



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

CHRISTMAS EVE
COMMUNION SERVICE

December 24, 2025

11:00 p.m.



To know Christ, to make Him known and to exhibit His love through worship, education and service.

WORDS OF PREPARATION

To wish it were always Christmas Eve would be weakly sentimental: thank God that the pilgrim road of our redemption leads past the stable and the manger—to Galilee, to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, to the empty tomb of death's defeat and the incomparable victory of love.

—James S. Stewart

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Noël: Tous les Bourgeois de Châtres
Claude Balbastre

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen
Johannes Brahms

Adeste Fideles
Jeanne Demessieux

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Keith Chapman

O Holy Night
CANTIQUE DE NOEL

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born! Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand. So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, there came the wise men from Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger; in all our trials born to be our friend. He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger. Behold your King; before him lowly bend! Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace. Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy name. Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Once in Royal David's City
IRBY

Soloist

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

All

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**For he is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew:
and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

*LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

Rev. Sara Hill

Pastor: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

All: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

Pastor: O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory, the mighty Word, sustaining the universe: Renew our lives by your presence.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time for the liberation of all creation: Release all into your promised freedom.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem: May your church be a sign of hope and joy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of their expectations: Fulfill our desires in you.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, child of wonder and splendor, mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace: May the whole world live in peace and justice.

All: Lord, have mercy.

A moment for silent prayer

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Mallory Hammond

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you sent a star to guide the Magi to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world or trusted your good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt and renew in us a singular desire for Christ, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
MENDELSSOHN

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Nicene Creed

Gage Arnold

**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.

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.

SCRIPTURE READING | Luke 2:1-7 (page 857)

Adrian Taylor

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MEDITATION

Where God Was Born

Dr. Ryan Moore

And Joseph also went up...to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem...—Luke 2:4

OFFERTORY

Bethlehem Skies
Dara Joy Maclean

Dry your eyes the King is come, death has lost and victory won. You were born to change it all, a warrior though frail and small. Just a baby sleeping in a manger, all the world was waiting for you to come. Holy, holy silent night, peace has come to all mankind. All of this with me in mind under Bethlehem skies. Oh the role you came to play, born to give your life away. Soon you'll set the captives free, but tonight's about your welcoming. I will listen, hear the angels singing, "Glory in the highest the Lord has come." "Holy, holy," hear the angels sing, "Come now our King!"

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.

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. As 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.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven
Keith & Kristyn Getty

Jesus, joy of the highest heaven, born as a little baby under a wondrous star. Like us, crying, he takes his first breath, held by his mother, helpless, close to her beating heart. Jesus, laid in a lowly manger, facing a world of dangers, come to turn me, a stranger, into a child of God. Jesus, King of the highest heaven, learning to take his first steps, that he might bring us life. Like us, knowing our smiles and sorrows, he showed the way to follow, a way that is true and right. Jesus, take away every darkness, steady my simple footsteps, that I might in your goodness live as a child of God.

COMMUNION HYMN

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt
MANGER SONG

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred,
but there is room and welcome there for me,
but there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
Sweet newborn babe, how frail, and in a manger bed,
a still, small voice to cry one day for me,
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how love was born, and burned
its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,
to die, to live, and not alone for me,
to die, to live, and not alone for me?

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.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF CHRISTMAS

Please tilt your candle toward your neighbor's lit candle, as we share the light of Christ.

HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night
STILLE NACHT

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; 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; 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, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Please extinguish your candle after the singing of Silent Night.

*CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World
ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonder, wonders of his love.**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Carillon de Westminster
Louis Vierne

** 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*
Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*
Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*
Joseph Fala, MM – *Assistant Director of Music and Organist*
Claire Paschal, Soprano
Stephen King, Guitar and Vocals

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.



MUSIC NOTES: *Prelude on Two Old French Noels* by Claude Balbastre - ©1943 H W Gray OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *Adeste fidelis* from *12 Chorale Preludes on Gregorian Chant Themes, op. 8* by Jeanne Demessieux © 1995 Alfred Sacred OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* by Keith Chapman, © 2009 Alfred Sacred All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *Bethlehem Skies* by Dara Joy Maclean © 2012 Upsurge Music LLC; Razor and Tie Music Publishing; Curb Word Music For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1121456 | *Jesus Joy of the Highest Heaven* by Keith Getty and Kristyn Getty © 2011 Getty Music Publishing For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1121456 | *Carillon de Westminster* ©1927 Theodore Presser by Louis Vierne OneLicense.net License #A-714895

COVER IMAGE: Michel, Jean-Baptiste, after Carlo Cignani. *The Nativity*. 1780. Stipple engraving printed in red. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Have You Made Your Pledge?—While year-end giving helps us manage our current year finances, the 2026 Stewardship Campaign helps us plan a fully-funded budget for 2026. So far, we are 84% toward our \$5.2 million goal, with 422 households pledging \$4,391,923. If you haven't submitted your pledge yet, please do so online, by mail, or in the offering plate. Your pledge is vital for planning a fully-funded budget and sustaining FPC's ministries in 2026.

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."

Early Preschool Applications Open | Applications Accepted through Dec. 31—The Early Preschool is now accepting applications for the upcoming school year for children 18 months to 4 years.

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 or 615-298-9570.

Feel Called to Share Your Voice in Song?—Sanctuary Singers, launched this fall, is an intergenerational choir for teens and adults that sings in select services. Many have seen them in recent worship services and now is a great time to join. The choir is teaching-focused, friendly for amateur singers, and designed with flexibility in mind. Led by Joey Fala, it's designed so you can drop in as your schedule allows—learn a song, sing when you can, take a break, and rejoin later.

Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Interested in joining? Contact Joey Fala at jfala@fpcnashville.org.

Adult Sunday School—Reconnect, grow, and explore your faith this winter! Adult Sunday School classes resume in January during the 9:45 a.m. Education Hour (exact start date may vary by class). It's a great time to try something new or revisit a favorite class. Questions about which class is right for you, or about exact start dates? Contact Julia Wilk at jwilk@fpcnashville.org or 615-298-9509. Classes include:

Bible & Coffee | Jones Session Room
Cornerstone | Vance Hall
Current Issues | L-200
Discipleship | Witherspoon Room
Fellowship | Memorial Library | 10:00 a.m.
Good News | L-207
June Ramsey | Cheek House Living Room
Life Together | L-203
Logos | Stanford Chapel | 10:00 a.m.
Young Adults | Cheek House Breakfast Room.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

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.