



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2025
2:00 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

VOLUNTARY

Prelude on "Once in Royal David's City"
Frederick Candlyn

WELCOME

INTROIT

Christmas Introit
Henry G. Ley

Behold! I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord, Halleluia!

*CHRISTMAS PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High
GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.**

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain***

The First Noel
THE FIRST NOEL

**The first Noel the angel 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.**

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, 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. *Refrain***

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

*LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

Rev. Mallory Hammond

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

Gage Arnold

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

Adrian Taylor

**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)

Jane Smith

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

A Joyous Christmas Song

F.A. Gevaert

Jesus gentle babe, Saviour sweet and holy, born on Christmas night, laid in manger lowly; shepherds first by angels led, worship round that humble bed, then in adoration, bringing their oblation, myrrh and frankincense and gold, sages gifts unfold. For this Child, meek and mild, is the King of kings foretold. The angels in chorus sweet have sung Noel! Let earth's gladsome voice repeat the song they swell! Noel! Sing we all Noel! Lowly meek and tender, veiling heav'nly splendor in that manger stall; lamblike there reposing, heav'nly love disclosing, bringing peace to all. Jesus gentle babe, taught by mother mild learnt to lisp a prayer, e'en as any child learnt his infant voice to raise joyfully to God in praise and in accents tender, tunefully to render holy song and carol sweet, for an off'ring meet so we may day by day follow in his holy way. The angels in chorus sweet have sung Noel! Let earth's gladsome voice repeat the song they swell! Noel! Come my soul with gladness, banish fear and sadness, now no longer mourn; for, to earthly mother, Jesus Christ thy brother, Christ the Lord is born. The angels in chorus sweet have sung Noel! Let earth's gladsome voice repeat the song they swell! Noel! Sing we all Nowell!

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

O Holy Night
CANTIQUE DE NOEL

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining 'til 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. O night, O holy night, O night divine! 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, here come 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. 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 power and glory evermore proclaim. His power and glory evermore proclaim.

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!"

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 134

Joy to the World
ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their 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 wonders, wonders of his love.**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

A Carol
Roland F. Martin

Once for a shining hour heav'n touched earth. Hope was born anew, and peace reigned in the world.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Noel, Grand Jeu et Duo
Louis-Claude D'Aquin

** 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*
Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*
Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*
Stephen King — *Guitar and Vocals*
Musicians – Claire Paschal, Sara Crigger, Kevin Salter, Miles Troxler
Acolytes – Jay Ekiss and Louisa Ekiss

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.



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.

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.”

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.

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.
- **Stock Donations:** Please contact Mary Russ, Contributions & Donor Relations, at 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 for more information. Thank you for your generous support of FPC.

MUSIC NOTES: *Prelude on “Once in Royal David’s City”* from Two Christmas Preludes by Frederick Candlyn (C) (ASCAP) CCS License #9151. | *A Carol* by Roland F. Martin (c) St. James Music Press All rights reserved. | *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

COVER IMAGE: El Greco (Domenikos Theotokopoulos). *The Adoration of the Shepherds*. ca. 1605–10. Oil on canvas. Rogers Fund, 1905, The Metropolitan Museum of Art.—The Christ child received in a place of humility, where God enters our world to dwell with us – Just as he meets us at the table.