: overnight hosts (men only) and site coordinators. These roles ensure we can continue offering safe, warm hospitality. Questions? Contact Kevin Hughart at khughart@fpcnashville.org

Service Project with Nueva Vida | Second Tuesdays | 4:30–7:30 p.m.—Help pack and distribute food to our neighbors in need through the Nueva Vida Food Project. Tasks include sorting, stocking shelves, and offering a friendly smile. We are looking for up to five volunteers for each date: January 13, February 10, March 10. Register at fpcnashville.org/missions.

Youth Ski Retreat | Jan. 23–25—Escape to the mountains with us! In the middle of a busy school year, a weekend away gives students space to breathe, connect, and grow. All 7th–12th graders are invited to our Ski Retreat at Beech Mountain, North Carolina! We'll depart after school on Friday and return Sunday afternoon, after a weekend full of skiing, worship, laughter, teaching, and time with friends in God's creation. Register at fpcnashville.org/ski.

Spring Soccer Registration Is Open—Early Registration runs until January 23, and Late Registration is January 24–30. Game days are Saturdays: March 28, April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, and 16, with May 23 as a rain makeup date if needed. Soccer is open to boys and girls ages 3 years through rising 4th graders. Register at fpcnashville.org/soccer.

Epiphany Bonfire & Bowl Game | Today | 3:00 p.m. | South Lawn—Join your church family for hymn singing and burning of the greens at our annual Epiphany Bonfire. The greenery used to decorate for Christmas has served its purpose, and the bonfire from burning them celebrates the light and warmth of Christ coming into the world. Afterward, we will play a flag football tournament and crown a winner of the “Epiphany Bowl.”

Presbyterian Women Handiwork Drop-In | Monday, Jan. 5 | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Memorial Library—All women who enjoy portable handiwork (knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, cross stitch, etc.) are invited to join us on the first Monday of each month. Bring your current handiwork project and we will enjoy Christian fellowship, build community, and work on our respective crafts.

Midweek Study | Wednesdays | Resumes Jan. 14 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Session Room—All are welcome to a weekly lunch and study with Dr. Ryan Moore. A light lunch will be served, payment for which is donation-based.

First Friends January Luncheon: Nashville's Growth | Thursday, Jan. 15 | 12:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall—Join us for lunch (\$10) and hear Alex Apple and Brittany Irby discuss Nashville's growth, Imagine Nashville, and local tax spending. Register online to reserve your spot.

Book Club | Tuesday, Jan. 20 | 2:30 p.m. | Memorial Library—Join us as we discuss *The Ins-N-Outs of In-N-Out Burger* by Lynsi Snyder—the story behind the iconic family-owned restaurant and its loyal following. All are welcome.

Looking to Connect in a Smaller Setting? | COBs Begin Week of Jan. 25—Our six-week small groups, called Communities of Belonging (COBs), begin the week of January 25, and follow our winter sermon series using *Sermon on the Mount* by John Stott. COBs are an easy way to grow in faith and meet new people in a warm, small-group environment. Questions? Contact Ellie Richmond at erichmond@fpcnashville.org or 615-298-9570.

Adult Sunday School—Reconnect, grow, and explore your faith this winter! Adult Sunday School classes resume in January during the 9:45 a.m. Education Hour (exact start date may vary by class). It's a great time to try something new or revisit a favorite class. Questions about which class is right for you, or about exact start dates? Contact Julia Wilk at jwilk@fpcnashville.org or 615-298-9509. Classes include:

- Bible & Coffee | Jones Session Room
- Cornerstone | Vance Hall
- Current Issues | L-200
- Discipleship | Witherspoon Room
- Fellowship | Memorial Library | 10:00 a.m.
- Good News | L-207
- June Ramsey | Cheek House Living Room
- Life Together | L-203
- Logos | Stanford Chapel | 10:00 a.m.
- Young Adults | Cheek House Breakfast Room.