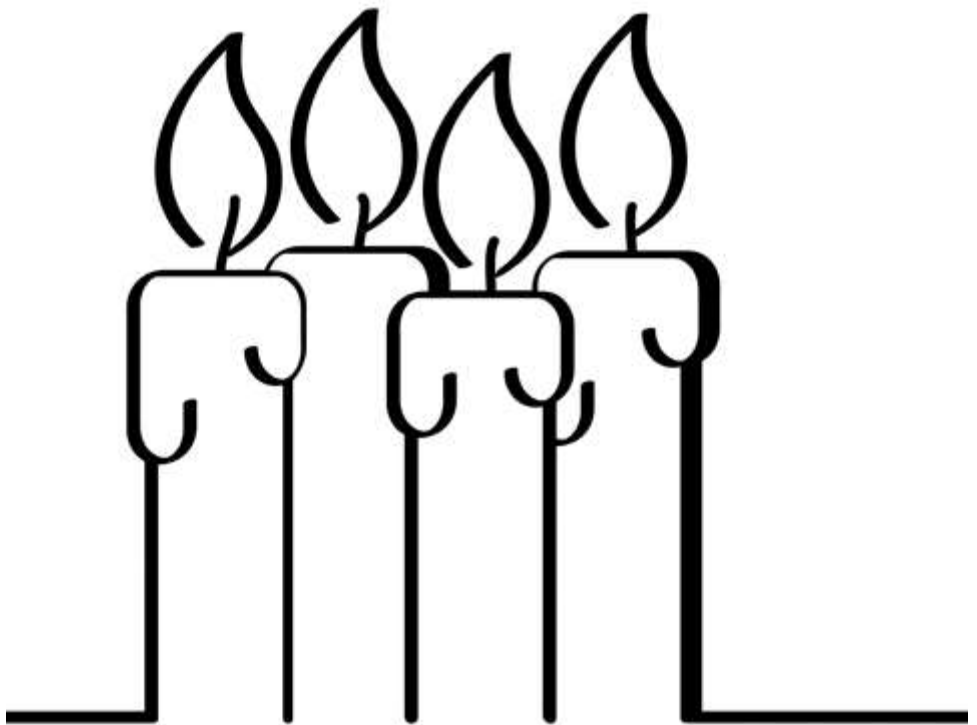


FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
LEBANON

Fourth Sunday
in Advent



December 22, 2024

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 22, 2024 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

11:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever

SILENT MEDITATION

PRELUDE

Pastorale

Gerald Peterson

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

 Tristan Olsen and Evin Ross

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

People: God of love, you have sent your Son as the light of the world. Even now that light is breaking in upon us. May we rejoice in the light of your love, even as we wait for your coming. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

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.*

* Those who are able are invited to stand.

***THE PEACE**

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

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Open us, God, to your Word and your Way. As we make our final preparations before Christmas, clear our minds of holiday distractions and long list of to-dos. Help us approach your Word with awe and wonder, so we may hear the message you intend for us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-55

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.*

ANTHEM

Once in David's Royal City

John Leavitt

*Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little Child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and low, Lived on earth our Savior long ago.*

*But our eyes in truth should see him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above,
As He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.*

*Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!*

SERMON

God in Your Midst: Rejoice

Rev. Sherard Edington

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN NO. 27**

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things have been created through him and for him.
He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.

He is head of the body, the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn of the dead,
so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Silent Night

Edward Broughton

*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. 22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

*Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!*

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. 27

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

*Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.*

***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**

Episode on "Truro"

Lani Smith

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.

📶 For WiFi access go to FPC_CONNECT and enter password 6154441360.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGE – On Sunday, December 29, there will be a single combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday School that day. The normal Sunday schedule will resume on January 5.

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

THE 4 CENTS A MEAL offering will be received next Sunday.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEALS will resume on January 8.



YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP (5th -12th grade) will not meet until January 8.

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Today		Wednesday	
8:45 a.m.	Worship		Office Closed
9:45 a.m.	Church School		Christmas Day
11:00 a.m.	Worship	Thursday	
Monday			Office Closed
6:00 p.m.	New Day Group	Friday	
Tuesday			Office Closed
7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Saturday	

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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