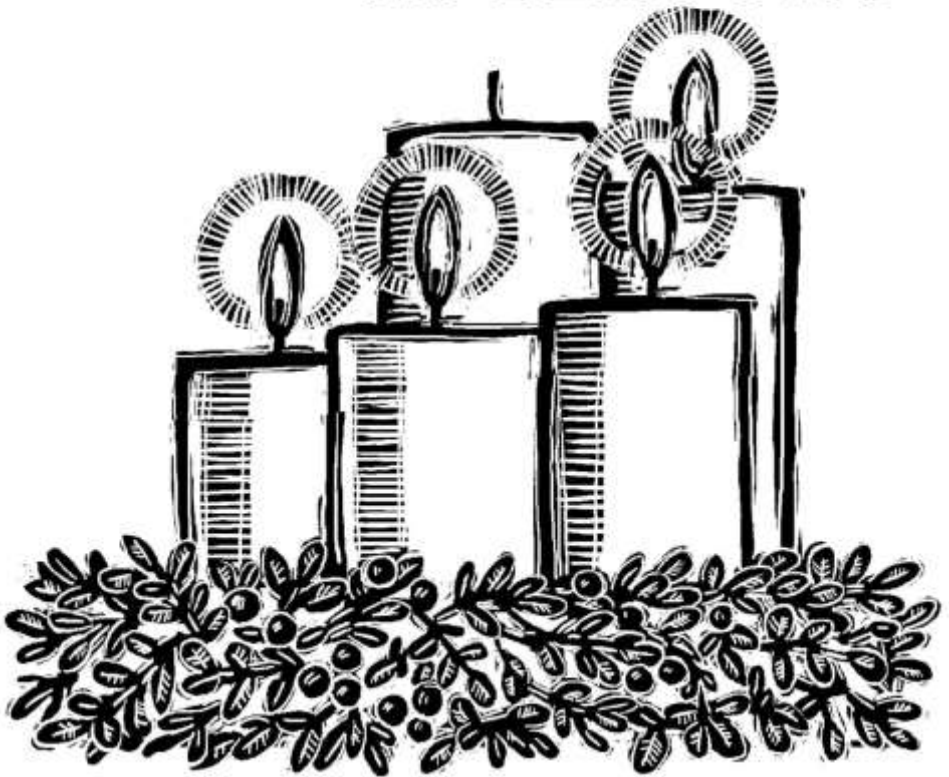


FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
LEBANON

*Fourth Sunday
in Advent*



December 24, 2023

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 24, 2023 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

11:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever

SILENT MEDITATION

PRELUDE *Meditation on "Veni Emmanuel"* John Sciveyner

CHIMING THE HOUR

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Margaret Ann Trail & Jim Murff

Leader: ...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 brightly reflect the light of your love, even as we wait for your coming. Amen.

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

*HYMN NO. 5 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

PICARDY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of Hope,

We know the story by heart—of the child born in a stable, sent by you to steer us toward our salvation.

But still, we continue to search for the warrior king—the mighty one who will sweep away our troubles with his powerful sword. This is the savior we seek, not the one you've sent. Forgive us, God, and help us follow your son, the Prince of Peace, who will guide us toward new life with you. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from Psalm 103

Leader: "The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting." Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia and Amen!

*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 2:1-7

*Joseph went to be registered with Mary,
to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.*

ANTHEM

The Snow Lay on the Ground

John Coates, Jr.

*The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
When Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite adoremus Dominum; Venite adoremus Dominum.*

*Saint Mary, Virgin pure, of holy Anne,
That brought into this world the God made Man.
She laid Him in a stall at Bethlehem;
The sheep and donkey shared the roof with him.
Venite adoremus Dominum; Venite adoremus Dominum.*

*Saint Joseph, too was by to tend the Child;
To guard Him and protect His Mother mild.
The angels hovered round and sang this son:
Venite adoremus Dominum; Venite adoremus Dominum.*

*And thus the manger poor became a throne;
For He, whom Mary bore, was God the Son.
O come, then let us join the heav'nly host
To praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Venite adoremus Dominum; Venite adoremus Dominum.*

TIME FOR THE YOUNGER DISCIPLES

SERMON

Rev. Sherard Edington

Christmas Through the Eyes of Mary: Registered



RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN NO. 27 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Philippians 2:5-11*

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be
exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* 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. 37 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* W ZLOBIE LEZY

*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

Noel

George Blake

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

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY of the congregation are extended to Robin and Jack Emmert on the death of Jack's son-in-law, Christopher Prouty, on December 16 in Clearwater, Florida.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEALS will resume on January 10.

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.

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 TONIGHT AT 7:00 P.M.

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.

YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP (5th -12th grade) will resume on January 10. 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
7:00 p.m. Candlelight
Service

Monday

Office Closed
6:00 p.m. New Day AA Group

Tuesday

Office Closed

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday

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
NCC Worship Leader – Natalie Loader
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
November	\$23,760.56	\$16,232.19
YTD	\$293,969.90	\$289,096.62
	Last Week's Offering	\$10,175.00