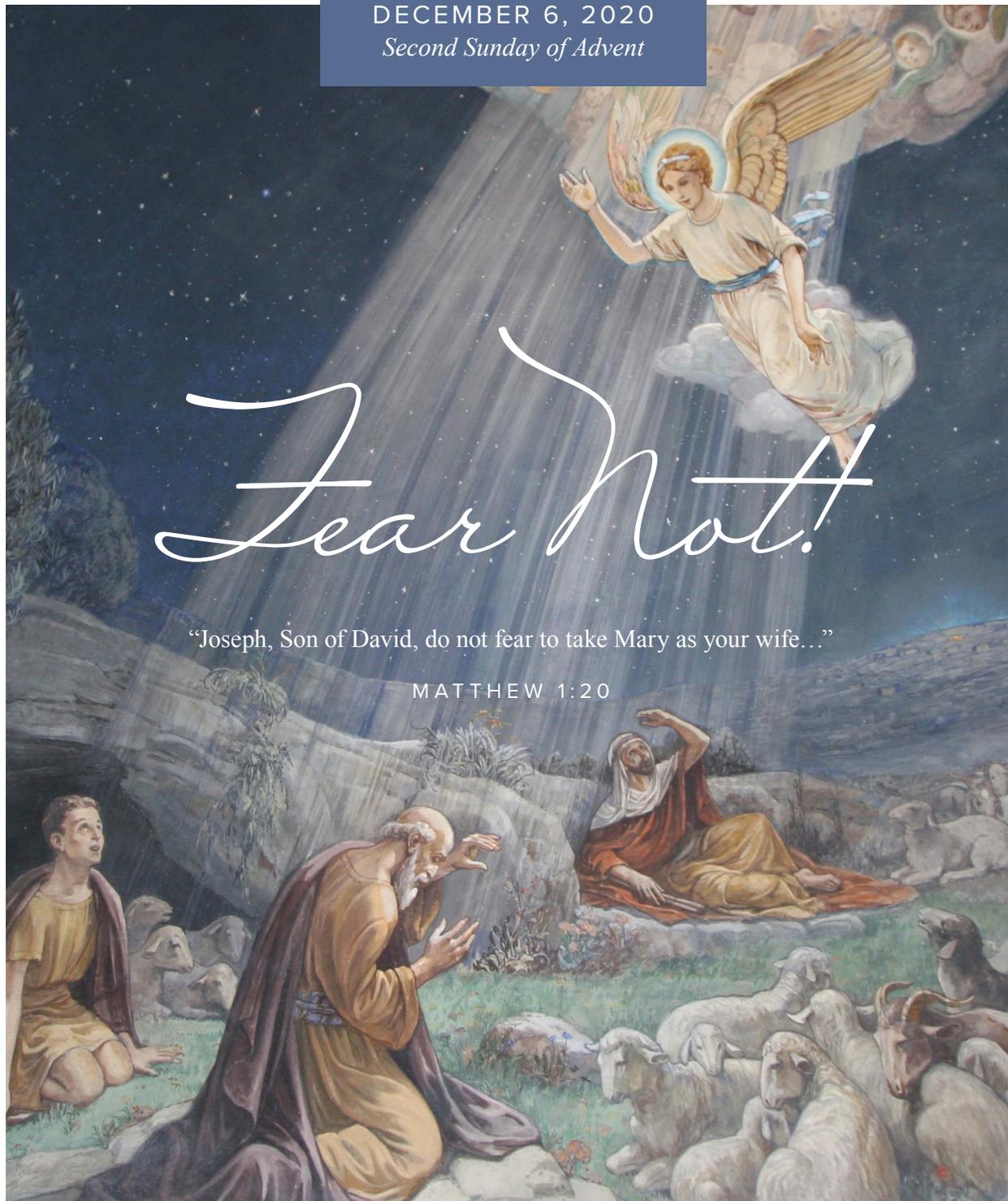




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

DECEMBER 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent



Fear Not!

“Joseph, Son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife...”

MATTHEW 1:20

WORDS OF PREPARATION

“This is often the way God loves us: with gifts we thought we didn’t need, which transform us into people we don’t necessarily want to be. With our advanced degrees, armies, government programs, material comforts and self-fulfillment techniques, we assume that religion is about giving a little of our power in order to confirm to ourselves that we are indeed as self-sufficient as we claim... Then this stranger comes to us, blesses us with a gift, and calls us to see ourselves as we are — empty-handed recipients of a gracious God who, rather than leave us to our own devices, gave us a baby.”

– William Willimon

ORDER OF WORSHIP

†VOLUNTARY

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
Gerald Near

†INTROIT

E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come
Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be.
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; Sing Holy, Holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
rejoice on earth ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon.
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their all!

-from Revelation 22

WELCOME & MINUTE FOR MISSION

Deb O'Brien
Director of Ministry with Children & Their Families

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life.”

People: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord. We light this candle in love, the love that Jesus, our Savior, has for us.

People: Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.

Pastor: The mighty God summons the earth from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets. Our God comes and will not be silent. God calls and we respond to his love. The heavens declare God’s righteousness. We tell out God’s glories!

People: Let us stand in honor, and worship God!

*†OPENING HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

¹ 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.

³ You come, O Lord, with gladness,
in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness
and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation
we live for that great day
when your renewed creation
your glory shall display.

² Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all loves excelling,
our lost and fallen race.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Ashley Higgins (8:30)
Lynn Kendrick (11:00)

FIRST LESSON

Revelation 22:16–21

¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them,

God will add to him the plagues described in this book, ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.
Amen.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Stuart R. Gordon (8:30)
The Rev. Joshua Rodriguez (11:00)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth: forgive our failure to receive Him.
Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Jesus our Savior, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger: forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. Christ, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, forgive our hardness of heart towards you. Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

¹ **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!**

² **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!**

³ **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!**

⁴ **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! Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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

SERMON

An Unexpected Gift
"Joseph, Son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife..." – Matthew 1:20

Dr. Ryan V. Moore

OFFERTORY

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain
Carolyn Jennings

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.

*As you reflect on the Lord's goodness, you can make an offering by leaving your gift
in the offering basket, texting "GIVE" to (707) 475-3005, or donating online at fpcnashville.org.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Stuart R. Gordon (8:30)
The Rev. Sarah Bird Kneff (11:00)

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.

*HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
VENI EMMANUEL

**¹ 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.**

**² O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**³ 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.**

**⁴ 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.**

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The congregation will be seated and will be dismissed by pew following the recessional.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

O Little Town of Bethlehem
ST. LOUIS

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.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Magnificat primi toni
Dietrich Buxtehude

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

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan V. Moore, PhD – *Pastor*
Stuart R. Gordon, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions*
Sarah Bird Kneff, MDiv – *Associate Pastor for Discipleship & Engagement*
Joshua Rodriguez, MDiv – *Associate Pastor for Young Adult Ministry*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*

We're Glad You're Here! – Please use a Connect Card to let us know your needs or what is new with you. We would love to hear from you! When you leave, please place in the basket in the narthex.

Mother and Infant Quiet Room – If you need a quiet place for nursing or calming your baby, we invite you to use our family room located in the Nursery Wing.

Audio Bluetooth Capabilities – Connect your personal device by downloading the WaveCAST app, join WiFi network “FPC Guest” Password: GreenRock-81, select First Pres Sanctuary, plug in your headphones, and make sure you turn up the volume.

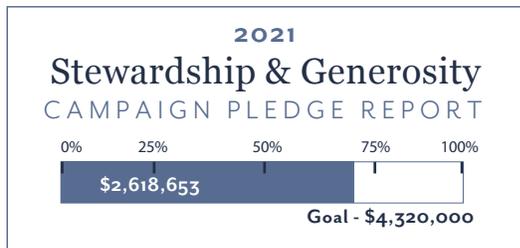
Giving – To contribute to the mission of First Presbyterian Church of Nashville, you may either text “GIVE” to (707) 475-3005 or visit fpcnashville.org/generosity.

MUSIC NOTES

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Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain #27100 Words and Music: Carolyn Jennings Text: © 1981, Neil A. Kjos Music Company All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895



Generosity Campaign — Your help is needed to reach our goal for 2021: 600 pledges totaling \$4,320,000 with an average pledge of \$7,200. Currently we stand at 369 pledges totaling \$2,618,653 with an average pledge of \$7,096. To make your commitment, place your card in the basket at worship, mail it to the church, or visit fpcnashville.org/generosity to contribute online.

Before Sunday: FPC Pastor Discussion — Join our pastors for a 3-week Advent series on Thursdays at 12 noon. Sarah Bird Kneff will facilitate conversations among the pastoral staff, exploring the scripture passage for Sunday’s sermon. Watch the discussion live on Facebook and YouTube.

Boy Scouts Christmas Trees on Sale — The annual Christmas Tree Sale of First Presbyterian’s Troop 217 is underway. The sale runs through mid-December or until supplies last. Frasier firs, Scotch pine, Blue spruce, live wreaths, and garland are available on the FPC lawn. The Troop deeply appreciates the patronage of First Presbyterian members. **Hours:** Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Sundays, noon – 9:00 p.m., Monday – Friday, 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. *Checks, Cash, Credit Cards all accepted.*

Devotions for Advent through Epiphany — For the next few weeks, we will journey through Advent towards Christmas and then trace the traditional 12 days of Christmas leading up to Epiphany. Our pastoral staff has crafted thoughtful reflections on scripture for each day of the season. Devotions will be published weekly in Parish News, Sunday Worship email, and on our website.

Register your child for Winter-Spring Faith Formation — *Beginning January 10 for Nursery & 4-years to 3rd Grade. 4-years to 3rd Grade Options:* Register to Zoom with a team of Faith Formation leaders on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. OR you may also register to receive the session plans and supply bag.

Nursery: Register to receive the session plans and supply bag.

Sessions/supply bags will be delivered to homes around January 7. Register today at fpcnashville.org/featured-events. **Deadline to sign up is December 18.**

MISSIONS

Newest Needs for Room in the Inn — As temperatures drop, our Room in the Inn ministry becomes even more critical for people experiencing homelessness. This winter, people experiencing homelessness can find shelter through Room in the Inn at FPC. We are fortunate to have a facility where COVID-19 health and safety protocols can be carefully observed.

There are several ways to serve in this ministry. Right now, our greatest needs are:

- Overnight hosts: Volunteers stay overnight with guests, arriving at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday night and leave by 6:30 a.m. on Thursday morning. Special arrangements can be made for hosts who may need to arrive late on Wednesday evenings. Hosts have a private bedroom and bathroom.
- New clothing: We need men’s t-shirts, boxer shorts (sizes M, L, XL, XXL & 3XL) and socks. Due to COVID-19 precautions, all items must be new.

There are other ways to support this ministry from van driving to providing breakfast and lunch to providing clean laundry. To learn more about the new safety measures and sign up for this important and fulfilling opportunity, visit missions.fpcnashville.org

For more information on events and mission opportunities, visit fpcnashville.org or sign up for our weekly Parish News email by emailing communications@fpcnashville.org.

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Mary Baker	Don Fisher	Jeff Koch	Mary Evelyn Reese
Mary Helen Bailey	Mary Francis	Kaye Knox	Trey Russell
Kristin Batten	Lewis Frost	David Linn	Mike Shampain
Lauren Brinkley	Carolyn Gehlman	Emily Love	Ada Shapiro
Nat Carswell	Jimmy Gibson	Ben and Anna Lovell and families	Trish Simpson
Merry Lynn Cato	Lynn Hardison	Bracey Mayo	Lucas Spickard
Jim and Nancy Cawood	Willie Hardison	Liz McConnell and family	Ed Stone
Alice Christian	Harry Hassall	Tom McDonald	Marsha Stubbs
Tim Coomer and family	Ann Hayes	Jason Kenneth Meler and his family	David Thomas
Andrea Cooper	Mary Howard Hayes	Sherri Middendorf	Linda Thompson and her father
Chip Crabb	Phyllis Heard	Noah Mudd	Robin Thompson
Lipscomb Davis	Ashley Higgins	Karen Pasquale	Peter van Lingen
Suzie DeYoung	Laura Hobson	Drew Peacock	Janice and Bud Wendell
Burton Dietz	Annie Evelyn Hollins	Sister 'Kathleen' Pugh	Lynda Wimberly
Michael DiTraglia	Tim Ishii	Shelby Eaker Quinley and her family	Tom Wright
Kathryn Downs	Bob Jackson		Nahed Zehr
Diane English	Bob Joss		
	Bill and Susan Kirby		

Please pray for the leaders of our nation and world and community and for their wise and compassionate decisions; for those most vulnerable to illness; for those without homes and no safe place to go; for those whose economic livelihood is in jeopardy; for those without childcare for their children while they work; for doctors and nurses and all those caring for the sick; for medical researchers seeking treatment and means of prevention of COVID-19 and its complications. Please pray for our city, state and nation, for the healing of deep wounds and for God's spirit of peace, justice, mercy, mutual respect and love to rest upon and between all people.

HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

Prayer request cards can be found on the tables when your leave and deposited in the offering baskets or the prayer request boxes located in the narthex and at the Hospitality Center. Church officers meet weekly to lift up prayer requests to God.