



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 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

We must never allow anything to blind us to the true significance of what happened at Bethlehem so long ago. Nothing can alter the fact that we live on a visited planet.

—J. B. Phillips

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 140
J. S. Bach

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Thomas Family (8:30)
The Byram Family (11:00)

Reader: Prepare the way of the Lord. We light this candle in hope,
the hope of our coming Savior, Jesus.

All: Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.

Reader: 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.

INTROIT

Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord
WOODLANDS

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord: unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; tender to me the promise of his word; in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Mallory Hammond

Pastor: The Lord has done great things for us!

All: And we are filled with joy!

Pastor: Our God has turned our weeping into singing,

All: Our tears into songs of joy!

Pastor: O Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, come anew in our hearts this day,

All: And remain in us forever!

*OPENING HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
TRURO

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Sara Hill

FIRST LESSON | Luke 1:67-80 (page 856)

Ben Atchley (8:30)
Banks Link (11:00)

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, ⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people ⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness

before him all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” ⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Gage Arnold

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things—our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus’ sake alone.

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.

HYMN OF PREPARATION 108 | Verses 1, 3, and 6

Of the Father’s Love Begotten
DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Luke 1:57-66 (page 856)

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” ⁶¹ And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Zechariah: Failure and Redemption

Dr. Ryan Moore

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways...
—Luke 1:76

OFFERTORY

And the Glory of the Lord from “*Messiah*”
G.F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

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.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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.

Pastor: It is right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing ...

Sanctus and Benedictus from *St. Anne's Mass*
James MacMillan

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he, O blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor: Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom.

All: Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and forevermore. Amen.

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

I Come with Joy
DOVE OF PEACE

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends. The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here. Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

COMMUNION HYMN

We Will Feast in the House of Zion
Sandra McCracken & Joshua Moore

The congregation joins in singing the refrain:

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain: "We will feast in the house of Zi - on. We will sing with our hearts re-stored. He has". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "done great things, we will say to - geth - er. We will feast and weep no more." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

Soloist:

We will not be burned by the fire; he is the Lord our God.

We are not consumed by the flood; upheld, protected, gathered up. *Refrain*

In the dark of night, before the dawn, my soul, be not afraid.

For the promised morning, oh, how long? Oh, God of Jacob, be my strength. *Refrain*

Every vow we've broken and betrayed, you are the faithful one.

And from the garden to the grave, bind us together, bring shalom. *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Austin Hill

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 106

Prepare the Way O Zion
BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

O Little Town of Bethlehem
ST. LOUIS

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Fantasia on "Veni Emmanuel"
Alec Rowley

** 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*
Austin Hill, DMin – *Member-at-Large, Middle Tennessee Presbytery*
Sara Hill, MDiv – *Parish Associate for Congregational Care*
Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Joseph Fala, MM – *Assistant Director of Music and Organist*
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*
Alison Gooding Hoffman, Violin
Acolytes – Luke Richardson and Thomas Kaufman, Lila Bess Vargas and Livia Vargas

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.



COVER IMAGE: James Tissot, *The Vision of Zacharias (Vision de Zacharie)*, c. 1886-1894, opaque watercolor over graphite on gray wove paper, Brooklyn Museum—Tissot's *The Vision of Zacharias* shows the moment Zechariah becomes a witness to God's unfolding promise. In the temple's quiet, the angel's message breaks in, turning long waiting into hope. Tissot captures Zechariah's awe as the first flicker of Christ's coming is announced.

MUSIC NOTES: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* by Winfred C. Douglas Music Harm. © 1943, 1961, 1985 Church Pension Fund All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *Angels We Have Heard on High* CCLI Song # 27721 Edward Shippen Barnes and James Chadwick © Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1121456 | *Prepare the Way, O Zion* arr. American Lutheran Hymnal 1930; Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-71489 | *We Will Feast In The House Of Zion* by Sandra McCracken and Josua Moore. © 2015 Integrity Worship Music | Paper News Publishing | joshmooreownsthisismusic or use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1121456

Congregational Meeting | Today | Following Both Services—The Session has called a Congregational Meeting following both worship services. The purpose of the meeting is to hear the report of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and to act on the committee’s recommendation of a candidate for the position of Associate Pastor for Discipleship. To learn more about the nominee, visit fpcnashville.org/darren.

Christmas Ceilidh and Tree Lighting | Today | 5:00 p.m.—Join us for a festive Ceilidh (pronounced kay-lee) and experience the warmth of a traditional Scottish and Irish gathering, complete with music, singing, and dancing. Festivities begin in the Enrichment Center with delicious Christmas Market treats, mulled cider, lively Celtic tunes, and Highland dancing. Then, follow the procession to the front of the Sanctuary for caroling and our beloved annual Christmas tree lighting. Special keepsake ornaments, crafted from the wood of our former tree, will be available for families to take home.

Parents Night Out | Dec. 5 | 5:00–8:00 p.m.—Kids ages 2–6th grade are invited to an evening of fun with movies, games, and dinner. The evening is \$20 per child and covers three hours of childcare and dinner. Registration closes December 2.

Advent Greenery Dedications | Submissions due Dec. 14—Memorialize or honor loved ones with a contribution to the Christmas Greenery Fund. Your donation helps purchase the décor beautifying our Sanctuary during the Christmas season. Dedications will be printed in the December 21 bulletin. To submit a dedication, visit fpcnashville.org/christmas-flowers. Last day to submit a dedication is December 14, 2025.

2026 Flower Slots Open—If you are interested in giving flowers for morning worship in honor or memory of a loved one, we have new dates for 2026 available. Check out your options online at fpcnashville.org/flowers. A birthdate or anniversary, new baby, or favorite time of year can all be great times to give.

MISSIONS

Warm Coats, Toys & Baby Formula | Collecting through Dec. 10.—We are collecting warm coats (sizes infant through adult large, new with tags), toys or books for children (infant through high school), and baby formula for infants. All donations will be distributed to Preston Taylor Ministries, Hope Clinic, Safe Haven, Legacy Mission Village, and Eli’s House. Questions? Contact Adrian Taylor at ataylor@fpcnashville.org.

Jamaica Mission Trip | Feb. 7–13, 2026 | Registration Closes Dec. 1—Join trip leader J.T. Martin for our church’s Jamaica mission trip. Register by December 1 at fpcnashville.org/jamaica. For more information, contact J.T. Martin at jt.martin@cbre.com.

GENERAL FUND GIVING SUMMARY

YTD AT OCT. 31, 2025

Actual \$3,711,971

Budget \$4,078,300

Variance (\$366,329)

While giving to date is below our projections, expenses have also been lower than expected, so our financial position remains stable. Many households choose to make their full pledge later in the year, and we have pledges yet to be received. We invite everyone to prayerfully consider the timing of your 2025 pledge and how you might participate in supporting our shared mission.

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.



Musical Christmas Gathering: How Great Our Joy

Tuesday, Dec. 9 | 10:30 a.m.

All are invited to a special Advent program—now called the Musical Christmas Gathering. The program generated so much excitement that the Presbyterian Women team decided to open it to everyone! How Great Our Joy! features soprano Rebekah Howell bringing her dynamic artistry to the role of Mary, accompanied by Amy Tate Williams and joined by FPC soloists and members of the Women's Chorale under the direction of Raphael Bundage. Enjoy beautiful music, Christmas carols, and fellowship as we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. Lunch (\$20) will follow in Courtenay Hall. Registration is required. Register at fpcnashville.org/advent.

First Friends

LOOKING FORWARD: FIRST FRIENDS

Registration required for all First Friends events. Register online or call Sally Ostheimer at 615-298-9502.

Charcuterie Board Designs

Wednesday, Dec. 10 | 10:00 a.m.

Lunch & Speaker Series: Christmas Potluck

Dec. 18 | 12:00 pm

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Sundays in Advent

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.