

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church of Nashville

November 24, 2025 | 6:30 p.m.

Vesper Service of Thanksgiving

WORDS OF PREPARATION

Race for more and you'll snag on time and leak empty. Hurry always empties the soul.
—Ann Voskamp

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*VOLUNTARY

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Johann Walther

WELCOME

Dr. Ryan Moore

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: O Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**All: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**

Pastor: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

**All: We are the sheep of God's pasture, and the beloved children of God.
Let us worship God.**

*OPENING HYMN

We Gather Together
KREMSER

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.**

**Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!**

**We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!**

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

THANKSGIVING LITANY

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer. Let us remember God's mercy, for God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

All: We thank you for calling us to faith in Christ, for putting your Holy Spirit within us, for giving us the mind of Christ Jesus, and for gathering us into your church.

Pastor: We thank you, Lord, for extending your grace to us, for calling us to a life of gratitude, and for calling us to service in your kingdom.

All: Thanks be to God!

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he satisfies the thirsty, he fills the hungry with good things, and he heals the afflicted. Let us celebrate his abundant goodness.

All: Thanks be to God!

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he blesses those who are poor in spirit, those who are meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, those who are merciful, those who are pure in heart, those who are peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

All: We thank you, gracious Father, that you provide for all our needs, for the food on our tables, for the clothes on our bodies, for the beds in which we sleep, and for the dwellings that shelter us.

Pastor: We praise you for all your gifts that go beyond our basic needs, for the things that make our work easier, for the conveniences of modern life, for the beauty and pleasure that you bring into our lives.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you,

All: And also with you.

At this time, please stand and pass a greeting to your fellow worshippers.

SCRIPTURE READING | Luke 22:14-20 (page 882)

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

Eucharisteo

Rev. Sara Hill

...and gave thanks to God for it... —Luke 22:17,19

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Mallory Hammond

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion at First Presbyterian Church is offered to all baptized Christians and will be served today by intinction. When your row is called, come forward, take a wafer, dip it into the cup, and receive both elements together. The cup is juice and wafers are gluten-free.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Bless This House
Helen Taylor | May H. Brahe

Bless this house, O Lord we pray, make it safe by night and day; bless these walls, so firm and stout, keeping want and trouble out; bless the roof and chimneys tall, let thy peace lie over all; bless this door, that it may prove ever open to joy and love. Bless these windows shining bright, letting in God's heav'nly light; bless the hearth ablazing there, with smoke ascending like a prayer; bless the people here within, keep them pure and free from sin; bless us all that we may be fit, O Lord, to dwell with thee, bless us all that we one day may dwell, O Lord, with thee.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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.

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 643

Now Thank We All Our God
NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Chorale from Cantata 79 "Now Thank We All Our God"
J.S. Bach

** 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*

Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*

Chris Simonsen, Baritone

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Sundays in Advent

Nov. 30 | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | *Communion*

Dec. 7 | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Dec. 14 | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | *Christmas Music Sunday*

Dec. 21 | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | *Brass Ensemble*

Advent Vespers & Communion

Wednesdays

Dec. 3 | 5:30 p.m. Dinner | Courtenay Hall

Dec. 3, 10 & 17 | 6:30 p.m. | Stanford Chapel

Join us on Wednesday evenings for worship, hymns, and communion as we watch and wait for the Incarnation.

These services will prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Christ's birth. On December 3, we will gather before vespers for dinner in Courtenay Hall.

Longest Night Service *(New)*

Sunday, Dec. 21 | 6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

On the longest night of the year, we gather to remember that even in the darkness, God's light does not fail. This reflective service offers space for those experiencing grief, loss, or weariness during the holiday season, pointing hearts to the hope of Christ, the true Light of the world.

Christmas Eve | *Wednesday, Dec. 24*

2:00 p.m. | Communion

A quiet service including a celebration of the Lord's Supper.

4:00 p.m. | Journey to Bethlehem Pageant

A lively pageant led by our children and youth. Seating is limited; doors open at 3:15 p.m. following the prior service.

8:00 p.m. | Lessons and Carols

This service features Scripture readings recounting salvation history, with hymns and choral anthems sung in response.

The service ends in the candlelit singing of Silent Night.

11:00 p.m. | Communion

Welcome Christmas with carols, candlelight, and a celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Christmas Day Worship

Thursday, Dec. 25 | 11:00 a.m. | Stanford Chapel

Happy Birthday, Jesus! Spend an hour worshipping the newborn King with your church family at this informal, relaxed service. We will enjoy some birthday cake and children are welcome to come in pajamas.