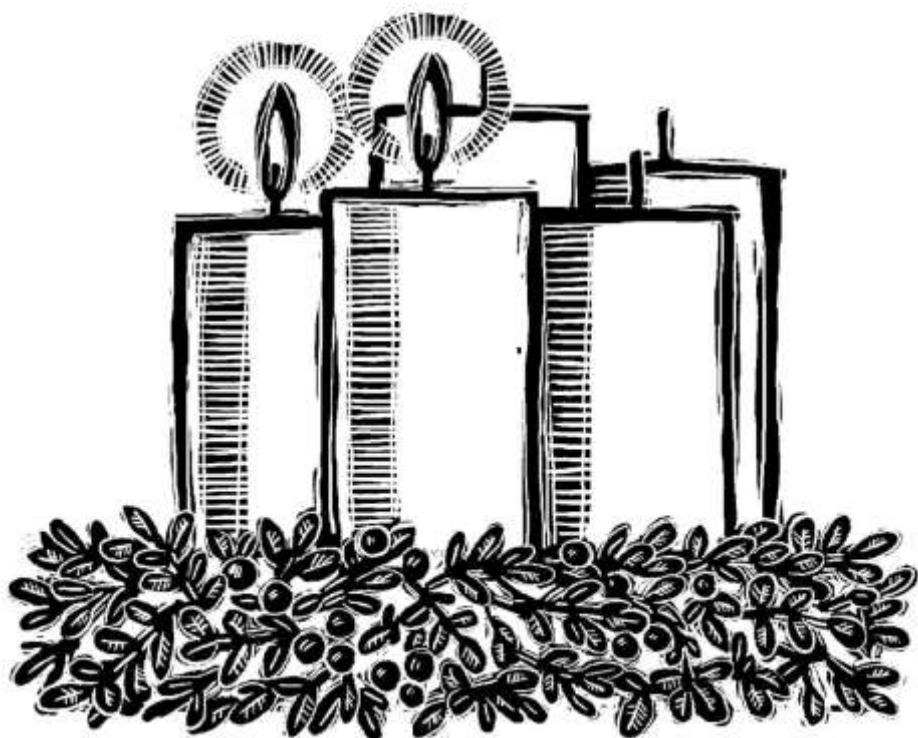


FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
LEBANON

*Second Sunday
in Advent*



December 10, 2023

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 10, 2023 *Second Sunday of Advent*

11:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever

SILENT MEDITATION

PRELUDE

We Three Kings

Albin C. Whitworth

CHIMING THE HOUR

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Carol & Van Turner

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

People: God of peace, we look forward to the time when the earth is full of your glory, when righteousness is at home and peace reigns in all the world. May we prepare for that day by working together as your holy people. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of the Improbable, we are astounded that you care for us as you do. Although you call us into your sacred presence, we confess that we don't always respond with joy.

We flinch in fear in the face of your messengers.

We dismiss the presence of your Spirit in our lives.

We are hesitant to become your servants.

Forgive us our sins, we pray, and fill us with the joy of your being. Help us accept your blessings in our lives. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: In this time of anticipation, let us whisper the words of hope until all despair is silenced. Let us sing the carols of compassion until all wounds are healed.

People: We embrace the Good News of our salvation. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA

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 1:39-45

*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?
For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting,
the child in my womb leaped for joy.
And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment
of what was spoken to her by the Lord.*

ANTHEM

The Manger Carol

Mary E. Caldwell

*How soft are the shadows, the evening is mild.
I come to watch near thee, my sweet holy Child.
A song I shall sing Thee, a soft lullaby,
For Thou art not sleeping, how gentle Thy cry.
Lullaby, lullaby, how gentle Thy cry.
The starlight a crown for Thy head.
Two angels by Thy manger bed.
The small doves are watching from rafters on high,
And for Thee a soft lullaby
Lullaby, lullaby, a soft lullaby.
My dear Son, my loved one, Thy sweet eyelids close.
No shadow shall darken Thy dreamless repose.
An echo of music drifts down from the sky,
The angels sing for Thee a soft lullaby.
Lullaby, lullaby, a soft lullaby.*

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

SERMON

Rev. Sherard Edington

Christmas Through the Eyes of Mary: 2. Blessed



**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP**

A Service of Lessons and Carols **7:00 P.M.**

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN NO. 3 *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

PSALM 42

*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 *Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head* Albin C. Whitworth

*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.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Traditional) Hymnal Page 16

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN NO. 53 *What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

*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

Sortie

Cesar Fran

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 13, 6:00 p.m.

Potluck Covered Dish

We will have a special visit from Santa.

Wear your favorite Christmas sweater.

Bring your wish list, your favorite dish, and your camera!

CONGRATULATIONS to Nancy and George Gebhardt on the birth of their first great-grandchild! Iris Belle was born on December 4 to Ariane and Chris Daugherty in Augusta, Georgia.

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. Please bring a personal Christmas story.

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. Pastor Sherard 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
12:15 p.m. Session Meeting

Monday

6:00 p.m. New Day AA Group

Tuesday

9:00 a.m. Preschool
4:00 p.m. Prayer Group
5:00 p.m. Officer Training

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
615.444.1360
fpcllebanon.org
CCLI# 2226825

FINANCIAL UPDATE		
	Expenses	Income
October	\$23,190.45	\$21,068.58
YTD	\$270,198.44	\$272,860.98
	Last Week's Offering	\$8,951.00