

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church of Nashville

December 21, 2025 | 6:30 p.m.

Longest Night Service

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

\*HYMN 144

*In the Bleak Midwinter*  
CRANHAM

PRAYER

Gage Arnold

SCRIPTURE READING | Psalm 130 (page 518)

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! <sup>2</sup> O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! <sup>3</sup> If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O LORD, who could stand? <sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. <sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; <sup>6</sup> my soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. <sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. <sup>8</sup> And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

SOLO

*I Wonder as I Wander*  
John Jacob Niles

SCRIPTURE READING | Lamentations 3:18-26 (page 688)

Rev. Mallory Hammond

<sup>18</sup> So I say, "My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the LORD." <sup>19</sup> Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! <sup>20</sup> My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. <sup>21</sup> But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup> "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." <sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. <sup>26</sup> It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

SOLO

*Sometimes a Light Surprises*  
William Cowper

SCRIPTURE READING | Hosea 2:21-23 (page 752)

Adrian Taylor

<sup>21</sup> "And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD, I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth, <sup>22</sup> and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil, and they shall answer Jezreel, <sup>23</sup> and I will sow her for myself in the land. And I will have mercy on No Mercy, and I will say to Not My People, 'You are my people'; and he shall say, 'You are my God.'"

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SOLO

*Nothing but a Child*  
Steve Earle

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MEDITATION

Rev. Sara Hill

SOLO

*I Cannot Tell Why He Whom Angels Worship*  
William Young Fullerton

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Dr. Ryan Moore

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

HYMN 129

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*  
ES IST EIN' ROS'

HYMN 110

*Love Has Come*  
BRING A TORCH

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.**

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\*HYMN 122

*Silent Night, Holy Night!*  
STILLE NACHT

*Soloist will sing one verse in Gaelic; the congregation joins on verses 1-3, below.*

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
'Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:  
Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

\*BENEDICTION

*After the benediction, you are invited to come forward and light a candle as a reminder that  
Christ is our light. You may stay and pray; pastors are available for individual prayer.*

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*  
Kathleen Thomerson

SENDING MUSIC

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

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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*  
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*  
John Mock, Instrumentalist  
Cathy Maguire, Soloist

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## SPECIAL GUESTS



John Mock has worked in Nashville throughout the music business as a multi-instrumentalist/producer/arranger since 1985. Studio and live credits include James Taylor, the Dixie Chicks, Rodney Crowell, Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, Dolly Parton, Randy Travis, Sylvia, Kathy Mattea, Nanci Griffith, Tim O'Brien, Mark O'Connor, Gretchen Peters, Maura O'Connell, Lady Antebellum, Martina McBride, Sara Evans, and many others. The Dixie Chicks performed his arrangement of *The Star Spangled Banner* at Super Bowl XXXVII, and he co-wrote and recorded the score to the recent SONY/Affirm film *All Saints*.



Cathy Maguire is currently based between NYC and Nashville, she has become the go-to performer for national events. She is a regular guest in St Patrick's Cathedral in New York and is frequently called upon to represent Ireland and its rich musical heritage on historic occasions. A songwriter, singer, performer and TV presenter, she possesses a unique ability to connect with an audience in an authentic and empathetic way.

*I want people to leave my shows feeling seen, uplifted and positive. Music is a gift from God that transcends borders and is an expression of emotion that has the power to heal and to create instant communities and bonds.* —Cathy Maguire

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

### 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.