



This service is being recorded by video and audio means.

*We invite you to stand as able.

First Sunday of Advent

~The Gathering~

PRELUDE

O Word, that Goest Forth on High
Tami Newsom, organ

Powell

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GREETING

Rev. Matt Nieman

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:

Advent series "Glowing with Advent" by Gail Gaymer Martin – published by Christian Publishers

Responsive Reading: Psalm 130:5-7

One: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

All: **And in his word I put my hope.**

One: My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.

All: **More than watchmen wait for the morning.**

One: O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,

All: **For with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.**

Message: Sam Hacker as the Farmer

Song: "The Candle of Hope" to the tune of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

**Lord, we thank you and we praise you
For your gift to us divine.
As we celebrate this Advent
Fill our hearts with hope sublime.
Candles glowing, spirits growing,
As the Christ child comes to earth.
We rejoice his holy birth. We rejoice his holy birth.**

Response: Romans 15:13

One: The candle of hope prepares us for Christ's coming.

All: **Our hearts glow with the light of hope.**

One: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: **We wait with hope. Come, Lord Jesus.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

God says,

"Do not be afraid."

God says,

"I have called you by name."

God says,

"I will be with you."

God says,

"You are precious and honored in my sight."

At the beginning of this season,

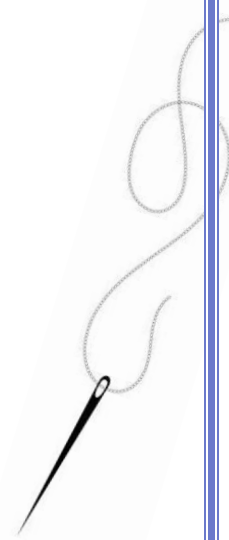
At the start of this week,

At the top of this hour,

may we wrap ourselves in these words.

May we begin again.

Let us worship our Holy God!



*HYMN #9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

Text: Latin, c. 12th century. Music: Adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854.
The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Affirming God, Your first words to creation were words of love.
You looked at this earth and said, "It is good."
You spoke affirmations through the prophets.
You spoke blessings over Mary.
You spoke belonging through Christ.
At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing,
made in your image, held in your love.**

**Forgive us for forgetting this truth.
Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring
stick, instead of yours. We believe. Help our belief.
In Christ's name we pray.**

(please continue in silent prayer)

***KYRIE ELEISON**

Conditor alme siderum

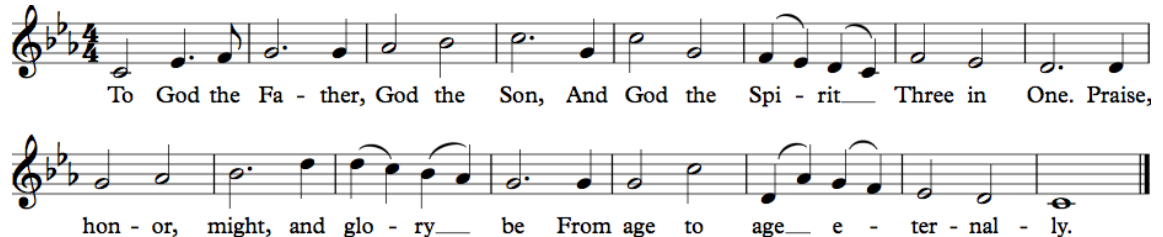


Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Your peo - ple's
ev - er - last - ing light, O Christ, Re - deem - er of
us all, We pray You hear us when we call.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***GLORIA PATRI**

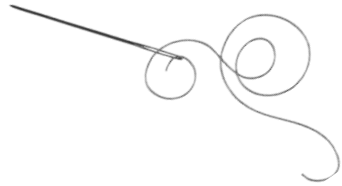
Truro



To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the Spi - rit Three in One. Praise,
hon - or, might, and glo - ry be From age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

*THE PEACE

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



~The Word~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bruce Wilson

Affirming God, how often do you speak to us, and how often do we miss it? How often do you whisper blessings over us that we refuse to hear? Open our hearts. Create space in us to not only hear these words, but to believe the good news tucked between them. We are hungry for your wisdom, so speak to us now. With hope and curiosity, we listen. With hope and curiosity, we dare to begin again. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

[Pew Bible pg. 672]

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-10

Dr. Angela Batey, cantor

Haugen



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul, to you, I lift my soul.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
Nor let my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous. **(R)**

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. **(R)**

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord. **(R)**

You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.
All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies. **(R)**

From *Psalms for All Seasons*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:26-38

[Pew Bible pg. 56]

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON “Words for the Beginning: You Are A Blessing” Rev. Matt Nieman

~The Response~

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved. We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary, and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman, the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds, the Jews, the Gentiles, the faithful and the doubting. So in faith, we trust that God’s blessing, like ripples on the water, forever reaches toward us. And with wild hope, we believe that because of this blessing, we are covered in love. We are more than enough. Thanks be to God! Amen.

THE ANTHEM

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Scott

Chancel Choir

The anthem text may be found in The Hymnal, #5

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

~The Eucharist~

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(prayer continues)



SANCTUS

Picardy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

AGNUS DEI

Picardy

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: grant us thy peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

~The Sending~

*HYMN #8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

Text: Georg Weissel, 1642. Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855. Music: Thomas Williams, 1789. Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)
The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. Public domain.

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE #9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

*POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations Come

Powell

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Usher ~ Thom Haig

Audio ~ Ken Ladrach & Kat Wilson

Video ~ Mason Warren, Turner Neely, & Kat Wilson

Please use one of the methods below to record your attendance with us today:



Scan this QR code and click on the generated google doc link, or

- Go to <https://tinyurl.com/record-FPC-attendance>, or
- Email the office at office@fpctn.org, or
- Sign the pew attendance pad.

SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS

If you can help in any of the submitted categories: usher, scripture reader, or communion server, please go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/FPCvolunteerSignUp> and sign up in the appropriate available time slot. If you have any questions, please contact Mikie Lancaster, Ken Ladrach, or the church office (865/966-9547).





The theme for Advent this year is **“WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING.”** An Advent devotional on this theme (from *Sanctified Art*) can be viewed at online.flippingbook.com/view/811735764/. If you prefer a printed copy, please let the church office know, and we can print one for you.

NEXT SUNDAY!

We will have one worship service at 10am to enjoy the **FPC CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** ~ A Christmas Cookie Reception will follow, so be sure to plan on attending this extra special holiday service!



On **Sunday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m.** we will participate in our twenty-seventh annual **SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** in the sanctuary, followed by an elegant heavy hors-d'œuvre reception by our Church Life Committee. The Service of Lessons and Carols is a traditional seasonal service of scripture and music. Don't miss singing the beloved carols of the season in this special service, and the celebration that follows!



SUNSET GAP SECRET SANTA

This Christmas we are sponsoring 40 children from Cosby Elementary for Christmas. Look for the sign-up sheets both on-site in the narthex and on-line at <https://tinyurl.com/SGChristmas2024> (or use the QR code). Select a tag, sign up on the sheet with both your name and phone number. Be sure to note your tag's number. Please return gifts wrapped for Christmas, with the child's name and tag number on the package by Dec 8th. Questions? Please contact Debbie Long.



SUNSET GAP HAT/MITTEN TREE: The congregation is invited to join Presbyterian Women as we collect for the hat, mitten/gloves, scarves tree that the center has available to anyone in the community needing these warm items. The need will be even bigger due to Hurricane Helene. Items may be handmade, or store bought. Items are needed for people of all ages and need to be new. Deadline is Dec 8th as they will be delivered with the gifts for the children. Questions, please contact Debbie Long



Christmas Eve Services

3:00 p.m. – Candlelight Casual Worship Service with Communion
7:00 p.m. – Candlelight Traditional Worship Service with Communion

We met our goal! The **SHEPHERD OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY** holiday food baskets have enough cake and brownie mixes and frosting! Thank you to all who donated to these holiday baskets that will be given to the less fortunate this Thanksgiving and Christmas. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. Contact Becky Thomason with any questions.



If you would still like to make a pledge towards the programs and services FPC provides in 2025, it's not too late! Please go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/makemyFPCpledge>
or scan this QR code with your phone's camera. You can also stop by the church during office hours to get a pledge card to turn in.



SPECIAL THANKS to FPC volunteers, Gale Montgomery, Margo Gregory, Sharon Koch, November meal coordinator Carol Kraft, and Lori Patterson for organizing, purchasing, preparing, and serving a meal to the homeless at VOLUNTEER MINISTRY CENTER this month. Thank you also to Beth Honey, Jean Peretz, and others who help our FPC children decorate "take home" bags for the guests to leave with after eating, and for purchasing the items to fill those bags. If you would like to help with future monthly meals, check the table in the narthex to sign up, or contact Jean Peretz. Men's Bible Study will be supplying the meal in December, so signups will begin again in January 2025.





We are excited that our **FPC SHEPHERD MINISTRY** is restarting in January 2025 to provide care to our church family. Your shepherd will be in touch with you! Please contact your Shepherd Leaders: Beth Martin, Jeanie Oakley & Joanie Scheuer with any questions.

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Marilyn Felts, Chuck Foriska, Frank Guess, Mike Houlihan, Ronny Lomax, Beth and Jimmy Loyless, Ann McAnally, Irma McGuffey, Maria Medina, LaQuita Misner, Tami Newsom, Irene Rice, Gail Wallace

BEREAVED: The family and friends of FPC member **Billie Fain**.

Please continue to pray for all the devastated families of the Southeast that have been affected by the Hurricane Helene tragedy. If you would like to help support the disaster relief efforts from our presbytery, go to: <https://www.presbyteryeasttn.org/donate/> (please choose the PET Disaster Response Fund option when making your donation).

This Week at FPC

Sun Dec 01	9:00 a.m. Casual Service and 11:00 Traditional Service		
	9:00	a.m.	KidZone/Fellowship Hall
	5:30	p.m.	Youth Group/Parlor
Mon, Dec 02	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Narthex
Tues, Dec 03	12:00	p.m.	Big Fish Chapel/Sanctuary
	5:30	p.m.	Outreach Committee/Library
	6:30	p.m.	Early-Onset Dementia Caregivers/Room A
	7:00	p.m.	Boy Scouts #444/FH, Narthex
Wed, Dec 04	12:00	p.m.	Big Fish Chapel/Sanctuary
	6:00	p.m.	Casual Worship Musician Practice/Room A
	7:30	p.m.	Chancel Choir/Room A
Thur, Dec 05	8:00	a.m.	Men's Bible Study/Narthex
	6:30	p.m.	Cub Scouts/Fellowship Hall
Fri, Dec 06	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Narthex
	7:00	p.m.	Gentle Yoga/Narthex
Sat, Dec 07	3:00	p.m.	Children's Pageant Rehearsal & Movie Night/ Sanctuary, Rm A, FH



Farragut Presbyterian Church
209 Jamestowne Blvd. ~ Farragut, TN 37934
865/966-9547 ~ www.fpctn.org



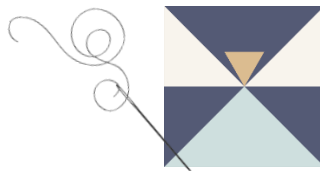
<http://tinyurl.com/FPCE-giving>

*"To praise God, welcome all, serve others, grow in faith,
be disciples of Jesus Christ and share the Good News."*



“Favored One”

Digital Painting by
Lauren Wright Pittman



You Are a Blessing

This quilt square is a simplified abstract image of the angel Gabriel who tells Mary she is “blessed among women.”

Joy And Celebration

You are a blessing.

If you hear nothing else, if the wind howls, if your brain runs amok,
if rebuttals and denials line up like little toy soldiers,
then hear this— you are a blessing.

I knew it the first moment I met you / heard your name /
learned there are 7 billion of us on this planet.

I knew it in my bones, the way my feet know the way home.

You are a blessing.

For our creating God breathed life into your being.

And there is simply no way that, along with that life,
some of God’s goodness didn’t slip right in.

So tell the rebuttals to rest. Tell the toy soldiers to find another hill,
because this one is reserved for joy and celebration.

You are a blessing.

Breathe it in.

Poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed



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Lisle

“When You Pass Through the Waters”

Artwork by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Based on Isaiah 43:1-7