

# FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
LEBANON

## Second Sunday in Advent



December 8, 2024

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 8, 2024

*Second Sunday of Advent*

11:00 A.M.

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## THE GATHERING

*To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever*

PRELUDE

*Heavenly Gift*

Juliet Calkins

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

Carol Hill & Karen Hunter-Lowery

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

People: (unison) 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 for justice and peace. Amen.

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

## \*HYMN NO. 8

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

TRURO

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord of Righteousness, you send your messengers to pave the way for our salvation. Yet, we confess that we fail to acknowledge their call.

We ignore your covenant.

We turn our backs on injustice.

We push aside the weak for our own gain.

Forgive us, we plea. Purify our hearts, renew our minds, and make us holy. May all our offerings and actions be pleasing to you. Amen.

### SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The good news of Advent is that Jesus Christ has come into the world, has led the way through death that we may have life, and is coming again to make all things new. Friends, this is the Good News.  
In the name of Christ, we are forgiven!

People: 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

Malachi 3:1-6

*Who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?  
For he is like a refiner's fire and like washer's soap.*

### ANTHEM

*The Babe in Bethlehem's Manger Laid*

F. Buebendorf

*The babe in Bethlehem's manger laid, in humble form so low,  
By wond'ring angels is surveyed through all his scenes of woe.*

*Noel, noel, Now sing a Saviour's birth.*

*All hail His coming down to earth, who raises us to Heav'n!*

*Noel, noel, Now sing a Saviour's birth.*

*All hail His coming down to earth, who raises us to Heav'n.*

*For not to sit on David's throne with worldly pomp and joy,  
He came on earth for sin to atone and Satan to destroy.*

*Noel, noel, Now sing a Saviour's birth.*

*All hail His coming down to earth, who raises us to Heav'n!*

*To preach the word of life divine and feed with living bread,  
To heal the sick with hand benign and raise to life the dead.*

*Noel, noel, Now sing a Saviour's birth!*

*All hail His coming down to earth, who raises us to Heav'n!*

*Well may we sing a Saviour's birth, who need the grace so giv'n,  
And hail His coming down to earth, who raises us to Heav'n.*

*Noel, noel, Now sing a Saviour's birth!*

*All hail His coming down to earth, who raises us to Heav'n!*

*Noel, noel, noel!*

### SERMON

*God in Your Midst:* Rev. Sherard Edington

*Refine*

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\* Those who are able are invited to stand.

## RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

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

PICARDY

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from Romans 8*

We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY     *Meditation on "Veni Emmanuel"*

John Scriveyner

\*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

Lord, in your mercy  
Hear our prayer.

(Traditional) Hymnal Page 16

## SENDING FORTH

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

PSALM 42

\*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

*Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

J.S. Bach

## 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 11, 6:00 p.m.

*Ham, Broccoli Casserole, Loaded Mashed Potatoes,  
Cranberry Salad, Eggnog Cake*

To make a reservation, please call the church office at  
(615) 444-1360 by Tuesday.

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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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### 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.

## YOUTH

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

### THIS WEEK AT FPC

Today		Wednesday	
8:45 a.m.	Worship	5:00 p.m.	Worship Comm.
9:45 a.m.	Church School	6:00 p.m.	Fellowship Meal
11:00 a.m.	Worship	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
12:15 p.m.	Session Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
2:00 p.m.	Comer Donnell Internment	Thursday	
Monday		9:00 a.m.	Preschool
6:00 p.m.		6:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts
Tuesday		Friday	
9:00 a.m.		Saturday	

## SESSION

Class of 2024  
Max Carter  
Nancy Gebhardt  
Mickey Stueck  
Allen Vance

Class of 2025  
W.P. Bone  
Nancy Boyd  
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 – Nancy Boyd  
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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