



DECEMBER 17, 2017
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:30 and 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING SENTENCES Todd Jones

†VOLUNTARY *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* J.S. Bach
(“Sleepers, Wake!” a Voice Astounds Us)

INTROIT (11:00) *While We Are Waiting, Come* WAITING
(See Hymn 92 for text)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (8:30) Josh Rodriguez
(11:00) Stuart Gordon

Leader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
and the desert shall rejoice and blossom.

**People: All flesh shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.**

Leader: Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

**People: “Be strong, fear not!
Behold, your God will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.”**

All: God will come and save you.

†*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 106 BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
Prepare the Way, O Zion

†WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP Todd Jones

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT

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

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

CALL TO CONFESSION (8:30) Josh Rodriguez
(11:00) Stuart Gordon

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Caring and compassionate Creator,
we enter this place set apart for prayer and worship,
knowing that we have failed to see you in other places.
We have ignored the beauty You have spread widely**

in the world around us, in earth and sky,
in plants and creatures, in the people who surround us.
We have chosen to live more by our fears than by our faith,
to be weighed down by what we do not have,
rather than rejoicing in the gifts we have received.
Worse, we have failed to trace those gifts and graces
back to You, O Lord,
the source and substance of all we have and all we are.
In these moments of prayer,
draw us so close that we cannot help but to know
every day that You are with us, wherever we go.
Enlarge our capacity to care,
so we may see You in all whom we meet.
In Jesus' name 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'S TIME

(8:30) Josh Rodriguez

(11:00) 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

**Living God,
help us so to hear Your holy Word
that we may truly understand;
that, understanding, we may believe,
and, believing,
we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience,
seeking Your honor and glory in all that we do;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Lacy Sheppard

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, *page 691*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Todd Jones

John 1:6-8, 19-28, *page 91*

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Refrain:

6 With Ma-ry let my soul re-joice, _____ and praise God's

10 ho-ly name, _____ his sav-ing

love from first to last, _____ from age to age, the same! _____

How strong His arm, how great His power!
 The proud He will disown;
 the meek and humble He exalts to share His glorious throne.
 The rich our God will send away and feed the hungry poor.
 God's arms of love are open wide at mercy's open door.

Refrain

So shall God's promise be fulfilled, to Israel firmly made:
 a child is born, a Son is given, whose crown will never fade.
 Glory to the Father, to the Son, and Spirit now proclaim;
 with Mary let the world rejoice, and praise God's holy name!

Refrain

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (8:30) Adam DeVries
 (11:00) Sandra Randleman
 The Apostles' Creed (Traditional) Hymnal, page 35

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
 (debts) Hymnal, page 35

OFFERTORY
 (8:30) arr. Roupen Shakarian

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 you, O Israel.
 O, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by your advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
 O come, true Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
 to us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
 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.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

(11:00) *Of the Father's Love Begotten* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega; He the source, the ending He,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

By His Word was all created; He commanded; it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft shining,

all that breathes beneath the sun, evermore and evermore!

O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

This is He whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.

Now He shines, the long-expected. Let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven, adore Him. Angel hosts, His praises sing.

Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.

Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.

Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

*PRESENTATION AND RESPONSE *Doxology* OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING FORTH

HYMN 145 *What Child Is This* GREENSLEEVES

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?**

**Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

This, this is Christ the King,

whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

HYMN 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

*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 Benediction.*

***CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

J.S. Bach

Prelude in C major, BWV 547

* 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

Josh Rodriguez, Associate Pastor for Young Adult Ministry

Candle Lighting:

(8:30) The Ward Family: Stephen, Sarah, Campbell Grace, Brooks,
Watts, and Helen & Steve Ward

(11:00) The Weaver Family: Kos, Kelli and Eva Grace

Katherine Groomes, Cross Bearer

Robert Hininger, Bible Bearer

Raphael Bundage, Director of Music

Nicholas Bergin, Organist

Rhonda Swanson, Assistant Organist

Sanctuary Chorale: Keith Moore, Conductor

Sanctuary Choir: Raphael Bundage, Conductor;

Daphne Garey, Soprano; Denis Solee, Soprano Sax; Jacob Jezioro, Bass

(11:00) Sunday School Choir: Jerry Monds, Director

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** — The Christmas Pageant is tonight. Nursery care: six weeks to age three.

■ **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** — As we celebrate the good news of great joy this Christmas season—that a Savior has been born unto us—may our gifts bear joyful witness to God’s uncontainable love. Gifts will be received at all services today by way of special offering envelopes in the bulletin. Your gifts are distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

■ **HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS** — The church offices will be closed at noon on Friday, December 22, and on Christmas, Monday, December 25. We will also be closed at noon on Friday, December 29, and on New Year’s Day, Monday, January 1.

■ **ANNUAL ADVENT BREAKFASTS** — Wednesday, December 20 (Bill Caruso) at 7:00 A.M. in Courtenay Hall. Cost for breakfast is \$5 per person.

■ **A SERVICE OF HOPE** — Today at 12:20 P.M. in the Stanford Chapel. Join us for a time for scripture, prayer and the lighting of candles. This service is especially for people who are dealing with a loss arising from death of a loved one, divorce, lack of employment, challenges of childbirth, health issues, etc. Everyone is welcome and invited.

■ **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** — Sunday, December 24, 8:30 & 11:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary. Sunday School will be an Interactive Pop-Up Pageant for all ages from 10:00 to 10:45 A.M. in Courtenay Hall. Nursery care is available for three years old and younger. A Family Service will be at 5:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary. Pre-service music starts at 4:40 P.M. Carols, scripture and children’s choirs will help us welcome the new baby Jesus during this family Christmas service. Nursery care is available for three years old and younger. A Service of Lessons & Carols starts at 8:00 P.M. and 11:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary. Pre-service music starts at 7:40 and 10:40 P.M. No nursery care provided.

■ **WINTER INQUIRERS’ CLASS** — A class will be held on January 7, 14, 21, 28 and February 4 during the Sunday School hour (9:45–10:45 A.M.) in Courtenay Lounge. If you are interested in uniting with our church as members or just wish to learn more about the history and mission of our church, you are invited to attend. Registration is not necessary. For more info, call 615-383-1815 or Rev. Sandra Randleman at 615-298-9502.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

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

- Barbara & Jim Pitman are proud to announce the birth of their grandson, Henry Samuel Neal. Proud Aunt and Uncle are Katherine & James Pitman.

- Heather & William Floyd, on the birth of their son, Vaughan Reed Floyd, born on October 17. Proud grandmother is Barbara Floyd. Proud great-grandmother is Alice Ann Barge.

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

- Family and friends of Judy King Eggleston, who died on December 8.
- Family and friends of Mary Theresa Hench, who died on December 9.

MISSION MINISTRY

■ **SERVE WHILE YOU SLEEP** — Be an overnight host on Wednesday nights in the Cannon Center from 5:30 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. Also needed are van drivers, breakfast options, pre-made sandwiches, laundry helpers and men's clothing (socks, undershirts, boxer shorts, gloves, stocking caps, medical scrubs and bath towels). Sign up in Courtenay Hall or on our website.

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND NURSERY

■ **TODAY, 4:00–5:00 P.M.** — Christmas Eve dress rehearsal (we will not actually dress in robes, etc.). Choristers need to arrive in Grundy Hall at 4:00. We will go to the Sanctuary at 4:15. Parents will pick up children directly from the Sanctuary at 5:00 P.M.

■ **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 5:00 P.M.** — Choir children should be dropped off at 4:15 in Courtenay Hall to get into costumes and choir robes. We also need a few parents to stay and assist us through the service. Children will need to be picked up in Courtenay Hall at the conclusion of the service.

■ **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.
- **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.*

The Mission of First Presbyterian Church

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

■ UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- On Sunday, December 31, all youth will meet together in The Gathering Place during the Sunday School hour for a message from Adam along with a baby shower for Kody Whitaker's baby – due on New Year's eve! Please consider bringing diapers or a Target gift card to celebrate and welcome the newest addition to the youth staff family!
- The 12th graders will leave for Atlanta on January 1 to attend the Passion Conference. Please pray for their travel and their time learning more about God.
- The youth staff will be running in the Barefoot MLK 5K again this year! Let us know at youth@fpcnashville.org if you would like to run with us.
- **Youth Ski Trips** are filling fast! Sign up on the website today!
JH to Paoli Peaks, IN – February 16-18
HS to Black Mtn., NC – February 23-25

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

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

CENTER & COVENANT

- **MARRIAGE RETREAT** on February 2–3. Save the date!

COLLEGE

- **COLLEGE SUNDAY SCHOOL** will be meeting now through January 14.
- **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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