



DECEMBER 15, 2019
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
8:30 and 11:00 AM

OPENING SENTENCES AND WELCOME Ryan Moore

†VOLUNTARY arr. Arnold B. Sherman
I Wonder as I Wander

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP (8:30) Stuart Gordon
(11:00) John Musgrave

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

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

Leader: The heavens declare God's righteousness.

People: We tell out God's glories!

Leader: Offer up to God your thanksgiving.

**People And our God will hear us,
save us, and stay with us forever.**

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

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT

HYMN 88

VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**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.**

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

CALL TO CONFESSION (8:30) Sandra Randleman
(11:00) Sarah Bird

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God,
You who shaped out of nothing all that is,
forgive us for returning empty-handed.
You who called forth light,
forgive our preference for the dark.
You who sent John to be a voice crying,
forgive our unwillingness to say anything at all!
Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
(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

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

GLORIA

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed (traditional) Hymnal, page 35

Children are invited to come to the front.

BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

‡ 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

Rebecca Kirkpatrick

**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 LESSON

Isaiah 35:1–10, page 663

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PREPARATION 145

GREENSLEEVES

What Child Is This

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Ryan Moore

Waiting in Hope

OFFERTORY

(8:30)

Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain

Climb to the top of the highest mountain,
 joyous tidings proclaim to the world, lift up your voice,
 shout the good news: Behold, your Lord comes to you.
 He will feed His flock like a shepherd,
 He will carry the lambs in His arms,
 He will ever keep them safe from harm.
 Behold, your Lord comes to you.
 He who made the stars in the heaven,
 He who fashioned the earth and the sea,
 from time eternal He was God, the Alpha and Omega, He.
 Behold, your Lord! He will come in power and glory,
 He will rule with mercy and truth,
 hope of all the nations, light of all the world.
 He will love the little children,
 He will hold them in His arms.
 Love and trust Him as a child.
 Behold, your Lord comes to you.

(11:00)

Magnificat

Herbert Howells

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
 and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
 For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
 For behold, from henceforth all generations 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 shew'd 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.

*PRESENTATION AND RESPONSE

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(debts)

Hymnal, page 35

People, Look East

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*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

Johann Sebastian Bach

Fantasia in G Minor, BWV 542

* Those who are able, please stand.

† Latecomers may be seated.

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, Pastor

Sarah Bird, Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Engagement

Stuart Gordon, Executive Pastor

John Musgrave, Parish Associate

Sandra Randleman,

Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Acolyte

Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Cross Bearer

Josie Blanton, Bible Bearer

Candle Lighting:

(8:30) The Christian, Wash, and Garvey Families: Mitch and Alice
Christian; Andrew Wash; and Christian, David, Bowen, and
Red Garvey

(11:00) The Andrews Family: Trish, Nelson, Trevor, and Alison

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Youth Liturgist

Raphael Bundage, Director of Music

Peter Rogahn, Organist

Rhonda Swanson, Assistant Organist

FPC Handbells, Don Fisher, Director

All God's Children, Jerry Monds, Director

Claire Boling Paschal, Soprano

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 Courtenay Hall for additional information or if you are interested in becoming a member. There, you may visit with one of our greeters. 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. If anyone has a need or disability requiring assistance or accommodation for any church activity, please contact the church office at 615-383-1815.
- **MOTHER AND INFANT QUIET ROOM** — If you need a quiet place for nursing or calming your baby, please use the room inside the Nursery Wing.
- **LIVESTREAM 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 in Courtenay Hall. Church officers meet weekly to lift up prayer requests to God.
- **SERMONS** can be found on our website at fpcnashville.org.

*Make new Worship Friends—introduce people to one another
at the end of the service.*

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **THE TABLE** — The Table is a relaxed worship service rooted in the Reformed tradition. It meets on Sundays in The Gathering Place at 11:00. This morning, Adam DeVries is preaching on Luke 2:22–35. All are welcome!
- **THANK YOU!** — Thanks to all who have pledged to the annual stewardship/generosity campaign! Every pledge enables First Presbyterian to continue its ministry in our community and around the world. If you have not yet pledged, you may either fill out a pledge card, go online, or call the finance office. Your participation in this campaign is vital for our congregation to expand its ministry.
- **DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR ADVENT** — Deepen your Advent experience this season with insights from “Let the Heavens Be Glad” devotional booklet. We, with all of heaven, are gladdened by the Good News of the coming Christ Child to save us. And we are blessed to be able to share that joy with those around us this Advent season. Excerpts of Henri Nouwen’s writings, as well as Scripture passages and original reflections and prayers, will inspire and encourage you to live a life of rejoicing in the precious gift of the Savior. Copies of this booklet are available in the literature areas of the church. Pick one up today!
- **ANNUAL ADVENT BREAKFAST** — December 18. Nourish your spirit, mind, and body, and join us for this wonderful opportunity to share in a relaxed buffet breakfast and to hear an inspiring message to jump-start your day. Our remaining annual Advent Breakfast will be held on Wednesday morning, December 18, at 7:00 A.M. in Courtenay Hall, featuring speaker Ryan Moore. Bring a friend! Cost for breakfast is \$5 per person.

■ **SERVICE OF HOPE** — The Stephen Ministers are offering a “Service of Hope” on December 22 following the 11:00 worship service in Stanford Chapel, with a time for scripture, prayer, and the lighting of candles. This service is especially for people who are dealing with a loss arising from the death of a loved one, divorce, lack of employment, challenges of childbirth, health issues, etc. Please reach out to those that you know are hurting. All are welcome! This Christmas, receive and give the special gift of healing from the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.

■ **EPIPHANY BONFIRE** — Join us on Sunday, January 5, at 3:00 P.M., on the grounds of the church. The bonfire is an all-church event featuring hymn singing, fellowship, the lighting of the bonfire, cookies, and hot chocolate!

■ **COLLEGE DAYS PODCAST FEATURING RYAN MOORE** — Check out FPC’s College Ministry’s podcast “College Days” on SoundCloud. Episode 2 of its third season features an interview with Ryan Moore: <https://soundcloud.com/user-553125988/college-days-ryan-moore-interview/>.

ADULT EDUCATION

■ **2020 WINTER INQUIRERS’ CLASS** — Are you interested in learning more about our church? Have you thought about joining our church family and becoming an active participant in the life and mission of First Pres? Are you just curious about the Presbyterian faith tradition? Then you are welcome to attend our Inquirers’ Class series on January 12, 19, and 26 and February 2 and 9 during the Sunday School hour from 9:45 to 10:45 A.M. in the Jones Session Room, located on the second floor down the hall from the Sanctuary. If you are interested in uniting with First Presbyterian Church as a member or just wish to learn more about the history and mission of FPC, please join us! Registration is not necessary. For more information, feel free to reach out to Rev. Sarah Bird at 615-298-9518 or sbird@fpcnashville.org.

■ **INTRODUCTION TO THE ENNEAGRAM CLASS** — Join us for the Introduction to the Enneagram class, starting January 5 in Room L-202 during the Sunday School hour, as we learn more about the Enneagram and what this tool has to teach us about loving God, others, and ourselves well. We will walk through The Enneagram Journey curriculum by Suzanne Stabile during our time together. This Sunday School class is designed for those who don’t know anything about the Enneagram, those who have been studying the Enneagram for a while, and everyone in between!

■ **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** — Questions? Contact Sarah Bird at sbird@fpcnashville.org or 615-298-9518, or check us out online at fpcnashville.org.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY AND NURSERY

■ **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- **Today, December 15, 11:00 worship** — All God’s Children Sing
- **December 18, 2:00 P.M.** — Early Preschool Christmas presentation
- **December 22** — NO CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL

• **December 22, 12:00–1:30 P.M.** — Rehearsal for Christmas Eve service.

• **December 24, 5:00 P.M.** — Christmas Eve Family service (nursery available beginning at 4:15 P.M. No nursery care for 8:00 P.M. or 11:00 P.M. services.)

■ **CHILDREN’S CHOIR** will rehearse this afternoon at 4:00 P.M. in Grundy Hall. For more information, visit music.fpcnashville.org/children/childrens-music/.

■ **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 6 weeks through 3 years is available during the 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 Children’s Ministry info, contact Deb O’Brien
at 615-298-9582 or dobrien@fpcnashville.org.*

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

■ **SYMPATHY** — The First Presbyterian Church family extends sympathy to:

- Suzanne McDaniel, on the death of her Father, Romain Edward ‘Ed’ McDaniel Jr., who died December 9.

■ **PRAYING THE PSALMS OF LAMENT AS WE SEEK HEALING** — You are invited to participate in a grief support group offered by Dr. Sandra Randleman that combines prayer with a study of the psalms of lament and to explore how we, like the psalmists, can express our feelings and our petitions for help to God as we place our trust and hope in God and seek healing. The group will meet on Sunday afternoons for four weeks beginning January 19, from 12:00 to 2:00 P.M. Lunch will be available in Courtenay Hall beginning at noon, followed by the support group at 12:45 P.M. in the Memorial Library (Room MW-224). If you have family members, friends, or neighbors who you think would benefit from this group, please invite them to join us. Questions? Contact Sandra at 615-298-9502 or srandleman@fpcnashville.org. Please register online under “Ministries/Care & Support/Grief Support Group” or by contacting Ginny Barber at 615-298-9509 or gbarber@fpcnashville.org.

■ **STEPHEN MINISTRY** — Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care for, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time. If you have the gifts of caring, encouraging, and listening, please begin to prayerfully consider becoming a part of this important ministry. Contact Sandra Randleman at 615-298-9502 or srandleman@fpcnashville.org for additional information.

MISSION MINISTRY

■ **MISSION SPOTLIGHT: INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP** — InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Vanderbilt University serves the large graduate student population plus visiting scholars and their families as well as the faculty and staff. They desire to make a long-term influence on our society by touching the lives of future attorneys, MBS's, doctors, scientists, and educators and to bring the gospel to those from restricted access lands who may never have heard about God's love for them in Christ. For more information, go to www.intervarsity.org/gfm or contact Missions at missions@fpcnashville.org.

■ **RETURN YOUR GIFTS TODAY** for the COMFORT and JOY Project for foster children. Sue Fort White is also accepting names of FPC members who will serve as last-minute Angel Shoppers for children placed into emergency foster care shortly before Christmas. Contact Sue Fort White at 615-218-8977 or suefortwhite@ourkidscenter.com with any questions.

■ **SERVE WHILE YOU SLEEP!** — FPC's Room In The Inn needs overnight hosts for Wednesday nights in February and March. There will be two overnight hosts who will be met by the site coordinator to help with serving dinner and to walk you through the process. Arrive by 5:30 P.M., and leave the next morning by 6:00 A.M. Feel free to call with any questions. Sign-up sheets are in Courtenay Hall and online, or contact Annette Crout at 615-298-9507 or missions@fpcnashville.org.

■ **MISSION TRIP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE** — Financial assistance is available for FPC members to participate in any FPC-sponsored mission trip. Contact Sandra Randleman at 615-298-9502 or srandleman@fpcnashville.org to submit a request.

*For more Mission Ministry info, contact Annette Crout
at 615-298-9507 or missions@fpcnashville.org.*

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

■ **THURSDAY LUNCHEON & PROGRAM** is January 16, at 12:00 P.M., in Courtenay Hall. Buffet is \$6. By popular demand, our friend Attorney Bill Carter will return to continue stories of his career as escort of President Kennedy's casket to working with countless prominent people, including the Rolling Stones, Jimmy Hoffa, Fred Smith, Steve McQueen, country stars Reba McEntire, and others, to presently, the Gaithers. RSVP by January 13.

■ **BOOK DISCUSSION** is January 23, at 2:00 P.M., in the Memorial Library. We will be reading and discussing Jojo Moyes's *The Giver of Stars*. Set in Kentucky during America's Great Depression, this is a remarkable story of women's friendship and determination to make books available during this dark period of our history.

■ **CHARLESTON, SC** — April 20–25, 6-day tour of Charleston, South Carolina. Contact Brenda Geise at 615-298-9515.

For First Friends info, contact 615-383-1815.

RECREATION MINISTRY

■ **FRIDAY PICKLEBALL** — All are welcome to join us for pickleball on Fridays at 3:00 P.M. We will have courts and equipment available in the Enrichment Center.

■ **OUR EQUINE PROGRAM** is still accepting participants! Adults 18 and up with disabilities, veterans, and service members are eligible for this therapeutic horseback riding program. To apply for the program or for more info, contact Curt Stacy at cstacy@fpcnashville.org.

*For Recreation Ministry info, contact
Bryan Miller at bmiller@fpcnashville.org.*

YOUNG ADULT & COLLEGE MINISTRY

■ **COLLEGE SUNDAY SCHOOL** — December 15–January 19 in Room L-201 (no Sunday School, December 22).

■ **COLLEGE CHRISTMAS PARTY** — December 19, 4:30–6:30 P.M. at Mary Lauren & Lawson Allens' home. Light snacks will be provided! Carpooling is encouraged.

■ **ME MORNINGS** — ME Mornings will resume meeting on January 9, 2020.

■ **ROOTED IN CHRIST: FAMILY PROM** — Save the date! January 11, 2020 from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M.

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

■ **REGISTER ONLINE TODAY FOR THESE RETREATS AND TRIPS!**

- **Guys' St. Louis Retreat** — January 31–February 2
- **Girls' Beach Retreat** — February 14–17
- **Spring Break Mission Trip to Waco, Texas** — March 14–20
- **High School West Virginia** — May 31–June 5, 2020 (Seniors depart May 29.)
- **Junior High Great Escape** — June 7–12, 2020
- **Mystery Trip for Graduated Seniors** — June 18–25, 2020

Every youth is required to have an online release form completed in order to participate in FPC activities! Please check the website, complete the online release form, and email youth@fpcnashville.org with a photo of the front and back of your insurance card. Thank you!

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



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