

come. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Of the Father's Love Begotten* 108

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**
Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding
Arr. Grimoaldo Macchia

**Please stand if you are able.*



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

Sunday, December 18th at 5 pm, Annual Christmas Pageant and Dinner

Members interested in singing in the choir please come to the Sanctuary with Mark Pace at 4 pm to practice singing and join the Christmas pageant afterward! The Christmas pageant at 5 pm reenacts Christ's birth story from Luke 2 with children and youth from FPC, as well as adult singers. Dinner following the pageant in the Fellowship Hall.

Monday, December 19th at noon is the deadline for Christmas flower memorials/honorariums. Contact Sandra at sandra@fpcknox.org.

Wednesday, December 21st and December 28th – NO worshipful Wednesday

Saturday, December 24th at 5 and 11 pm (10:30 prelude), Christmas Eve Services

Communion and candle lighting, stories, annual Christmas Eve service at 5 pm (family service) and 11 pm service with a beautiful 10:30 pm prelude. Handbell selections and the Buxtehude Cantata- *Rejoice Earth and Heaven*.

Sunday, December 25th at 11 am, Christmas Day Services

There will be NO chapel service. Please join us at 11 am in the Sanctuary to celebrate the birth of Christ!

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 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 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 <i>Senior Pastor</i>	Lauren Nunn <i>Director of Parent's Day Out / Childcare Coordinator</i>
The Rev. Meredith Loftis <i>Associate Pastor</i>	Sandra Robinson <i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Mark Pace <i>Organist/Choirmaster</i>	Victor Lenoir <i>Custodian</i>
Mary Wilson <i>Adult Ministry Coordinator</i>	Paul Seguna <i>Sound Engineer</i>
Katie Norrell <i>Director of Communications</i>	MacKenna Cook <i>Crucifer</i>
Jane Holland <i>Director of Finance/Facilities</i>	Daniel Curtis <i>Bible Bearer</i>
Laura Harmon <i>Church Administrator</i>	

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).



First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE 

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 18, 2022

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *Ave Maria* Schubert/Hand

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF ADVENT *from Isaiah 7; Matthew 28*
Preston, Emily, Charlie, and Laura Smith

The prophet Isaiah declares,
“A young woman is with child,
and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel
which means God-With-Us.”

The risen Christ declares,
“I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
We light this candle as a sign of God’s presence in Christ,
now and always.

That we may trust that God is with us
and live in the light of Christ’s coming –
**Risen Christ, Light of the world,
shine in our lives
and shine among us now.**

***OPENING HYMN** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vv. 1, 5, 6 & 7)* 88

*UNISON PRAYER:

**Lord Jesus, when we had just about given up hope for
humanity, you became human and came to us. When we
had grown accustomed to darkness, you came bringing
light. When we had settled down into the valley of the
shadow of death, you came to us with abundant life. When
we had become too respectful of the rich and powerful,
you came to us as a poor baby born to humble parents.**

**Rekindle in us a sense of wonder at the glory of your
incarnation. Help us, in this Christmas season, to
experience anew the glory of God with us and within us,
for we pray in the name of the Christ child. Amen.**

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Wait for the Lord* 90
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart! (3x)

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *While We Are Waiting Come* 92
**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 7:10-14 Phyllis Driver

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.”¹³ Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.”

ANTHEM *The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came* Manz/Ohnesorge

The angel Gabriel from heaven came His wings as drifted snow his eyes as flame "All hail" said he "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady," Gloria! "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, All generations laud and honor thee, Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold Most highly favored lady," Gloria! Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said, "My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name." Most highly favored lady. Gloria! Of her, Emanuel, the Christ was born In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: "Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

SERMON “The Story of Joseph” Rev. Mark R. Curtis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *What Child Is This?* 145

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Meredith Loftis

**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.**

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Ave Maria* Philip Stopford

Translation of Latin text: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed, Jesus. Hail Mary! Mother of God, Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *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.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Nicene Creed*
**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker
of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of
God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not
made, of one Being with the Father; through him all
things were made. For us and for our salvation he came
down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and
the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake
he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death
and was buried. On the third day he rose again in
accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will
come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and
his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the
Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has
spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy
catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one
baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the
resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to**