



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church of Nashville

1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
*January 1, 2023*  
11:00 a.m.



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For Christ, for His kingdom, and for the common good. Since 1814.

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## WORDS OF PREPARATION

*What was missing in Arius' entire scheme was,  
quite simply, God himself.  
True, he was there – after a fashion.  
He was there, but he was silent, remote . . .  
The God in whom Arius believed had  
no direct contact with his creation . . .*

— Alisdair Heron

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

†VOLUNTARY

*Improvisation: Partita on “Puer Nobis Nascitur”*

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP | Psalm 148

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**People: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!**

Pastor: Let them praise the name of the Lord,

**People: for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.**

**All: Praise the Lord!**

\*†OPENING HYMN 143 (vs. 1-3)

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*  
REGENT SQUARE

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dr. John Musgrave

FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 63:7-9

<sup>7</sup> I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup> For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.” And he became their Savior. <sup>9</sup> In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Sandra Randleman

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we welcome the light for only a while, before we return to our former ways. We neglect the promise of newness in the world and in us. Forgive us for hoping too little and expecting for less. Forgive our doubt. Renew our hope, and increase an love, so that we may reflect your glory and walk in your light, further along the path of goodness, through Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

*A moment for silent confession.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE 143

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*  
REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to th’eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Apostles’ Creed

**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.**

*Whether you are a longtime member or a guest, please mark your presence  
by signing the friendship pad and greet those seated near you as you pass it along.*

‡BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

HYMN OF PREPARATION 152

*What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright*  
PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

SCRIPTURE READING | Hebrews 1:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the righthand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son,

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today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? <sup>6</sup> And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” <sup>7</sup> Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” <sup>8</sup> But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**Room in the End**

Dr. Stuart Gordon

OFFERTORY

*The Father’s Love*  
arr. William Roger Price

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. Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse’s lineage coming, as men of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man but very God; from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load. Isaiah ’twas foretold it. This is he whom heaven taught singers sang of old with one accord, whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word; now he shines, the long expected; let creation praise the Lord, evermore and evermore.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

\*CLOSING HYMN 111

*The Lord Above*  
TRURO

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Festival Prelude for the New Year*  
Carl Nielsen

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

*† Latecomers may be seated.*

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## PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Stuart Gordon, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Christian Formation & Witness*  
John Musgrave, DMin - *Parish Associate*  
Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions*  
Peter Rogahn, DMA – *Organist and Assistant Director of Music*  
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*

## MUSIC NOTES

*The Father's Love* arr. William Roger Price © 2010 St. James Press All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
*Festival Prelude for the New Year* by Carl Nielsen © 1963 Wilhelm Hansen, Copenhagen

## 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.

Whether you are a guest or a longtime member, fill out a **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!

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

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## NEWS & EVENTS



### **Epiphany Bonfire | January 8 | 3:00 p.m. | South Lawn**

Join your church family for hymn singing and burning of the greens at our third 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. The greenery used to decorate for the Christmas season has served its purpose, and the bonfire from burning them celebrates the light and warmth of Christ coming into the world on one of the darkest nights of the year.

### **College Class | January 8 | 9:45 a.m. | Bryant Conference Room**

College students on winter break are invited to attend a Sunday School class on January 8, in the Bryant Conference Room, located near the administration welcome desk. Trajan Carney will teach the class, and it will be great to reconnect and check in over the Winter Break.

### **First Friends Luncheon | Tuesday, January 17 | 12:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall | Cost: \$8**

The theme for January is Physical Therapy. Lindsay Ison, PT, will be our speaker, and will be able to give us an overview and information about how physical therapy might benefit us personally. As usual, we will be treated to a great lunch by Kim at a cost of \$8 payable on the 16th. Register online at [fpcnashville.org](http://fpcnashville.org) or contact Sabrina at 615-298-9509. Please register no later than January 11.

### **Grief Support Group | Sundays | 3:00-4:30 p.m. | January 22-February 12**

FPC will offer a grief support group on Sunday afternoons, 3:00-4:30 p.m., January 22 through February 12. The grief support group will focus on understanding the stages and feelings of grief, as well as how prayer can help us in seeking the comfort of God during the very difficult time of grieving the losses of life. The psalms of lament in the Bible will provide a model for our study of prayer. For more information, contact Dr. Sandra Randleman, [srandleman@fpcnashville.org](mailto:srandleman@fpcnashville.org) or 615-298-9502.

### **Inquirers Class | Saturday, February 12 | 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

The next Inquirers Class will be offered as a one-day retreat on Saturday, February 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining the class or just learning more about membership at First Presbyterian, reach out to Rev. Sandra Randleman ([srandleman@fpcnashville.org](mailto:srandleman@fpcnashville.org) or 615-298-9502).

### **Midweek Study with Ryan Moore**

The weekly Midweek Study with Ryan Moore is currently taking a winter break, and will resume on Wednesday, January 25. All are invited to attend this weekly study, on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. in the Jones Session Room. Kim provides a light lunch each week, payment for which is donation-based.

### **2023 Sanctuary Flowers for Sunday Worship**

The flowers in the Sanctuary every Sunday morning are given by church members in memory of or in honor of loved ones, or in celebration of a milestone. The donor and loved ones are acknowledged in the Sunday bulletin on the date you select. The cost of a flower dedication is \$300 for one arrangement, or \$500 for two arrangements. If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday worship, submit the form on the church website. Contact Kelly McMullen, Flower Committee Chair, at [kelly\\_mc@comcast.net](mailto:kelly_mc@comcast.net) to answer any questions.

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**Sunday School** classes will not meet today.

**Church Office** will be closed January 2.

## STEWARDSHIP 2023

A Commitment to Christ, His Church, and His Kingdom

This special, wonderful season of the year should cause us to stop and reflect on the many blessings that God so generously provides each of us. In gratitude and response for these blessings, let us commit to doing our part to ensure that the Christ-centered vital programs, ministries, and mission partnerships we support continue to receive the funding essential to flourish.

**You can make your pledge by placing a completed pledge card in the mail or in the offering plate. You can also make a virtual pledge by going to [fpcnashville.org/generosity](https://fpcnashville.org/generosity), or scan the QR code.**



So many are counting on us to make a difference in their lives. Please pray about what your response should be! Thank you.

### 2023 CAMPAIGN REPORT

**430 Pledges**

Our goal for 2023 is to increase the number pledge of household pledges from 516 to 530.

**\$3,301,937 Pledged**

Our goal for 2023 is to increase each by \$200.

#### CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT

##### Children & Families

*Mallory Hammond at [mhammond@fpcnashville.org](mailto:mhammond@fpcnashville.org)*

##### Congregational Care

*Sandra Randleman at [srandleman@fpcnashville.org](mailto:srandleman@fpcnashville.org)*

##### Missions

*Annette Crout at [missions@fpcnashville.org](mailto:missions@fpcnashville.org)*

##### Music & Children's Choir

*Daphne Garey at [dgarey@fpcnashville.org](mailto:dgarey@fpcnashville.org)*

##### Presbyterian Women

*Kristy Hall at [preswomen@fpcnashville.org](mailto:preswomen@fpcnashville.org)*

##### Recreation & Congregational Life

*Erika Shapiro at [eshapiro@fpcnashville.org](mailto:eshapiro@fpcnashville.org)*

##### Youth Ministry

*Ginger Sheppard at [youth@fpcnashville.org](mailto:youth@fpcnashville.org)*

##### Stewardship & Endowment

*Bill Mott at [wmott@fpcnashville.org](mailto:wmott@fpcnashville.org)*

#### TALK TO A PASTOR CALL 615-383-1815

The pastoral staff is here for you. Contact us if you would appreciate a pastoral visit/call, have pastoral care needs, would like to be on a prayer list, or if you are in the hospital. Prayer requests can be confidential and limited to the pastors.

**Dr. Ryan Moore**  
*Pastor*

**Dr. Stuart Gordon**  
*Sr. Associate Pastor for Christian Formation & Witness*

**Dr. John Musgrave**  
*Parish Associate*

**Dr. Sandra Randleman**  
*Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions*

#### STAY CONNECTED

*News, events, and church information is sent weekly through the Parish News email.  
To subscribe, email [communications@fpcnashville.org](mailto:communications@fpcnashville.org)*

