



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

CHRISTMAS EVE
JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

December 24, 2025

4:00 p.m.



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

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose Is Growing
Michael Burkhardt

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
Wilbur Held

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

Dr. Ryan Moore

ANTHEM

O Come, Little Children
Johann A.P. Schulz | arr. Mark Patterson

O come, little children, O come, one and all to Bethlehem's stable, in Bethlehem's stall, and see with rejoicing this glorious sight. Our Father in heaven has sent us this night. O see in the manger in hallowed light a star throws its beam on this holiest sight. In clean swaddling clothes lies the heavenly child, more lovely than angels this baby so mild. O come, little children, O come, one and all to Bethlehem's stable in Bethlehem's stall. As Mary and Joseph smile on him with love the angels are singing sweet songs from above.

*OPENING 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.**

**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.**

THE ANNUNCIATION

THE JOURNEY

ANTHEM

Little Donkey
Eric Boswell

Little donkey, little donkey on the dusty road, got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load. Been a long time, little donkey through the winter's night, don't give up now, little donkey, Bethlehem's in sight. Ring out those bells tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem. Follow that star tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem. Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day. Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way. Little donkey, little donkey, journey's end is near, there are wise men waiting for a sign to bring them here. Do not falter, little donkey, there's a star ahead; it will guide you, little donkey, to a cattle shed. Ring out those bells tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem. Follow that star tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem. Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day. Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.

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 meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**Jesus 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 feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

THE SHEPHERDS SEARCH

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**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!"**

THE STABLE

HYMN

What Child Is This?
GREENSLEEVES

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?**

Refrain:

***This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!***

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain***

HYMN

Away in a Manger
MUELLER

Soloist

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

All

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

THE WISE MEN

HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are
KINGS OF ORIENT

All

**We three kings of orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

Refrain:

***O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!***

Soloist

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. *Refrain*

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. *Refrain*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

At this time, children may come forward with their offering to the manger

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.

OFFERTORY

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.

HYMN

The First Nowell
THE FIRST NOWELL

**The first Nowell 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:

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. *Refrain***

**And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain***

**This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain***

**Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain***

**Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. *Refrain***

WORSHIP THE KING

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF CHRISTMAS

Please tilt your unlit candle toward your neighbor's lit candle as we spread 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.**

Please extinguish your candle after the singing of Silent Night.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Variations on 'Personent Hodie'
Robert J. Powell

* *Those who are able, please stand.*

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



PAGEANT ASSISTANTS

Daphne Garey – *Music Assistant*
Stephen King – *Sound*
Mallory Hammond – *Director*
Catherine Martin – *Cast Assistant*
Heather Moore – *Cast Assistant*
Ashland Arnold – *Mission Project Assistant*
Valerie Duncan – *Props Assistant*
Caroline Ramsey – *Costume Assistant*
Katie Higgins – *Assistant Director*

Avery Sernett – *Angel Choir Assistant*
Kevin Salter – *Angel Choir Director*
JT Martin – *Lighting*
Rhonda Swanson – *Organ*
Joey Fala – *Piano*
Claire Paschal – *Soprano*
Ryan Bede – *Bass*
Jane Jagar – *Violin prelude*
Elyse Cahill – *Organ prelude*

ANGEL CHOIR

Kathryn Leigh Barrett
Sally Brackin
Caroline Cahill
Crea Coley
Wiley Coley
Henry Cotter
Caroline Cox
Parker Cox
Reese Garvey

Hal Hagemeyer
Grace Jagar
Jane Jagar
Molly Marshall
Mary Moss McInteer
Georgia Moore
Evans Pettus
Annie Prevost
Lily B. Rixie

Billie Sernett
Millie Van Pernis
Mirette Van Pernis
Rudy Van Pernis
Remy Woodward

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COVER IMAGE: *His Gospel is Peace*, 12" x 12" Hand-cut mixed media collage on wood panel in 3 inch acrylic box frame by Meghean Warner. Permission to use on today's bulletin cover by Meghean Warner.

CAST

PASTOR Ryan Moore	INNKEEPERS Elizabeth Grace McInteer Elaine Morgan Attie Stanley	SHEEP John Knox Barrett Wright Billings Winnie Byram Hallie Cain Ben Dalrymple Madelyn Dalton Hattie Dalton Loch Danieley Lip Davis Robert Douse George Garvey Nate Gomes Minnie Hagemeyer Lowell Hagemeyer Thomas Haimberger Jane Hannon Lee Hannon Eliza Linebach Grant Linebach Mary Callaway McWilliams Marit Montgomery Betsy Osborne Jonathan Paschal Kenny Prevost John Prevost Rob Pritchett Hudson Ragan Harlan Ragan	Miller Ragan Margaret Rolfe Zoe Schwall Russell Schwall Grace Teague Louise Tipton Charlie Tipton Charlotte Townsend Margot Ward
NARRATORS Mojza Ajmal Jeb Burton Christopher Douse Evelyn Ison Hazel Johnsen Adah McInteer Maddie Montgomery Meyer Montgomery Jack Morgan Mary Lee Morrison Charlotte Osborne Penn Prevost Livia Vargas Watts Ward	STARS Andrew Barrett Mary Margaret Benton William Benton Annie Brackin Tommy Christenberry Ruth Holets Weezie McWilliams Mary Jennings Ragan Anne Walker Rolfe Phoebe Arnold Shiloh Arnold Harriette Billings Brooks Cain Andrew Cotter Betty Dalrymple JJ Gomes Alex Haimberger Stella Kalb Winn Pritchett Mary Claire Ragan Knox Swayze Edward Tipton Jr. Jane Catherine Townsend	CAMEL Kennedy Conyers Sophie O'Keefe	SHEPHERDS Powell Byram Sam Byram Ward Byram Johnny Corn Rush Corn James Martin Jr. Jonah Moore James Morrison Lamar Stanley Brooks Ward Campbell Grace Ward
MARY Mary Lindley Hubbard			WISE MEN Liam Burton Elijah Moore Miles Troxler
JOSEPH Matthew Hubbard			
BABY JESUS James Hubbard			
DONKEY Libby Burton			
GABRIEL Lila Bess Vargas			

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.

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.

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.

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.”

VBS Save the Date | Jun. 23-25—Children aged 4 through rising 4th grade are invited for Bible stories, skits, music, crafts and games. Families will gather at 5:00 p.m. for an optional dinner, and the VBS program will begin each night at 5:45 p.m.

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.

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.