

FIRST   
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
LEBANON

*Third Sunday  
in Advent*



December 17, 2023

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 17, 2023 *Third Sunday of Advent*

11:00 A.M.

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## THE GATHERING

*To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever*

### SILENT MEDITATION

#### PRELUDE

*Heavenly Gift*

Juliet Calkins

#### CHIMING THE HOUR

### CHORAL INTROIT

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Mickey and Jim Stueck

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

People: Faithful God, we are glad for your promises to us. We trust that the time is coming when all people will experience joy and gladness through you. May we do our part to bring your good news to all. Amen.

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

\*HYMN NO. 11 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*

GEBEN

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God our Savior, despite our numerous faults, you continue to look on us with your favor.

You are merciful while we are callous.

You are strong while we gravitate toward bullies.

You are just while we claim everything for ourselves.

Forgive us and lead us each day to become your humble servants. Help us to magnify your holy presence to this hungry world so that all may savor your glory. 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.

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\* 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: 46-56

*He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;  
 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.*

## ANTHEM

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

arr. Krones

*God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
 Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
 To save us all from Satan's pow'r e'er we were gone astray;  
 Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
 Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!*

*From God, our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came,  
 And unto certain shepherds bro't tidings of the same,  
 How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name,  
 Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
 Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!*

*Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,  
 And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
 This holy tide of Christmas all other doth efface,  
 Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
 Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.*

## TIME FOR THE YOUNGER DISCIPLES

## SERMON

Rev. Sherard Edington

*Christmas Through the Eyes of Mary: Favored*

## RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

\*HYMN No. 9

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL



**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP**

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

**\*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**            *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*            Michael Praetorius

**\*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.*

**DEDICATION OF PLEDGES**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

(Traditional) Hymnal Page 16

Lord, in your mercy  
Hear our prayer.

**SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN NO. 23**            *Angels, We Have Heard on High*            GLORIA

*Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

**HYMN NO. 25**            *Away in a Manger*            CRADLE SONG

*Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

**HYMN NO. 38**            *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*            CAROL

*It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
From heaven's all gracious King":  
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.*

**HYMN NO. 31*****Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

MENDELSSOHN

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!**Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.**Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die.**Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***\*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***Praise Ye, the Lord of Hosts*

Camile Saint-Saens

**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**

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY of the congregation are extended to David and Barbara Howell on the death of David's cousin, John Howell, Jr. on December 9, in Nashville.

There will be no WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP DINNER on December 20, December 27, or January 3. We will resume regular meals on January 10.

TORNADO RELIEF - To support relief efforts in Nashville and surrounding counties, these organizations are coordinating with local agencies: volunteers - Hands on Nashville (HON), supplies - Community Resource Center (CRC), and funding - The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and United Way of Greater Nashville. Donations can also be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

**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 (5<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade) will meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Sherard is teaching the Youth Sunday School Class.

## THIS WEEK AT FPC

<p><b>Today</b>            9:00 a.m. NCC Worship            10:00 a.m. Church School            11:00 a.m. Worship</p> <p><b>Monday</b>            6:00 p.m. New Day AA Group</p> <p><b>Tuesday</b>            9:00 a.m. Preschool            4:00 p.m. Prayer Group</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b>            6:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p> <p><b>Thursday</b>            6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts</p> <p><b>Friday</b></p> <p><b>Saturday</b></p>
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### SESSION

<p><b>Class of 2023</b>            Max Carter            Frank Reeves            David Foutch</p>	<p><b>Class of 2024</b>            Nancy Gebhardt            Mickey Stueck            Allen Vance</p>	<p><b>Class of 2025</b>            W.P. Bone            Jack Emmert</p>
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### DIACONATE

<p><b>Class of 2023</b>            Margaret Carroll            Mark Fain            Carol Benson            Pat Hatcher</p>	<p><b>Class of 2024</b>            Jonathan Bouton            Carol Turner            Van Turner            Sandra Weatherford</p>	<p><b>Class of 2025</b>            Rachel Low            Anne Donnell            Jim Stueck</p>
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### 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  
 Nursery – Sara Chaney  
 Custodians – Stratus Cleaning Service

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 CCLI# 2226825

FINANCIAL UPDATE		
	Expenses	Income
<b>November</b>	\$23,760.56	\$16,232.19
<b>YTD</b>	\$293,969.90	\$289,096.62
	<b>Last Week's Offering</b>	\$13,210.00