



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

FIRST SUNDAY
OF CHRISTMAS
December 28, 2025
11:00 a.m.



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

WORDS OF PREPARATION

*Later
 after the angels,
 after the stable,
 after the child,
 they went back...
 as we always must,
 Back to the world that doesn't understand
 our talk of angels and stars
 and especially not the Child.
 We go back complaining that it doesn't last.
 They went back singing praises to God!
 We do have to go back,
 but we can still sing the alleluias!*
 —from *Kneeling in Bethlehem* by Ann Weems

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

What Is This Lovely Fragrance?
 Paul Manz

WELCOME

INTROIT

Love Has Come
 BRING A TORCH

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises. Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Glory to God on high.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adrian Taylor

Pastor: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

All: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

Pastor: That we may learn God's ways and walk in God's path. Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
 IN DULCI JUBILO

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

²² The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, ²⁴ The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. ²⁷ “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High
GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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.

‡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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF CHILD

Stuart and Audrey Singleton are presenting their son, Sterling Scott Singleton, for baptism.
Assisting Elder: Mary Earthman

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE BAPTISM

HYMN OF PREPARATION 156

Sing of God Made Manifest
SALZBURG

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Psalm 91 (page 497)

¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” ³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. ⁴ He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. ⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, ⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. ⁸ You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. ⁹ Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—¹⁰ no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. ¹² On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. ¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. ¹⁴ “Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. ¹⁵ When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Benevolent Detachment

Rev. Sara Hill

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble. —Psalm 91:15

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter
Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Enough for him, whom cherubim, worship night and day, breastful of milk, and a manger full of hay; enough for him, whom angels fall before, the ox and ass and camel which adore. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

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.

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 149

All Hail to God's Anointed
ROCKPORT

*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

In dir ist Freude, BWV 615
J. S. Bach

** Those who are able, please stand.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Sara Hill, MDiv – *Parish Associate for Congregational Care*
Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions*
Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Joseph Fala, MM – *Assistant Director of Music and Organist*
Acolytes – Lauren Pitman and Ryan Pitman

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Edgar (Eddie) Jones, Jr.

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 fpnashville.org, or scan the QR code.



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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.

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.

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 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.

Holiday Office Hours—Please note that the church office will close at noon on Wednesday, December 31, and will be closed Thursday, January 1, and Friday, January 2, for New Year.

Room In The Inn—As we welcome guests each Wednesday through March, we especially need help in two crucial areas: overnight hosts (men only) and site coordinators. These roles ensure we can continue offering safe, warm hospitality. Questions? Contact Kevin Hughart at khughart@fpcnashville.org

Service Project with Nueva Vida | Second Tuesdays | 4:30–7:30 p.m.—Help pack and distribute food to our neighbors in need through the Nueva Vida Food Project. Tasks include sorting, stocking shelves, and offering a friendly smile. We are looking for up to 5 volunteers for each date: January 13, February 10, March 10. Register at fpcnashville.org/missions.

Ski Retreat | Jan. 23–25—Escape to the mountains with us! In the middle of a busy school year, a weekend away gives students space to breathe, connect, and grow. All 7th–12th graders are invited to our Ski Retreat at Beech Mountain, North Carolina! We'll depart after school on Friday and return Sunday afternoon, after a weekend full of skiing, worship, laughter, teaching, and time with friends in God's creation. Register at fpcnashville.org/ski.

Spring Soccer Registration | Opens Thursday, Jan. 1—Early Registration runs January 1–23, and Late Registration is January 24–30. Game days are Saturdays: March 28, April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, and 16, with May 23 as a rain makeup date if needed. Soccer is open to boys and girls ages 3 years through rising 4th graders. Register at fpcnashville.org/soccer.

Presbyterian Women Handiwork Drop-In | Monday, Jan. 5 | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Memorial Library—All women who enjoy portable handiwork (knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, cross stitch, etc.) are invited to join us on the first Monday of each month. Bring your current handiwork project and we will enjoy Christian fellowship, build community, and work on our respective crafts.

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. Apply today at fpcnashville.org/ep.

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.



VISIT LINKTR.EE/FPCNASHVILLE TO REGISTER, DONATE, OR LEARN MORE

