



DECEMBER 3, 2017
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:30 and 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING SENTENCES Todd Jones

†VOLUNTARY Fred Gramann
*Change Ring Prelude on Divinum Mysterium
(Of the Father's Love Begotten)*

*CALL TO WORSHIP Stuart Gordon

Leader: Let the heavens be glad;
let the earth rejoice before the God of all peoples;

**People: For God comes in power to judge the earth,
and to heal the nations.**

Leader: Let us open our hearts in worship and trust,
and offer our lives in willing service;

**People: For God shall judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with truth.** (Psalm 96)

†*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 88 VENI EMMANUEL
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
Who order'st all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by Thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

†WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP Todd Jones

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE OF ADVENT

HYMN 104

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

**O Lord, how shall I meet You, how welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly all that may please You best.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Stuart Gordon

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of the Past,
in the wilderness of Jordan a messenger came
to prepare human hearts for the coming of Christ, our Savior.
Through the centuries that message of good news and hope
has given confidence and joy to all who receive it.
God of the Present,
even now You are with us.
Forgive us that so often we have failed to pause,
to be still, and to listen for Your word,
to discern the ways in which You are present.
Pardon us for the peace we have forfeited,
for the offer of strength we have failed to summon.
God of the Future,
we live in the promise that Christ's reign is coming.
Teach us to live in expectation, to be people of hope,
that what we do and who we are
may be anchored in the certainty of Your tomorrow.
Through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we pray.
(A moment for silent confession.)**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

HYMN 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us; our Lord Emmanuel!**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

THE WORD

Children are invited to come to the front for the Children's Time.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Stuart Gordon

‡ Children who are age 4, 5 or 6 (not in 1st grade) are invited to
Young Children and Worship in Room CW-110.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Todd Jones

**Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning:
Grant us so to hear them,
read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them,
that we may embrace and ever hold fast
the blessed hope of everlasting life,
which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Anne Earthman

Isaiah 64:1–9, *page 694*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READINGS

Todd Jones

Mark 13:24–37, *page 50*

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION 109 (seated)

MERLE'S TUNE

Blest Be the God of Israel

SERMON

Todd Jones

Praying for God to Do Something

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(8:30) Sandra Randleman

(11:00) Adam DeVries

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional) Hymnal, *page 35*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(debts)

Hymnal, *page 35*

OFFERTORY

(8:30)

Matthew Armstrong

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

(11:00)

G.F. Handel

*And the Glory of the Lord
from Messiah*

And the glory, the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.
And all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

(Isaiah 40:5)

*PRESENTATION AND RESPONSE

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDETH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 93

TRURO

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Todd Jones

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

ST. LOUIS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

**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.**

*The congregation will be seated for a moment of silent prayer
after the Congregational Response.*

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

J.S. Bach

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
(Savior of the Nations, Come)*

*— Those who are able, please stand † — Latecomers may be seated

Please silence your cell phone as you enter the sanctuary.

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

Todd Jones, Pastor

Stuart Gordon, Executive Pastor

Adam DeVries, Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families

Sandra Randleman,

Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions

Candle Lighting:

(8:30) The Zehr Family: Joel, Nahed, Nurah and Nadeen

(11:00) The Kirkland Family: Chris, Beth, Bonner and Hayden

Caroline Bryan, Cross Bearer

Owen Rouse, Bible Bearer

Raphael Bundage, Director of Music

Nicholas Bergin, Organist

Rhonda Swanson, Assistant Organist

Sanctuary Chorale: Keith Moore, Conductor

Sanctuary Choir: Raphael Bundage, Conductor

Welcome! — First Presbyterian Church extends a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us today. We are delighted you have chosen to join us. Whether you are a longtime member or a guest, please note your attendance today in the fellowship pad found in your pew.

Guests — Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card so that we may more personally welcome you into community. We also invite you to visit the Welcome Center in the church narthex for additional information or if you are interested in becoming a member. There, you may visit with one of our elders, staff or pastors. You may also contact the church office at 615-383-1815, and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

TODAY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- **FELLOWSHIP, COFFEE & DONUTS** — Please join us between services downstairs in Courtenay Hall for coffee and donuts.
- **ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES** — Hearing devices, large-print hymnals, large-print bulletins and large-print Bibles are located in the narthex across from the Welcome Center. If anyone has a need or disability requiring assistance or accommodation for any church activity, please contact the church office at 615-383-1815.
- **LIVE STREAM IN COURTENAY HALL** — Each of the Sunday morning worship services is streamed live in Courtenay Hall.
- **HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?** — Prayer request cards can be found in the pews and deposited in the offering plate or the prayer request boxes, located in the narthex on the southeast wall and at the Hospitality Center. Church officers meet weekly to lift up prayer requests to God.
- **SERMONS** can be found on our website at fpcnashville.org.

Be a Worship Friend: "Love one another!" John 15:14-17

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **THE FIVE THIRTY** — Ashley Higgins is preaching *God-Fantasies* tonight in The Gathering Place. Nursery care: six weeks to age three.
- **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING** — On Wednesday, December 6, join us for a pancake supper at 5:00 P.M. in Courtenay Hall (please register online), followed by caroling and a candle lighting. Enjoy hot chocolate outside while we light the Christmas Tree at 6:30 P.M. in front of the Sanctuary! Nursery care: six weeks to age three.
- **MEMORIAL FLOWERS FOR ADVENT** — A memorial fund has been established for chancel and Sanctuary flowers during Advent. Please send your contribution and the name(s) of those to be memorialized to the church office by December 8. You may also contribute online by clicking Register/Payments on the bottom of our home page.
- **ANNUAL ADVENT BREAKFASTS** — Wednesday, December 6, 13 and 20 at 7:00 A.M. in Courtenay Hall. Speakers for the breakfasts are: Todd Jones on December 6, Stuart Gordon on December 13, and Bill Caruso on December 20. Cost for breakfast is \$5 per person.
- **UPCOMING CONCERTS** — The second weekend in December will be a busy one for music at First Presbyterian Church. On **Saturday, December 9**, at 7:00 P.M., the Nashville Chamber Singers, led by Angela Tipps, will present their annual Christmas concert, a diverse program featuring contemporary choral music, Celtic and Appalachian folk songs, and African American spirituals. On **Sunday, December 10**, at 4:00 P.M., the Sanctuary Choir and members of the Nashville Symphony, directed by Raphael Bundage, will present "Glory to God in the Highest," a festive concert featuring choral music by Bach, Holst, and Vaughan Williams, as well as orchestral works and congregational carols. Both concerts are free and open to the public.
- **BOOK SIGNING BY OUR FPC ARTISTS ON DECEMBER 10** — The newly published hymnal for children and their families, *Sing to God*, is filled with colorful illustrations by artists from our congregation, Leslee Bechtel, Ansley Black, and Carey Haynes. And they will be on-hand December 10 outside BookMarks, the church bookstore, to sign your

hymnal(s). Copies will be available for purchase or bring the copies you previously purchased on December 10 to have them signed. The hymnal is filled with 72 hymns, songs of faith, and worship service music adapted for children and their families plus over 30 scripture quotes, definitions of our faith and classic model prayers. It sells for \$14.99 plus tax.

■ **A PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHRISTMAS** — Please join us Tuesday, December 12, for a morning of hope and joy. There will be a program at 10:30 A.M. in the Sanctuary with lunch following in Courtenay Hall at 11:30 A.M. Cost is \$20. Visit the Events section of the website to register.

■ **ADVENT VESPERS** — Join us on December 13, at 6:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary chancel. We'll sing Advent songs of anticipation, reflect on the promise of the season, and prepare ourselves for the joy of Christmas. Dinner is available beginning at 5:00 P.M. in Courtenay Hall. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children age 3 to 12, free for children age two and under, \$5 for soup & salad only. Family maximum is \$22. Nursery care: six weeks to age three. Register for dinner on our website.

■ **THE FIVE THIRTY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** — Join us on December 17, at 5:30 P.M. in The Gathering Place for this event for all ages.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

■ **CONGRATULATIONS** — The First Presbyterian Church family congratulates:

- Katie & Jim Armstrong, on the birth of their son, Paul Allen Armstrong, born on September 25. Proud grandparents are Pam & Allen Kennedy.
- Lauren & Tyler Wilson, on the birth of their son, William Tyler Wilson, born on October 1.
- Blair & Jeff Ostheimer, on the birth of their daughter, Jordyn Marie Ostheimer, born on November 27. Proud grandparents are Sally & Richard Ostheimer.

■ **SYMPATHY** — The First Presbyterian Church family extends sympathy to the friends and family of the following during their time of loss:

- Dollye Clayton, on the death of her sister-in-law, Ruby Cross Feltner, who died on November 10. Sympathy also to Beth Scott Clayton & Tim Amos.
- Phyllis & Dan Hogan, on the death of Phyllis's mother, Peggy W. Black Garrison, who died on November 15. Sympathy also to Lizzie and Garison Hogan.
- Bekah & Bill Caruso, on the death of Bekah's brother-in-law, Rev. Dr. Julius Wemyss Melton, Jr., who died on November 20. Sympathy also to Meaghan & Paul Caruso and Ian Caruso.
- Kelly & Austin McMullen, on the death of Austin's grandmother, Violet McMullen, who died on November 26. Sympathy also to Reagan McMullen and Mary Austin McMullen.

MISSION MINISTRY

■ **CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS** — For 16 years, we have provided comfort and joy to Davidson County children in foster care during the Christmas season. Between the services in Courtenay Hall, you can select Christmas wish list(s) and/or serve as a last-minute shopper for children placed in emergency foster care. Contact Sue Fort White at 615-383-5400.

■ **DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN WAFFLE SHOP** — Thursday, December 7, from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Tickets are \$8 when bought in advance, \$10 at the door. Free parking available for the event. Tickets can be purchased at our Hospitality Desk during office hours. Downtown Presbyterian Church needs volunteers to arrive at 10:00 A.M. and work as servers during the event. Contact missions@fpcnashville.org to volunteer.

■ **DONATE SUPPLIES FOR ROOM IN THE INN** — Consider donating men's clothing, socks, undershirts (L, XL, 2XL), boxer shorts (L, XL, 2XL), gloves, stocking caps, medical scrubs and bath towels. You can also sign up in Courtenay Hall to be an overnight host, van driver, laundry helper, or to pre-make food. Sign up in Courtenay Hall or online. You may drop the supplies off at the Hospitality desk.

For more Mission Ministry info, contact Mike Crout at 615-298-9593 or missions@fpcnashville.org.

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

■ **BELLE MEADE PLANTATION CARRIAGE HOUSE DINING TOUR** — December 18, 9:30 A.M.–2:00 P.M. Cost is \$39. Our tour of the mansion, which will be decorated in its Christmas glory, will be led by a costumed guide. In addition to the mansion tour, the dairy, horse stable, carriage house, mausoleum, gardens and log cabin will be available for touring. Our sit-down Christmas dinner will be served in the carriage house.

For more Older Adult Ministry info, contact Brenda Geise at 615-298-9515 or bgeise@fpcnashville.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND NURSERY

■ **FAMILY ADVENT FUN: WHAT'S IN A TRADITION?** — Today, from 3:30 to 5:15 P.M., you are invited to join other families as we fellowship together around the Advent themes of love, hope, joy and peace. We will create items like Advent calendars and wreaths to help your family prepare for the arrival of Jesus on Christmas Day. We will enjoy grilled cheese sandwiches and soup together. Please register your family online.

■ **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE SINGERS** — If your child is interested in singing in the Christmas Eve service, please have him/her come to the choir rehearsals on December 3, 10, and 17 from 4:00 to 5:00 P.M.

■ **MOTHER AND INFANT QUIET ROOM** — Mothers of infants who need a quiet place for nursing or calming babies are welcome to use the Quiet Room located by Courtenay Hall and our Bookstore.

■ **OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN DURING OUR WORSHIP SERVICES**

- **Children's Bulletin, Sermon Sheet & Worship Bag:** All children are encouraged to use these to stay engaged during the service. These are located both in the Narthex and at the Pulpit Entrance.
- **Young Children & Worship:** Children who are age 4, 5 or 6 (not in 1st grade) are invited. After the children come up during worship services for Children's Time or a Baptism, they will exit the Sanctuary and go to Room CW-110. Parents are welcome to join their child or stay for the remainder of the service.

The Mission of First Presbyterian Church

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

- **Nursery Care** for children six weeks to three years is available during 8:30 & 11:00 services and Sunday School from 9:45 to 10:45. Ask an Elder/Deacon to help you locate the Children's Hospitality Center.

For more Children's Ministry info, contact Deb O'Brien at 615-298-9582 or dobrien@fpcnashville.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY

- **CHRISTMAS PARTIES! Watch your email for an invitation!**
 - **7th Grade:** Today, 3:00 to 4:30 P.M. at the home of Mary Virginia Sullivan.
 - **8th Grade:** Today, 3:30 to 5:00 P.M. at the home of Braden Zeigler.
 - **9th Grade:** Today, 12:30 to 2:00 P.M. at the home of Frank and Neva Bass.
 - **10th Grade:** Today, 3:30 to 5:00 P.M.
 - **11th Grade:** Today, 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. at the home of Jackson Singer.
 - **12th Grade:** December 10, 4:00 to 5:15 P.M. at the home of Grace Rader.

For Youth Ministry info, contact 615-298-9570 or youth@fpcnashville.org.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

CENTER & COVENANT

- **YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY** on December 15.
- **MARRIAGE RETREAT** on February 2-3. Save the date!
- **CENTER SUNDAY SCHOOL** — (L-201) led by Steve and Mary Lee Bartlett, Warner McNeilly and Allison Milam.
- **THE FAMILY FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL** — Jones Session Room at 9:45 A.M. led by a rotation of members and pastors.

COLLEGE

- **COLLEGE SUNDAY SCHOOL** begins December 17.
- **COLLEGE CHRISTMAS PARTY** on December 20.

For Young Adult Ministry info, contact Josh Rodriguez at 615-298-9598 or jrodriguez@fpcnashville.org.



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