



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church of Nashville

CHRISTMAS EVE

*December 24, 2023*

*8:00 p.m.*



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

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## PRELUDE

*Carol*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

arr. Herbert Sumsion

*In The Bleak Mid-Winter*

Gustav Holst

arr. Dale Wood

text by Christina Rossetti

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter, long ago. Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; Heav'n and earth shall pass away when he comes to reign; In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Angels and archangels may have gathered there; cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

*Coventry Carol*

English melody

arr. Joel Raney

*All My Heart This Night Rejoices*

Johann Ebeling

All my heart this night rejoices, as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices; 'Christ is born,' their choirs are singing, till the air ev'rywhere now with joy is ringing. Hark! A voice from yonder manger, soft and sweet, doth entreat, 'flee from woe and danger! Brethren, come! From all doth grieve you, you are freed; all you need I will surely give you.' Come, then, banish all your sadness, one and all, great and small, come with songs of gladness. Love him who with love is glowing; hail the star, near and far, light and joy bestowing. Thee, dear Lord, with heed I'll cherish, live to thee, and with thee, dying, shall not perish; But shall dwell with thee forever, far on high, in the joy that can alter never.

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**(Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her)*

Johann Pachelbel

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**(Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her)*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

From heaven above to earth I come to bring good news to everyone! Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing.

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## WORDS OF PREPARATION

*Christ's incarnation was a greater and more wonderful thing than ever had come to pass. The creation of the world was a very great thing, but not so great as the incarnation of Christ. It was a great thing for God to make the creature, but not so great as the Creator himself to become a creature.*

—Jonathan Edwards

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### \*WELCOME

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Merrill Family

Reader 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Reader 2: He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him.

Reader 1: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Reader 2: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Reader 1: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**All: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.**

### \*†OPENING HYMN

*Once in Royal David's City*  
IRBY

#### *Soloist*

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

#### *Choir*

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

#### *All*

**And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey,  
love and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.**

**For he is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew,  
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew:  
and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
when like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.**



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CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Sandra Randleman

**People:** O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

**Leader:** We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

**People:** 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.

FIRST LESSON | Genesis 3:8–15

*Adam and Eve rebel against God.*

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup> He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” <sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

ANTHEM

*Before the Marvel of this Night*  
Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow, then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow. Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease: sing peace, sing gift of peace! Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made. Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed. Give earth a glimpse of heav’nly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss: sing bliss, sing endless bliss! The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light, now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night. Into one song compress the love, that rules our universe above: sing love, sing God is love!

SECOND LESSON | Genesis 22:15–18

Dr. Stuart Gordon

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.*

<sup>15</sup> And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup> and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup> and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

ANTHEM

*The Holly and the Ivy*  
arr. Walford Davies

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown; of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown. O the rising of the sun and the running of the deer, the playing of the merry organ, sweet

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singing in the choir. The holly bears a blossom as white as any flower; and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior. The holly bears a berry as red as any blood; and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good. The holly bears a prickly as sharp as any thorn; and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn. The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall; and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all.

THIRD LESSON | Isaiah 9:2–7

Gage Arnold

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

ANTHEM

*One Sweet Little Baby*  
McClure | Kinneson  
arr. Shawn Kirchner

O Mary, shining glory! The Lord smiles upon you. What a blessing is this little baby that you brought to our world, O all for the love of one sweet little baby, All for the love of one sweet baby child, we have come so far. O, a good old man named Simeon said, "I'm never gonna rest till I see that Messiah child and hold him to my breast." O all for the love of one sweet little baby. Many gonna speak against you, child, they'll crucify all that's true And your mother Mary she will bear a pain that will pierce her heart through, O all for the love of one sweet little baby. O Jerusalem, your children are so tired of war. My Lord, it's time to walk with your children once more. All for the love of one sweet little baby, we have come, we have come so far.

FOURTH LESSON | Isaiah 11:1–9

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

\*HYMN

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*  
CAROL

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;**

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**when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

FIFTH LESSON | Luke 1:26–38

Mallory Hammond

*The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary.*

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

ANTHEM

*Personent Hodie*  
arr. Gustav Holst

Let resound today the voices of children, joyfully praising him who is born to us, given by most high God, and conceived in a virginal womb. He was born into the world, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger in a stable for animals, the master of the heavens. The prince of Hell has lost his spoils. Three Magi came, they were bearing gifts, and sought the little one, following a star, to worship him, and offer him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Let all the junior clerics and also the boys sing like angels: "You have come to the world, I pour out praises to you. Therefore, glory to God in the highest!"

SIXTH LESSON | Luke 2:1–7

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

ANTHEM

*Candlelight Carol*  
John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky? How can you measure the love of a mother, or how can you write down a baby's first cry? Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow, Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn. Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing: the Christ child is born. Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him, Seraphim round him their vigil will keep; Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Savior, But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep. Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger: Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay. Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation: A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

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## SEVENTH LESSON | Luke 2:8–21

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” <sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. <sup>21</sup> And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

### ANTHEM

*My Lord Has Come*  
Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels; no place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in Heaven; no place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. His love will hold me, His love will cherish me, love will cradle me. Lead me to see Him, sages and shepherds and angels; no place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.

### MEDITATION

#### **The Wonderful Canceled**

Dr. Ryan Moore

*“... and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” —Isaiah 9:6*

### OFFERTORY

*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing (Sussex Carol)*  
arr. David Willcocks

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring, news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth. Then why should men on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad, when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty? When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place; angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King. All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: Glory to God and peace to men, now and for evermore. Amen.

## EIGHTH LESSON | Matthew 2:1–11

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” <sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And

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behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

\*HYMN

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
ST. LOUIS

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

**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.**

**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!**

NINTH LESSON | John 1:1–14

*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF CHRISTMAS

*Please tilt your unlit candle toward your neighbor's lit candle as we share the light of Christ.*

\*HYMN

*Silent Night, Holy Night*  
STILLE NACHT

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and Child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace;**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born."**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**



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**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

\*CHARGE

*Please extinguish your candle.*

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Joy to the World*  
ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Toccata-Gigue on the Sussex Carol*  
George Baker

*May the peace and joy of this Christmas fill every heart and home.*

\* Those who are able, please stand.

† Latecomers may be seated.

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## PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*

Stuart Gordon, DMin – *Senior Associate Pastor for Christian Formation & Witness*

Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions*

Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*

Mallory Hammond – *Director of Ministry with Children & Their Families*

Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*

Peter Rogahn, DMA – *Organist and Assistant Director of Music*

Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*

Miles Troxler – *Bass*

Ali Hoffman – *Violin*

*Quartet* – Claire Paschal, Sara Crigger, Greg Thomas, and Ryan Bede

*FPC Handbell Choir*

*Lighting the Advent Wreath* – Karen, Ben, Sydney, Taylor Merrill

*Candle Bearer* – Saunders Hull

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You can make a gift or fulfill a pledge payment by placing your gift in the offering plate, texting “GIVE” to 707-475-3005, donating online at [fpcnashville.org](http://fpcnashville.org), or scan the QR code.



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## WELCOME

First Presbyterian Church extends a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us today. Since 1814 First Presbyterian has sought to be faithful in service to Jesus Christ and the common good. We are rooted in the Reformed, orthodox, and evangelical traditions of the larger church. If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you!

### Hearing Assistance App Directions

Join WiFi network. You must be connected to this network for the app to work. Network Name: FPC Guest; Password: GreenRock-81. Download the WaveCAST app. Open the app and select “First Pres Sanctuary.” Plug in your headphones and adjust the volume to your preference.

To **livestream** worship and special events or view past services, visit [youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofnashville](https://youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofnashville).

## INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE CONNECTED?

If you are new to our community, we would love to get to know you and welcome you personally into the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Whether you are a guest or a longtime member, fill out the Connect Card to get more involved, update your contact information, or sign up for church communications. Drop your completed Connect Card in the offering plate so we can follow up!

*Stay informed about news and upcoming events by reading FPC's weekly Parish News email.  
To subscribe, email [communications@fpcnashville.org](mailto:communications@fpcnashville.org).*

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

The Church Office is closed on December 25, 29, and January 1.

Sunday School classes will not meet on December 31.

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

**Epiphany Bonfire and All-Church Flag Football Game** | *January 7 | 3:00 p.m. | Football Game: Upper Fields, Epiphany Bonfire: South Lawn* — Join your church family for hymn singing and burning of the greens at our annual Epiphany Bonfire. It's been a tradition since Victorian England to celebrate the end of Christmas on Twelfth Night, taking down the evergreens of the Christmas season and lighting a bonfire. We will kick off the festivities this year with an all-church flag football game in the Upper Fields. Football fans of all ages are invited to play pick-up flag football, and spectators and cheerleaders are encouraged to cheer players on as they compete. We hope you will join us!

**Inquirers Class** | *Sundays, January 7–28 | 9:45 a.m. | Courtenay Lounge* — Interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church or becoming a member? Join us for a four-part Inquirers Class each Sunday during the Education Hour on January 7, 14, 21, and 28. Visit [linktr.ee/fpcnashville](https://linktr.ee/fpcnashville) to register or contact Julia Wilk (615-473-8742 or [jwilk@fpcnashville.org](mailto:jwilk@fpcnashville.org)).

**Registration for the 2024 Spring Music Academy Is Now Open** | *January–April | Monday–Thursday from 3:15–6:15 p.m. | Cheek House Chapel* — FPC's Music Academy offers vocal and instrumental lessons to allow our younger disciples and adults to explore their God-given artistic gifts in voice, violin, harp, piano, organ, and now guitar. Our music instruction meets a standard of excellence that inspires students to learn, grow, and serve with their gifts to the glory of God alone. The spring semester runs from January–April. Lessons are held Monday–Thursday evenings from 3:15–6:15 p.m. in the Cheek House Chapel. Registration closes January 12. Visit [linktr.ee/fpcnashville](https://linktr.ee/fpcnashville) to register.

**Save the Date: Calvin University January Series** | *January 15–February 2 | 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Lunch and livestreamed lecture in the Jones Session Room* — First Presbyterian Church is hosting Calvin College's January Series. This 15-day virtual lecture series aims to cultivate deep thought and conversations about important issues of the day in order to inspire cultural renewal and make us better global citizens in God's world. We look forward to sharing more details in the coming days!

## STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY

**2023 Year-End Giving** — As 2023 draws to a close; this is a great time to make a tax-deductible year-end contribution to First Presbyterian Church. Your contributions are vital because they enable us to fulfill our mission commitments. There are many ways to give, each suited to different financial situations:

- **To donate cash**, visit [fpcnashville.org/generosity/](https://fpcnashville.org/generosity/) and click the give button. Doing this will also allow you to see what you have already given in 2023 (if you have donated online).
- **To submit stock**, please contact Carsen Rooney at Wiley Bros. The account details for a contribution can be found at [fpcnashville.org/generosity/](https://fpcnashville.org/generosity/).
- **To give directly from an IRA** (members above 70½ years old), please contact the institution that manages the IRA.

All cash, check, and credit card gifts must be made to the church by Sunday, December 31. Giving via ACH, stocks, or IRA must be made by Friday, December 29, the year's last trading day. As a reminder, the church office will be closed on December 25 and 29, so please plan accordingly. If you still need to fulfill your 2023 commitment, please do so by the end of the year by visiting [fpcnashville.org/generosity/](https://fpcnashville.org/generosity/). Also, it's not too late to make a pledge for 2024; please go to [fpcnashville.org/2024-generosity/](https://fpcnashville.org/2024-generosity/) and let us know how much you expect to contribute to FPC in the coming year. Thank you for your generous support of FPC.



VISIT [LINKTR.EE/FPCNASHVILLE](https://linktr.ee/fpcnashville) TO  
REGISTER, DONATE OR LEARN MORE



# CHRISTMASTIDE WORSHIP 2023

## Christmas Day Worship

**Monday, December 25**

**11:00 a.m.** | *Stanford Chapel*

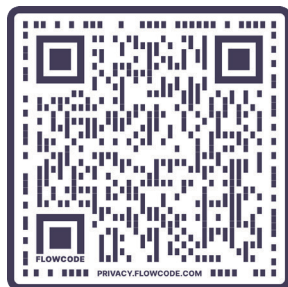
Happy Birthday, Jesus! Spend an hour worshipping the newborn King with your church family at this informal, relaxed service. We will enjoy some birthday cake and children are welcome to come in pajamas.

## First Sunday of Christmas

**Sunday, December 31**

**11:00 a.m.** (*livestreamed*) | *Sanctuary*

On Sunday, December 31, there will be only one worship service, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Nursery care will be available, beginning at 10:45 a.m. Young Children & Worship will not be provided.



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