

FIRST   
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
LEBANON

Third  
Sunday in  
Advent



December 15, 2024

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 15, 2024 *Third Sunday of Advent*

11:00 A.M.

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## THE GATHERING

*To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever*

### SILENT MEDITATION

#### PRELUDE

*Carols of the Star*

Lani Smith

#### CHIMING THE HOUR

### WHO WE ARE

Leader: We are called Christians but what does that mean?

People: We are a welcoming community of disciples of Jesus Christ continually demonstrating God's reign.

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHORAL INTROIT

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Chloe and Derek Loucks

Leader: ...Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Let us pray together.

People: (unison) Faithful God, we are glad for your promises to us. We trust that the time is coming when all people will repent and turn to you. May we do our part to bring your good news of great joy to all. Amen.

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

#### \*HYMN NO. 9

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of our ancestors, we are your children and our lives are a blessing. Yet, too easily we consider ourselves to be more righteous than others because of our wealth, lineage, or social standing. We don't readily share our abundances with others who have little, and we continually crave more than we need. We use our power to abuse the weak.

Guide us to live as you intended, sharing our blessings with those in need, using our power to serve and to heal as we proclaim the good news. Amen.

#### SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn in faith. Friends, hear the good news.

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.

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 3:7-18

*Bear fruits worthy of repentance.*

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.*

SERMON

*God in Your Midst: Repent*

Rev. Sherard Edington

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\* Those who are able are invited to stand.

## RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

\*HYMN NO. 10     *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*     WINCHESTER NEW

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH     THE CONFESSION OF 1967

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.  
His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child  
of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel,  
the beginning of the new creation,  
and the pioneer of the new humanity.  
He gave history its meaning and direction  
and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of  
the world. Amen

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY     *O Christ Child Sweet*     J.S. Bach

### \*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     *Christmas Postlude on "In Dulci Jubilo"*     Gilbert Martin

## 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 18, 6:00 p.m.

*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!

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### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, 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.

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CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING – We will receive the Christmas Joy offering next Sunday. This special offering of the PCUSA supports our church leaders - past, present, and future – and their families when they need financial assistance.

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### BLUE CHRISTMAS: A SERVICE OF HEALING AND HOPE

The holidays can be a difficult time for those dealing with grief and loss. Not everyone is “merry and bright” at the time of year when the nights are cold and long and so many feel alone. As an antidote to all the twinkling lights, FPC is offering a Blue Christmas worship service in the Chapel on Thursday, December 19, at 7:00 p.m. This will be a simple service of hymns and scripture focusing not only on our grief but also on our hope.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

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## YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP (5<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade) will meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

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## THIS WEEK AT FPC

<b>Today</b>		<b>Wednesday</b>	
8:45 a.m.	Worship	6:00 p.m.	Fellowship Meal
9:45 a.m.	Church School	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
11:00 a.m.	Worship	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
<b>Monday</b>		<b>Thursday</b>	
6:00 p.m.	New Day Group	9:00 a.m.	Preschool
7:00 p.m.	Ladies Bingo	6:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts
<b>Tuesday</b>		<b>Friday</b>	
9:00 a.m.	Preschool	<b>Saturday</b>	
		8:00 a.m.	Men’s Breakfast

## SESSION

Class of 2024  
Max Carter  
Nancy Gebhardt  
Mickey Stueck  
Allen Vance

Class of 2025  
W.P. Bone  
Jack Emmert  
Frank Reeves

Class of 2026  
Carol Hill  
Margaret Ann Trail

## DIACONATE

Class of 2024  
Jonathan Bouton  
Carol Turner  
Van Turner  
Sandra Weatherford

Class of 2025  
Rachel Low  
Jim Stueck

Class of 2026  
Melissa Cassetty  
Karen Hunter-Lowery  
Jim Murff

## CHURCH COMMITTEES

Clerk of Session – Barbara Howell  
Treasurer – Jim Stueck  
Budget & Finance – Jim Stueck  
Buildings and Grounds – Allen Vance  
Christian Education – Nancy Gebhardt  
Congregational Care –  
Outreach – Margaret Ann Trail  
Personnel – Jack Emmert  
Worship – Mickey Stueck

## STAFF

Ministers – All Members of the Congregation  
Pastor – Sherard Edington  
Organist/Director of Music – Darryl Nettles  
Office Administrator – Kristy Vincent  
NCC Worship Leader – Natalie Loader  
Preschool Director – Angela Hankins  
Custodians – Stratus Cleaning Service

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

**Children**  
Elementary Class and  
Middle - High School Class

**Adult**  
Crossroads Class  
Faith Builders Class

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