

would for you yearn, you will show your might. Put the strong to flight for the world is about to turn. My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn! From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more for the food they can never earn. There are tables spread; ev'ry mouth be fed for the world is about to turn. My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn! Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast. God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that out forebears: heard is the promise which holds us bound 'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God who is turning the world around. My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

SEVENTH LESSON John 1:1-15

John proclaims the coming of Jesus, who is anointed by his Father to bring the good news of the Gospel.

CAROL My Song in the Night Elaine Hagenberg

O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night, come to us with thy tender love, my soul's delight. Unto Thee, O Lord, in affliction I call, my comfort by day, and my song in the night. O why should I wander, a stranger from Thee, or cry in the desert, Thy face to see? My comfort and joy, my soul's delight, O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night.

***CLOSING HYMN** Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending 348

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Church Sonata No. 4 in D Wolfgang Mozart
String Quartet and Organ

*Please stand if you are able.



STRING QUARTET

Violin - Gordon Tsai, Iliia Steinschneider, Viola - Jennifer Bloch,
Cello - Ildar Khuziakhmetov

WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville. We have been part of the downtown Knoxville community since 1792. We embrace people from all walks of life and seek to share our spiritual journey with our community. We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are delighted that you have joined us in worship today.

To learn more about us, please make a note on the Friendship Pad, sign up for our Thursday newsletter, or connect with us at fpcknox.org, via the QR code to the right, or through social media.



Hearing enhancement devices and large print hymnals are available for use during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

OFFERING

You may place your offering in the offering plates when they are passed, or you are invited to give securely online at www.fpcknox.org/donate or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone.



STAFF AND LEADERS IN WORSHIP

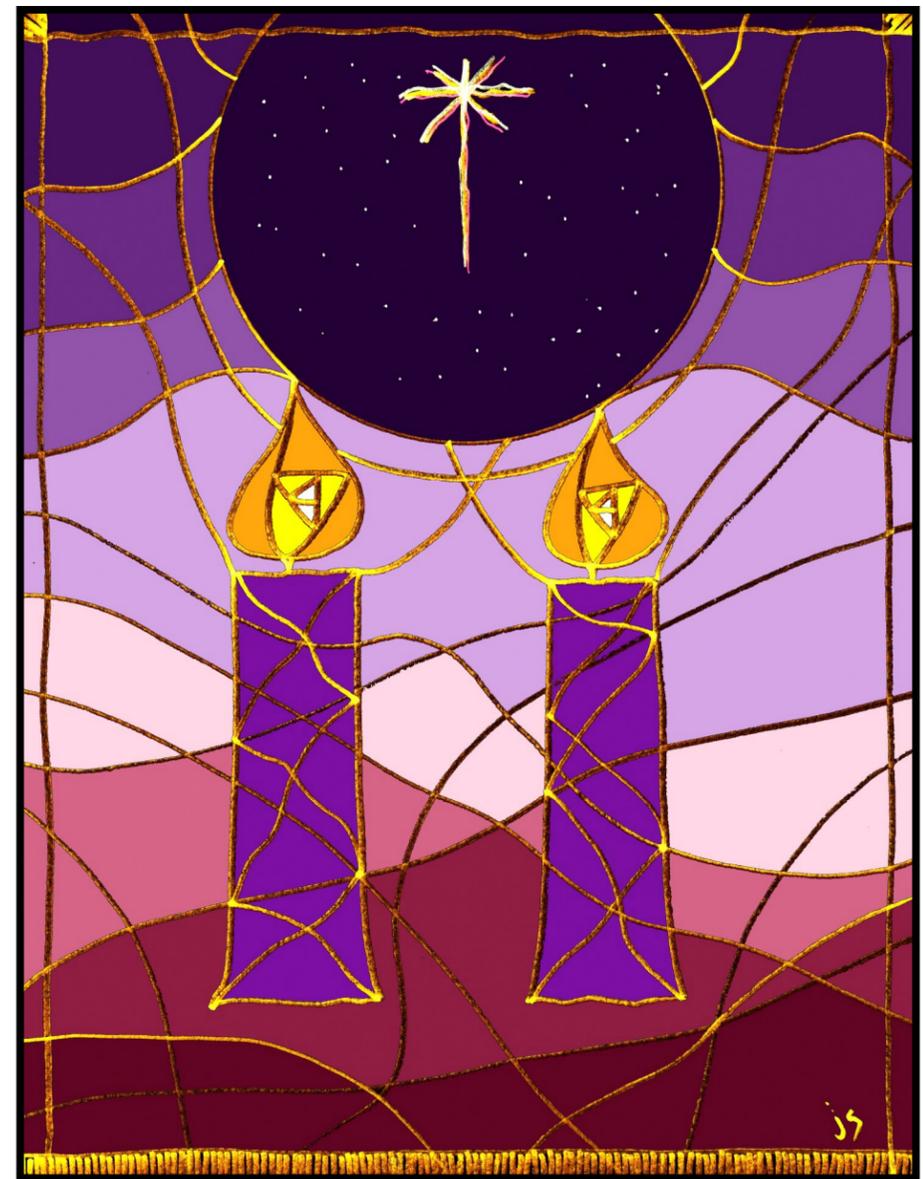
- | | |
|---|--|
| The Rev. Mark R. Curtis
Senior Pastor | Laura Harmon
Church Administrator |
| The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis
Associate Pastor | Lauren Nunn
Director of Parent's Day Out /
Childcare Coordinator |
| Dr. Andy Morgan
Director of Family Faith Formation | Sandra Robinson
Administrative Assistant |
| Mark Pace
Organist/Choirmaster | Victor Lenoir
Custodian |
| Mary Wilson
Adult Ministry Coordinator | Paul Seguna
Sound Engineer |
| Katie Norrell
Director of Communications | Parson Campen
Crucifer |
| Jane Holland
Director of Finance/Facilities | Campbell Long
Bible Bearer |

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Tune: Houston | One License # 50-8813 |
| O Come, Emmanuel | One License # 102103 |
| When the Trumpet Sounds | One License # 93246 |
| Canticle of Turning | One License # 93962 |
| My Song in the Night | One License # 246202 |

FOR OUR YOUNGER WORSHIPPERS

All children are welcome in worship at FPC. Children, Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Children's Area (2nd floor) after Special Time with Young Disciples. Worship Bags are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. A nursery is available for children, in preschool and younger, in the Nursery rooms (2nd floor).



By Stushie Art



LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 10, 2023

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Arr. Kevin Hildebrand
String Quartet and Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF ADVENT *Peace* The Brace Family

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,
and set lights in the sky — sun and moon and stars.
By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys.
By these stars, they knew God was with them.

**Today we light two candles to bring the fire of the stars
down from heaven to earth,
to dwell among the people of God.**

We name this candle Hope.

We name this candle Peace.

We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way.

But we chart our path by the star of peace.

**Even when violence and fear are raging
and peace seems beyond all hope,
we set our face steadily towards the light.**

Listen now to the plea of the apostle Paul:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7).

**Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of peace this week,
help us to become the signs of peace
that others are searching for.
As these candles are but a glimpse
of the light of the heavens,
help us to be a glimpse of heaven's peace. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* 377

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Bidding Prayer: Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear in Holy Scripture how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem the waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all peoples and all things into the glory of God's

eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words that Christ himself taught us.

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.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 40:1–8

To God's people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news: God is returning and bringing the exiles home.

CAROL *O Come Emmanuel* Elaine Hagenberg

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
O come thou Dayspring come and cheer our spirits by Thine Advent here,
and drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
O come, Desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind;
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease, and fill the world with Heaven's peace.*

SECOND LESSON Jeremiah 23:5–8

The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch in the line of David, a just King who is yet to come.

CAROL *Dearest Lord Jesus You are Delaying* Dietrich Buxtehude
Ryan Ford, tenor

Dearest Lord Jesus, why are you delaying? Come see what burdens my soul are dismaying. Come now and take me wherever you will. Save me, O save me: your promise fulfill. It is enough, Lord, so come and deliver body and spirit from evil forever. Come now, my fading assurance renew, and that I am I surrender to you. Come then, Lord Jesus come, why are you delaying? Come see what burdens my soul are dismaying, come as you promised no longer delaying.

THIRD LESSON Zechariah 9:9–17

Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem is prophesied, heralding God's coming reign of justice and peace.

CAROL *Blessed is the Lord* Dan Forrest

Benedictus, blessed is our Lord. Benedictus, welcome His incarnate word. Chosen first among the priests to serve within the temple walls, Zacharias stood in awe when he heard the angel call. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, will come, salvation's horn. God incarnate, word made flesh, to a virgin shall be born. Christ brings light to sin's dark night; our Dayspring, Jesus from on high. Saints and angels sing God's praise. All the earth and heavens reply.

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 9:2–7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: Jesus, who has come to break the powers of sin, evil, and death.

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY CAROL *How Beautiful are the Feet* George F. Handel
Molly Garrett, Eliza Foster, altos

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things. Break forth into joy.

***DOXOLOGY** *Old Hundredth*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

FIFTH LESSON Isaiah 7:10–15

The prophet Isaiah declares a sign to the house of David: a young woman will bear a child, and call him Immanuel.

CAROL *Alleluia* Dietrich Buxtehude

SIXTH LESSON Luke 1:24–35; 38

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign will never end.

CAROL *Canticle of the Turning* Arr. Hal Hopson

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the Wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn? My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near and the world is about to turn! Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who



ADULT CHOIR

Scott Beasley, Pat Chambers, Ryan Ford, Steve Fox, Susan Fox, Holli Eckert, Eliza Foster, Molly Garrett, Joan Holladay, LeAnne Johnson, Jean Mayer, Ed Miller, Bill Myers, Tracy Pace, Katrin Smith, Kathy Tallent, Don Townsend, Eric White, Linda Williams, Carrie Wright

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

Blue Christmas: Service of Healing and Wholeness - This is a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year. This is a somber Christmas service in the chapel honoring members of the congregation who are experiencing grief or who have lost loved ones. Join us at on December 13th 5:30 pm for dinner in the Fellowship Hall and the service in the chapel afterwards.

Children's Ministry Christmas Party - Children and their families at First Presbyterian, please join us before the Christmas Pageant rehearsal on December 16th from 9 - 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast foods, crafts, and pictures with Santa! Bring a friend! Contact Diana Curtis for more information at diana.curtis11@gmail.com.

Youth Christmas Party - If you are a member of the youth (6th - 12th grade), please join us at the home of Chris and Robyn McAdoo at 2131 Island Home Blvd on Saturday, December 16th after pageant practice for the Youth Christmas party and decorating/baking competition from 12:30 - 2:30 pm. Parents, please help us celebrate your youth and RSVP to Robyn McAdoo at robynmcadoo@hotmail.com. Can't wait to see you!

Annual Christmas Pageant and Dinner - We are thrilled to announce that the Christmas Pageant will be held on the evening of December 17th at 5 pm with dinner to follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please save the date and join us for this joyous celebration of Christ's birth. To ensure a successful pageant, we will have rehearsals on Wednesday evenings December 6th and December 13th after the meal on Worshipful Wednesday and Saturday morning December 16th at 10:30am. If you have any questions regarding the pageant or rehearsals, please feel free to contact Greg or Heidi Efurd at gtefurd@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The greens of Advent point to the Christian symbolism of the everlasting nature of God and through him everlasting life. Advent is a period of anticipation and reflection as we move toward Christmas. Your generous donations have served to support our flower ministry and the work of our devoted flower guild. If you wish to honor or remember a loved one during this sacred season the flower ministry welcomes your donations. We would love to arrange with them in mind. If you wish to make a donation and dedication, a donation of \$20.00 per name is suggested.

You may email your flower forms to laura@fpcknox.org (please only list one name per line) OR for the first time, you can submit your Christmas flower dedications online. Under the "Quick Links" button on the website, there is a menu item for Christmas Flowers. You can pay in our online giving portal in the "Christmas Flowers" category or by dropping a check in the offering plate or church office. Please be sure to designate "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line. All submissions must be received by noon on December 18th. Thank you for supporting the flower guild!

In Memory Of

In Honor Of

Given By

