



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
December 7, 2025
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.



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

WORDS OF PREPARATION

Was there a moment, known only to God, when all the stars held their breath, when the galaxies paused in their dance for a fraction of a second, and the Word, who had called it all into being, went with all his love into the womb of a young girl, and the universe started to breathe again, and the ancient harmonies resumed their song, and the angels clapped their hands for joy?

—Madeleine L'Engle

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel herunter, BWV 650
J. S. Bach

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Baron, Flanagin & Montgomery Families (8:30)
The Overton Family (11:00)

Reader: Prepare the way of the Lord. We light this candle in love, the love that Jesus, our Savior, has for us.

All: Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.

Reader: As we enter this season of Advent, may the love of God the Father, and the grace of Jesus the Son, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be and abide with us all.

All: Amen!

INTROIT

People, Look East
BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. John Musgrave (8:30)
Gage Arnold (11:00)

Leader: The mighty God summons the earth from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets.

All: Our God comes and will not be silent. God calls, and we respond to his love.

Leader: The heavens declare God's righteousness.

All: We tell out God's glories!

Leader: Offer up to God your thanksgiving.

All: And our God will hear us, save us, and stay with us forever. The Triune God is great, and worthy to be praised!

*OPENING HYMN

Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord
WOODLANDS



1. Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord:
2. Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his name:
3. Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his might:
4. Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word:



un - num - bered bless - ings give my spir - it voice;
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
pow'rs and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by;
firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord



in God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - joice.
his ho - ly name, the Lord, the Might - y One.
the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
to chil - dren's chil - dren and for - ev - er - more.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

FIRST LESSON | Luke 1:46-55 (page 856)

Chandler Telfer (8:30)
Trevor Howell (11:00)

⁴⁶ And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Magnificat
A. Herbert Brewer

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generation shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm. He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers Abraham and his seed, for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Mallory Hammond (8:30)
Rev. Sara Hill (11:00)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

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.

HYMN OF PREPARATION 129

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Luke 1:26-38 (page 855)

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Mary: Humble Surrender

Dr. Ryan Moore

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." —Luke 1:30

OFFERTORY

O Magnum Mysterium
Morten Lauridsen

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, iacentem in praeseptio! Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Iesum Christum. Alleluia!

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger!
Blessed is the virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

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

Adrian Taylor

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 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
HYFRYDOL

*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

Magnificat primi toni, BuxWV 203
Dieterich Buxtehude

SYMPATHIES

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of

Jimmy Deece Morrison, who died November 26.

Visitation: Wednesday, Dec. 10 | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Cheek House

Service: Wednesday, Dec. 10 | 11:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

** 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*

John Musgrave, DMin – *Parish Associate*

Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*

Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*

Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*

Joseph Fala, MM – *Assistant Director of Music and Organist*

Acolytes – Graham Swafford and Kennedy Swafford, Caroline Cahill and Elyse Cahill

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.



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.

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COVER IMAGE: Alesso di Benozzo, *The Annunciation*, ca. late 15th–early 16th century.

Musical Christmas Gathering | Tuesday, Dec. 9 | 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary—*How Great Our Joy!* features soprano Rebekah Howell bringing her dynamic artistry to the role of Mary, accompanied by Amy Tate Williams and joined by FPC soloists and Women’s Chorale under the direction of Raphael Bundage. Registration for lunch is now closed, but we’re sharing this reminder that the music program begins at 10:30 a.m. All are still warmly invited to attend the concert portion—even if you didn’t register for lunch. Hosted by Presbyterian Women.

Staff Christmas Party | Thursday, Dec. 1 | Office Closes at 12:30 p.m.—If you need assistance, please reach out before noon, and we’ll be glad to help. We’ll resume normal office hours the following day. Thank you for your understanding and for helping us make space for our staff to gather, reflect, and enjoy this season together.

Advent Greenery Dedications | Submissions due Dec. 14—Memorialize or honor loved ones with a contribution to the Christmas Greenery Fund. Your donation helps purchase the décor beautifying our Sanctuary during the season. Dedications will be printed in the Dec. 21 bulletin. To submit a dedication, visit fpcnashville.org/christmas-flowers by Dec. 14.

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.”

2026 Flowers—If you are interested in giving flowers for morning worship in honor or memory of a loved one, 2026 are available. Find available dates online at fpcnashville.org/flowers.

MISSIONS

Warm Coats, Toys & Baby Formula | Collecting through Dec. 10—We are collecting warm coats (sizes infant through adult large, new with tags), toys or books for children (infant through high school), and baby formula for infants. All donations will be distributed to Preston Taylor Ministries, Hope Clinic, Safe Haven, Legacy Mission Village, and Eli’s House. Questions? Contact Adrian Taylor at ataylor@fpcnashville.org.

Room In The Inn—As we welcome guests each Wednesday through March, help is needed 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.

CHILDREN

Christmas Pageant—The Journey to Bethlehem Christmas Pageant is at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve! If your child would like to participate, we have two simple, joy-filled roles available: Sheep (no lines—just adorable baa-ing!) and Angels (part of our Angel Choir). Rehearsals are Sundays, Dec. 7 and 14 following the 11:00 service, and the dress rehearsal is Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2:30–4:30 p.m. Questions? Contact Mallory Hammond at mhammond@fpcnashville.org.

Sunday School Christmas Parties | Sunday, Dec. 21 | 9:45 a.m.—On this final Sunday School of Advent, children will gather with their Sunday School groups for a joyful morning celebrating the arrival of Jesus. Kids will enjoy special songs, crafts, and a festive, party-like atmosphere. We hope your children will join us for this special Sunday.

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. Soccer is open to boys and girls ages 3 years through rising 4th graders. Register at fpcnashville.org/soccer.

YOUTH & COLLEGE

Youth Christmas Parties | Today | 9:45 a.m. | Gathering Place—Youth (7th-12th grade) will join others in their grade level for festivities and a white elephant gift exchange. Bring a \$5 white elephant gift!

College Christmas Gathering | Wednesday, Dec. 17 | 6:00 p.m. | Elrod home—College students home for winter break will gather for their annual Christmas party with the youth staff. Dinner is provided. For more information, contact Gage Arnold at garnold@fpcnashville.org.

FIRST FRIENDS

Register online or contact Sally Ostheimer (sostheimer@fpcnashville.org | 615-298-9551). For more information, visit fpcnashville.org/first-friends.

December Luncheon: Christmas Potluck | Thursday, Dec. 18 | 12:00 p.m.—Join First Friends for a Christmas Potluck Luncheon with music by the Jazz Band from John Overton High School. The church will provide ham, drinks, and desserts. Please bring a side dish based on the first letter of your last name: A–G vegetables, H–M salads, N–S Pasta, T–Z breads.

YTD AT OCT. 31, 2025

Actual \$3,711,971
 Budget \$4,078,300
 Variance (\$366,329)

GENERAL FUND GIVING SUMMARY

While giving to date is below our projections, expenses have also been lower than expected, so our financial position remains stable. Many households choose to make their full pledge later in the year, and we have pledges yet to be received. We invite everyone to prayerfully consider the timing of your 2025 pledge and how you might participate in supporting our shared mission.



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 at fpcnashville.org/give.
- **Stock Donations:** Please contact Mary Russ, Contributions & Donor Relations, at mruess@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 Wednesday, 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 24 and 31, so please plan accordingly. If you still need to fulfill your 2025 commitment, please do so by the end of the year. Visit fpcnashville.org/give for more information.

Have You Made Your Pledge?

While year-end giving (above) helps us manage our current year finances, the 2026 Stewardship Campaign helps us plan a fully-funded budget for 2026. So far, we are 76% toward our \$5.2 million goal, with 394 households pledging \$3,959,185. 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.

Thank you for your faithful support!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Sundays in Advent

Dec. 14 | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | *Christmas Music Sunday*

Dec. 21 | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | *Brass Ensemble*

Advent Vespers & Communion

Wednesdays, Dec. 10 & 17 | 6:30 p.m. | Stanford Chapel

Join us on Wednesday evenings for worship, hymns, and communion as we watch and wait for the Incarnation.

These services will prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Christ's birth.

Longest Night Service *(New)*

Sunday, Dec. 21 | 6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

On the longest night of the year, we gather to remember that even in the darkness, God's light does not fail. This reflective service offers space for quiet worship, prayer, and Scripture, helping us slow down and rest in God's presence during a busy season. Together we turn our hearts toward the hope of Christ, the true Light of the world, whose coming brings peace and promise to all.

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.

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