

FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
LEBANON

First Sunday in Advent



December 3, 2023

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever

PRELUDE

He Shall Feed His Flock

George F. Handel

CHIMING THE HOUR

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Robin & Jack Emmert

Leader: ...Loving God, come and shine your light in the world! Let us pray together.

People: God, in whom we hope, we wait for your coming to us once again. Strengthen us as we wait, so that we will not lack any spiritual gift as we embrace your judgment. Help us to stay awake to the signs of your coming. Amen.

Sing: *Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.*

*HYMN NO. 1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTT GART

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of new beginnings, you sent your son to show us the way to our salvation. And yet we do not welcome him as we should. We confess that we question your motives and doubt your powers. We ignore your messengers. We are constrained by our lack of faith, and we fail to be your servants. Forgive us our sins. Open our eyes and help us see that nothing is impossible with you. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news. Jesus came to save sinners.
May we be dead to sin and alive to God.

People: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI

Hymn No. 23

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

* Those who are able are invited to stand.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Speak to us, Lord.

Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,
the hoping, the longing,
the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.

Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1: 26-38

*Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word.*

ANTHEM

Oh, How Joyfully!

William G. Noyes

*Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how merrily Christmas comes with its grace divine!
Grace again is beaming, Christ the world redeeming;
Hail, ye Christians, hail the joyous Christmas time!*

*Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how merrily Christmas comes with its peace divine!
Peace on earth is reigning, Christ our peace regaining,
Hail, ye Christians, hail the joyous Christmas time!*

*Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how merrily Christmas comes with its life divine!
Angels high in glory, Chant the Christmas story,
Hail, ye Christians, hail the joyous Christmas time!*

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

SERMON

Rev. Sherard Edington

Christmas Through the Eyes of Mary: 1. Called

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN NO. 16 *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE 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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* Timothy R. Matthews

*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with You.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. (repeat)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN NO. 48 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN' ROS'

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn no. 44

*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.*

*POSTLUDE

Fanfare on "Lobe Den Herren"

Craig A. Penfield

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to all who worship with us this morning. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to become a member of First Presbyterian Church. For more information, please speak to the pastor at the close of the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner

December 6, 6:00 p.m.

*Ham, Broccoli Casserole, Loaded Mashed Potatoes,
Cranberry Salad, Eggnog Cake*

Sherard Edington will lead a Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.

To make a reservation, please call the church office at
(615) 444-1360 by Tuesday.

THE MEN'S BREAKFAST will be Saturday, December 16, at 8:00 a.m.
To make a reservation, please contact Kristy in the church office at
(615) 444-1360.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

7:00 P.M., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

All are welcome to attend our service of Lessons & Carols. Following the service, everyone is invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for punch and cookies.

Cookie donations are always appreciated.

YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP (5th -12th grade) will meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Edington is teaching the Youth Sunday School Class.

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Today

9:00 a.m. NCC Worship
10:00 a.m. Church School
11:00 a.m. Worship

Monday

6:00 p.m. New Day AA Group

Tuesday

9:00 a.m. Preschool
4:00 p.m. Prayer Group

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
6:30 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday

9:00 a.m. Preschool
6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Friday

Saturday

SESSION

Class of 2023
Max Carter
Frank Reeves
David Foutch

Class of 2024
Nancy Gebhardt
Mickey Stueck
Allen Vance

Class of 2025
W.P. Bone
Jack Emmert

DIACONATE

Class of 2023
Margaret Carroll
Mark Fain
Carol Benson
Pat Hatcher

Class of 2024
Jonathan Bouton
Carol Turner
Van Turner
Sandra Weatherford

Class of 2025
Rachel Low
Anne Donnell
Jim Stueck

CHURCH COMMITTEES

Clerk of Session – Barbara Howell
Treasurer – Jim Stueck
Budget & Finance – Frank Reeves
Buildings and Grounds – Allen Vance
Christian Education – Max Carter
Congregational Care – Mickey Stueck
Outreach – Nancy Gebhardt
Personnel –
Worship –

STAFF

Ministers – All Members of the Congregation
Pastor – Sherard Edington
Organist/Director of Music – Darryl Nettles
Office Administrator – Kristy Vincent
Preschool Director – Angela Hankins
Nursery – Sara Chaney
Custodians – Stratus Cleaning Service

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Children	Adult
Nursery	Crossroads Class
Elementary Class and	Faith Builders Class
Middle- High School Class	Westminster Class

First Presbyterian Church
304 West Main Street
Lebanon, TN 37087
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CCLI# 2226825

FINANCIAL UPDATE		
	Expenses	Income
October	\$23,190.45	\$21,068.58
YTD	\$270,198.44	\$272,860.98
	Last Week's Offering	\$1,943.00