

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church of Nashville

December 10, 2025 | 6:30 p.m.

Advent Vesper Service

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

INTROIT

People, Look East
BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gage Arnold

Leader: The Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight. Behold, he is coming. Rejoice greatly! Shout in triumph!
All: Our King is coming; the righteous Savior, who shall speak peace to the nations.
Leader: Let us worship God.
All: Holy is God's Name!

*OPENING HYMN 88 | Verses 1-4

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
VENI EMMANUEL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Adrian Taylor

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us make our confession to God.
All: Lord, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming. Amen.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned. The penalty is paid.
All: Thanks be to God.

*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: 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.

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
IN DULCI JUBILO

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now we need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls us one and calls us all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Isaiah 53:1-6 (page 613)

¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION

Christ, Our Priest

Rev. Mallory Hammond

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hark the Glad Sound, the Savior Comes
RICHMOND



1. Hark the glad sound, the Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior prom - ised long; let
2. He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's bond - age held; the
3. He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing soul to cure, and
4. Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come shall pro - claim; and



ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a throne, and ev - 'ry voice a song.
gates of brass be - fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
with the trea - sures of his grace to en rich the hum - ble poor.
heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed name.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Sara Hill

*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. Come forward, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, and receive both elements together. The cup is juice and the bread is gluten-free.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain
Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world, lift up your voice, shout the good news: behold, your Lord comes to you. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will carry the lambs in his arms, he will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you. He who made the stars in the heaven, he who fashioned the earth and the sea, from time eternal he was God, the Alpha and Omega, he. Behold, your Lord! He will come in power and glory, he will rule with mercy and truth, hope of all the nations, light of all the world. He will love the little children, he will hold them in his arms. Love and trust him as a child. Behold, your Lord comes to you.

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 187

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us
BRADBURY

*CLOSING PRAYER

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

** Those who are able, please stand.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Mallory Hammond, MDiv – *Parish Associate, Director of Ministry to Children and Their Families*
Sara Hill, MDiv – *Parish Associate for Congregational Care*
Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*
Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Joseph Fala, MM – *Organist & Assistant Director of Music*
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Sundays in Advent

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. 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.

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 quiet worship, prayer, and Scripture, helping us slow down and rest in God's presence during a busy season. Together we turn our hearts toward the hope of Christ, the true Light of the world, whose coming brings peace and promise to all.

Christmas Eve | Wednesday, Dec. 24 | Sanctuary

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.

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 28 | 11:00 a.m. only | Sanctuary

We will celebrate the First Sunday of Christmas with one worship service only at 11:00 a.m. Nursery care will be available beginning at 10:45 a.m. Young Children & Worship will not be offered, but children are warmly invited to worship with their families.