



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church of Nashville

FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

*December 21, 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

*Wherever the Christmas Child is born in a heart, wherever Jesus begins his earthly life anew—that is where the life of God's love and of God's peace dawns again.*

—Emmy Arnold

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

## VOLUNTARY

*Bethlehem Carol Medley*  
arr. Eberhard Ramm

*In Dulci Jubilo*  
arr. Bernard Walker

## WELCOME

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Sidney Family (8:30)  
The McInteer Family (11:00)

Reader: We wait for light, and lo! there is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in gloom.

**All: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.**

Reader: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples.

**All: But the LORD will arise upon you, and nations shall come to your light.**

Reader: The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night.

**All: For the LORD will be your everlasting light and your God will be your glory.**

## INTROIT

*Ev'ry Valley Shall Be Exalted from Messiah*  
G. F. Handel

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. John Musgrave (8:30)  
Rev. Sara Hill (11:00)

Pastor: A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

**All: Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand.**

Pastor: We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.

**All: Come, let us worship God.**

## \*OPENING HYMN 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
ADESTE FIDELES

## \*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Adrian Taylor

<sup>1</sup> Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup> When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup> From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup> You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? <sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup> There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. <sup>8</sup> But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup> Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, you said that you are the Light of the World, yet we still refuse to let you into the darkest places of our lives. You said that you are the Good Shepherd, but we fail to follow where you lead. We are sheep that have gone astray. You said that you are the bread of life, but we seek out other things to satisfy us. You said that you are the Way, but we often make our own paths. You said that you are the Truth, but we find ways to deceive ourselves and others. You said that you are Life. Forgive us and help us to embrace the mercy, forgiveness, and grace that you offer us so that we can have an abundant life with you. In Jesus' name we pray.**

*A moment for silent confession.*

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### \*PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**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!**

---

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

‡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 128 (8:30)

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
POLISH FOLK MELODY

SONG OF PREPARATION (11:00)

*Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*  
John Rutter

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day; I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance; sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, this have I done for my true love. Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance thus was I knit to man's nature to call my true love to my dance. In a manger laid, and wrapped I was so very poor, this was my chance betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass to call my true love to my dance.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Luke 3:1-6 (page 858)

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

---

SERMON

**John the Baptist: Proclamation**

Dr. Ryan Moore

*"...and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." — Luke 3:6*

OFFERTORY

*Festival First Nowell*  
arr. Dan Forrest

The first Nowell the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light and so it continued both day and night. Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav'nly Lord that hath made heav'n and earth of nought, and with his blood mankind hath bought: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

*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](http://fpcnashville.org).*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Sandra Randleman

**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 119

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
MENDELSSOHN

\*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

*Joy to the World*  
arr. Bernard Walker

*\* Those who are able, please stand.*

---

## SYMPATHIES

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of

**Scott Alden**, who died December 17

**Charles Edgar "Eddie" Jones Jr.**, who died December 10.  
Visitation: Saturday, December 27 | 1:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall  
Service: Saturday, December 27 | 2:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

---

## 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 and Missions*  
John Musgrave, DMin – *Parish Associate*  
Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*  
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*  
*Acolytes* – Christopher Douse and Robert Douse, Sam Byram and Ward Byram  
*Musicians* – Jeff Bailey and Preston Bailey, Trumpet; Jennifer Kummer, French Horn; Prentiss Hobbs, Trombone; Neil Konouchi, Tuba; Joshua Hickman, Timpani; Greg Thomas, Tenor

## 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](http://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](http://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.

**MUSIC NOTES:** *Bethlehem Carol Medley* arr. Eberhard Ramm (c) 1997 Aardworks All rights reserved. CCS License #9151 | *In Dulci Jubilo* arr. Bernard Walker (c) 2003 Bernard Walker Music (ASCAP) All rights reserved. CCS License #9151 | *Joy to the World* arr. Bernard Walker (c) 2011 Bernard Walker Music (ASCAP) All rights reserved. CCS License #9151 | *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* – John Rutter © Oxford University Press (ASCAP) All rights reserved. CCS License #9151. | *Festival First Nowell* arr. Dan Forrest Music - ©2014 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895. *The First Noel* is given to the glory of God by Mary and Calvin Lewis.

**COVER IMAGE:** Lagrenée, Jean-Jacques. *La Prédication de saint Jean-Baptiste*. 1782. Oil on canvas, 232 × 168 cm. Musée de Grenoble, Grenoble, France.



# GREENERY DEDICATIONS

*The greenery adorning the church today is given to the glory of God*

## IN MEMORY OF

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Bo Adams                               | Dr. Richard B. Fort Jr.                        | Gene Berry Bryan McNair                     |
| Ann P. Alexander                       | Mr. & Mrs. Duncan M. Fort Jr.                  | David L. McQuiddy Jr.                       |
| William P. Alexander Jr.               | Mr. & Mrs. Duncan M. Fort Sr.                  | Dr. Clifton Meador                          |
| Mr. Woodrow Lincoln Amos               | Sandra St. Clair Franklin                      | Mr. & Mrs. George L. Nelson (Beulah Parson) |
| The Reverend Edison M. Amos            | Mary Martha McGaughy Geddie                    | Mr. Oren Oliver                             |
| Rosemary Wire Anderson                 | Roxie & Jim Gibson                             | Mrs. Mary Fort Oliver                       |
| May & William Wallace Anderson Jr.     | Paul Gilliland                                 | Matthew & Rosemary Pasquale                 |
| Sandy Ash                              | Mark S. Goodman                                | Keith & Janet Payne                         |
| Alice Ann Floyd Barge                  | James Gordy                                    | Harvey Phelps                               |
| John & Kay Barker                      | Dr. Purdue L. Gould                            | Dr. Bruce P'Pool Jr.                        |
| Joseph Bibb                            | Ruth M. Gould                                  | Alice & Denny Pryor                         |
| Celia F. & Richard D. Bird             | Joan & Charles Haden                           | Kathleen 'Sister' D. Pugh                   |
| Dr. John Benjamin Bond                 | John Richard Halvorsen                         | W. Robert & Emily Pugh                      |
| David C. Breast                        | Ronald Paul Halvorsen                          | Marjorie & Randy Randleman                  |
| Mr. & Mrs. John K. Breast Jr.          | Ernest Keesee 'Willie' Hardison III            | William Forester Richardson                 |
| Mr. & Mrs. Thomas B. Brindley          | Dr. Roland Hawkins                             | Jessie Wilson Ridenour                      |
| Priscilla H. Brown                     | Ann Glenn Hayes                                | Mr. & Mrs. Charles N. Rolfe III             |
| Mrs. Nell Scott Buice                  | Larry G. Hayes, Sr.                            | Ray R. Sansom                               |
| Robert Garner Burch                    | Colleen Heaston                                | HL & Margaret Saunders                      |
| Allison & Dr. Benjamin Byrd            | Mr. & Mrs. Price Wayne Hendricks               | Dr. John L. & Dr. Julia Edwards Sawyers     |
| Bertram Humble Chalfant Jr.            | Nancy Wayne Hendricks                          | Charles Cooper Self                         |
| Mr. & Mrs. Bertram H. Chalfant         | Dr. Lynwood & Mary A. Edwards Herrington       | Nelson Shields                              |
| Mary Rebecca Thompson Cherry           | Leonard Edwards Herrington                     | Patricia Shockley                           |
| Mr. Scott Clayton, CLU                 | George E. Hill                                 | Cessna Lynn Skaggs                          |
| Patricia & Jesse Colton                | Matt Hill                                      | Alden H. Smith Jr.                          |
| Leslie Oliver Cook                     | Dan Hogan                                      | Don L. Smith                                |
| Anne Courtenay                         | Mr. & Mrs. Hugh P. Hobbs                       | Gayle Elam Smith                            |
| Dr. & Mrs. Walter R. Courtenay (Emily) | Betty Horner                                   | Libbye Smith                                |
| Mrs. Maxine Crain Crocker              | Mr. Robert Baxter Jackson                      | Mrs. Virginia Easterday Smith               |
| The Honorable Mary Aikins Currie       | Samuel E. Jackson                              | Janet Stone                                 |
| James C. Dale III                      | Mr. & Mrs. Henry D. Jamison III (Eleanor Lacy) | Merrill Stone Jr.                           |
| James C. Dale IV                       | Mary Terhune Jarvis                            | Mr. & Mrs. Fred Tarkington                  |
| Stephens 'Steve' Lee Dalton            | Rev. William M. Jarvis                         | Mr. Ray Tarkington                          |
| Martha & Warren Deacon                 | Mrs. Ruth Crain Johnson                        | Mr. & Mrs. DeWitt C. Thompson III           |
| Melinda Doss                           | Mr. & Mrs. Paul P. Kunikoff                    | Mr. & Mrs. DeWitt C. Thompson Jr.           |
| Daniel Hawkins Draughn                 | Chris Evans Lambos                             | Greg Vest                                   |
| Marilyn McIntosh Draughn               | Myrtle Stanford Lambos                         | John Watson                                 |
| Mr. & Mrs. James R. Dunaway            | Teeny & Lawrence Lassiter                      | Mary Watson                                 |
| Anne Eatherly                          | Frances Bingham Liles                          | Dwight Webb III                             |
| Margaret Everhart Eckel                | Henry Jesse Liles                              | Catherine & Dwight Webb Jr.                 |
| Dr. Joe Michael Edwards                | Leo Lujan                                      | Mr. & Mrs. S. Hugh Welch                    |
| Dr. Leonard & Mary Hawkins Edwards     | Dr. & Mrs. Edward H. Mattingly                 | Gilbert & Evelyn Wesselkamper               |
| Dr. William H. Edwards                 | Dr. Jay E. Mattingly                           | Ann 'Boonie' Wiley                          |
| Norton 'Bub' McGaughy Edwards          | Doris Wilson McCall                            | Mr. & Mrs. David Wiley Sr.                  |
| Ervin Morgan & Jane Edwards Entrekin   | Joanne Wallace McCall                          | David Brian Williams                        |
| Dr. Bill D. Feltner                    | JoAnn Gregory McDaniel                         | David Wilson                                |
| Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Earl Feltner       | Romain Edward 'Mac' McDaniel III               | Mr. & Mrs. Robert Garner Wilson             |
| Mr. Clinton E. Feltner                 | Romain Edward McDaniel Jr.                     | Susan Wilson                                |
| Mr. & Mrs. Glendon M. Fisher Jr.       | Marion Majet McDougal                          | Willie Bussell Wilson                       |
| Mr. & Mrs. Joel B. Fort                | Mr. William Cuthbert McDougal Jr.              | Sue Ann Wolf                                |
| Mr. & Mrs. Richard B. Fort             | Norton Brown & Frances Nuckols McGaughy        |   |
| Marion Woodard Fort                    | Charles E. McKay III                           |   |

## IN HONOR OF

Martha Lou Deacon

Carter Yagemann

Jacqueline Yagemann

---

**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](mailto:erichmond@fpcnashville.org) or 615-298-9570.

**Holiday Office Hours**—Please note that the church office will be closed all day on Thursday, December 25, and Friday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday. For the new year, the office will close at noon on Wednesday, December 31, and will be closed on Thursday, January 1, and Friday, January 2, for New Years.

**Epiphany Bonfire & Bowl Game | Sunday, Jan. 4 | 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.”

**2026 Flowers**—If you are interested in giving flowers for morning worship in honor or memory of a loved one, 2026 dates are available. Check out your options online at [fpcnashville.org/flowers](http://fpcnashville.org/flowers). A birthdate or anniversary, new baby, or favorite time of year can all be great times to give.

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

### Longest Night Service (New)

**Today | 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.

## 2025 YEAR-END GIVING

As 2025 draws to a close, this is a great time to make a tax-deductible year-end contribution to First Presbyterian Church. There are many ways to give, each suited to different financial situations:

- **Cash, check, or credit card gifts:** You can place cash or check in the offering plate, mail a check to the church, or give online via credit card or bank transfer on our website at [fpcnashville.org/give](http://fpcnashville.org/give).
- **Stock Donations:** Please contact Mary Russ, Contributions & Donor Relations, at [mruss@fpcnashville.org](mailto:mruss@fpcnashville.org).
- **IRA Gifts:** Members over 70½ years old can give directly from an IRA by contacting the institution that manages the IRA.

All cash, check, and credit card gifts must be made to the church by December 31 at noon. As a reminder, the church office will be closed on December 25 and 26, and will close at noon on December 31, so please plan accordingly.

If you still need to fulfill your 2025 commitment, please do so by the end of the year. Also, it’s not too late to make a pledge for 2026. Visit [fpcnashville.org/give](http://fpcnashville.org/give) for more information. Thank you for your generous support of FPC.