



This service is being recorded by video and audio means.

*We invite you to stand as able.



~We Gather~

Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Advent Candle Lighting:

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

Responsive Reading: I John 4:9-10,16

One: This is how God showed his love among us:

All: He sent it one and only son into the world that we might live thru him.

One: This is love: not that we loved God,

All: But that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

One: And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

All: God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

Message: LisaKay Matchen as the Mother

Response (including Romans 15:13)

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

All: Our hearts glow with the light of love.

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 love. Come, Lord Jesus.

Call To Worship

In this weary world,

we sing of joy.

In this fragile world,

we lift each other up.

In this beautiful world,

we look for God.

In this tender world,

we hold onto hope.

This is the invitation of faith.

So in this time of worship,

may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

With hope in our hearts, amen!



*Opening Songs

Glory (Let There Be Peace)

VERSE 1

One star

Burns in the darkness

Shines with the promise Emmanuel

One child

Born in the stillness

Living within us Emmanuel

VERSE 2

One voice

Speaks for the voiceless

Hope for the hopeless Emmanuel

One love

Brings us together

Now and forever Emmanuel

CHORUS

We're sing-ing Glo ry, Glo ry. Let there
4 be peace. Let there be peace. Sing-ing Glo ry, Glo ry. Let there
8 be peace. Let it start in me.

BRIDGE

Do not be afraid

His love is strong enough to save us

Nothing stands in the way

His love is strong enough to lead us

(REPEAT)

*Opening Hymn

O Come Let Us Adore Him

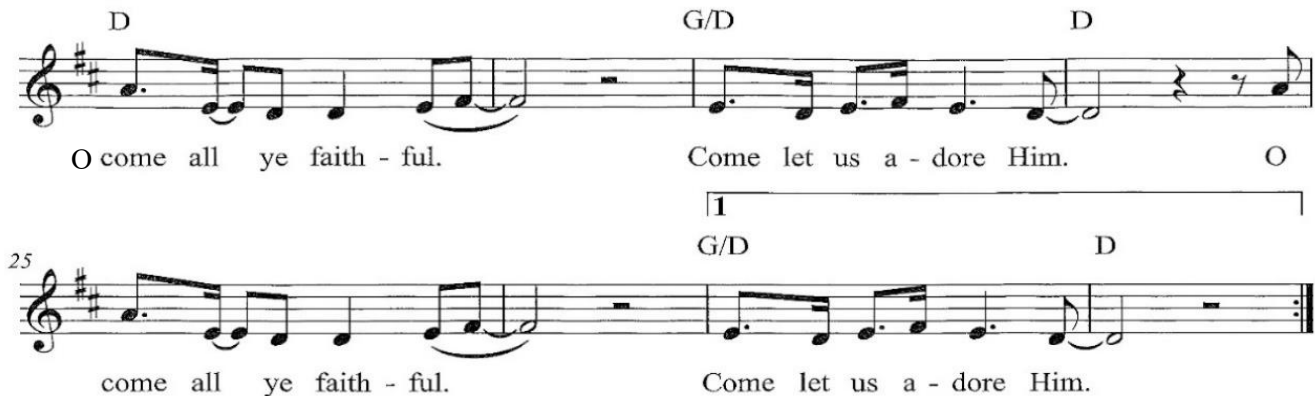
VERSE 1

O come all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of angels

PRE-CHORUS

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

CHORUS 1



Musical notation for Chorus 1, consisting of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single line. Chords are indicated above the staff: D, G/D, and D. The lyrics are: "O come all ye faith - ful. Come let us a - dore Him. O". The second staff begins with a measure rest and the number "25" to its left. The melody continues on a single line. Chords are indicated above the staff: G/D and D. The lyrics are: "come all ye faith - ful. Come let us a - dore Him." A first ending bracket is placed above the second staff, starting from the beginning of the second staff and ending at the end of the second staff.

VERSE 2

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God
Glory in the highest

VERSE 3

Yes Lord we greet Thee
Born this happy morning
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing

CHORUS 2

O sing hallelujah
Come let us adore Him
O sing hallelujah
Come let us adore Him

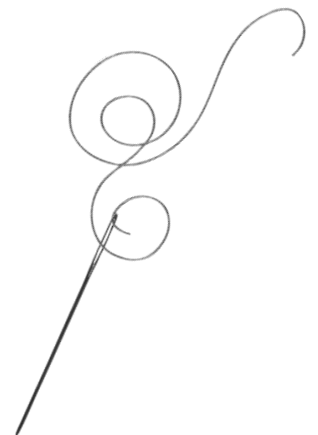
Autumn Hardman, C. Frederick Oakeley, John Francis Wade, Matt Crocker, Ryan Taubert CCLI Song #6089319
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*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Matt Nieman

Gracious God,
You paint pictures of what could be,
but we declare those visions impossible.
You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb,
but we spout skepticism and uncertainty.
You dream of a more just day,
but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon.
Forgive us for losing sight of hope.
Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is.
Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it.
**Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams,
and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray.**

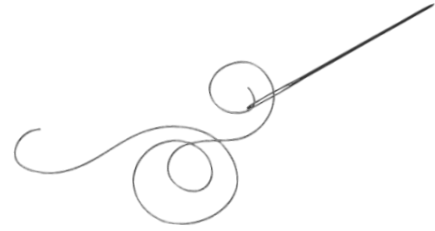
(please continue in silent prayer)



*Declaration of Forgiveness

*The Peace

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



~We Proclaim~

Prayer for Illumination

John Begovich

Holy God, the stories of Advent are stories many of us have heard before. We've arranged the nativity scenes. We've read the children's books. We've seen the movies. We've sung the songs. But as we come to your scripture this morning, we pray: help us begin again. Clear the distractions from our minds. Center us in this space. Move through the protective barriers we surround ourselves with and speak to us here and now. We are listening. We are hopeful. Amen.

Scripture Readings: Matthew 1:18-25

Luke 1:46-55

[Pew Bible pg. 1]

[Pew Bible pg. 57]

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

"Words for the Beginning: Hope is Worth the Risk"

Rev. Matt Nieman

~We Respond~

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope, a God who fills our nights with stars, who follows winter with spring, who dwells with and among us. We believe that this God has dreams for creation, dreams of justice like a mighty stream and swords that will be beaten into plowshares. Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability. We hold onto hope, and we declare: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

Musical Reflection

We Open our Hearts
Musical Ensemble

CCLI Song # 7048931 Bryan Torwalt | Dustin R. Smith | Joseph Zwanziger | Katie Torwalt | Stuart Garrard | Tosha Zwanziger
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Call for Giving

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.**

~We Go Out Into the World~

*Closing Song

Canticle of the Turning

Star of the County Down

VERSE 1

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight
And my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest
Could the world be about to turn? *Chorus*

CHORUS

My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near
And the world is about to turn!

VERSE 2

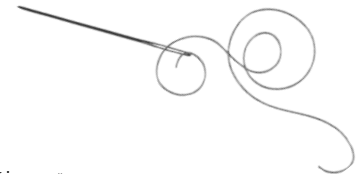
Though I am small, my God, my all, you
Work great things in me
And your mercy will last
from the Depths of the past
to the end of the age to be
Your very name puts the proud to shame
And to those who would for you yearn
You will show your might
put the strong to flight
For the world is about to turn *Chorus*

VERSE 3

From the halls of power to the fortress tower
Not a stone will be left on stone
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne
The hungry poor shall weep no more
For the food they can never earn
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed
For the world is about to turn *Chorus*

VERSE 4

Though the nations rage from age to age
We remember who holds us fast
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God
Who is turning the world around *Chorus*



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*Charge and Benediction

Today's music ensemble:

Sandra Bohlken, piano & vocals ~ Charles Needham, bass guitar ~ Kevin Zetina, percussion
Mindy Houlihan and Shannon Needham, vocals

Ushers ~ Cheyanne and Tom Feldhausen

Audio ~ Ken Ladrach & Kat Wilson / *Video* ~ David Long, Parker Morrell & Kat Wilson

SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS

Hello Friends! Farragut Presbyterian Church is always looking for volunteers to assist in our worship services. 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). Thank you for your help!



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.



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.



The **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** is one of four annual special offerings. This offering aids current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. We will be collecting this offering today and on Christmas Eve or you can give anytime using a pew envelope, by mail, or online at www.fpctn.org.



If you missed our 27th Annual **LESSONS and CAROLS** service last Sunday, you can still view this special event at <https://youtube.com/live/LpqtqQlVIkg>



Thanks to all of the volunteers, organizers, set designers, costume designers, authors, narrators and performers of this year's **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!**

It was a such a wonderful program. Photos of the event have been posted to the website at: <https://www.fpctn.org/childrens-christmas-pageant/>
Be sure to check them out.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUNSET GAP VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS!

Gifts were taken to Sunset Gap on Wednesday thanks to our FPC volunteers Kelly Schueler, Jean Peretz, Debbie & David Long, Frank Dorman, Charles Snodgrass, Carol & Greg Kraft and Gayle Williams. You all have provided an extra special Christmas for some deserving children.

2024 YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS:

To be counted as a 2024 contribution:

- Checks or cash must be received at FPC or mailed items postmarked by 12/31/24.
- Donations by credit card are deductible in the year the donor makes the charge (transaction posting date).
- ACH, EFT, stock transfers or other online donations are deductible in the year the bank transfers the stock or funds to FPC. Please make sure your online giving is initiated by Friday, Dec. 27th in time for the transaction to post on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024. The donation confirmation page on our website will confirm the date your account is debited for online giving transactions.
- Don't file your 2024 tax return before receiving your FPC 2024 year-end giving statement, so that you have IRS-compliant documentation of any gifts of cash or checks to FPC that are \$250 or more.

Year-end donations statements will be mailed by Jan 31st, 2025.



Christmas Eve Services

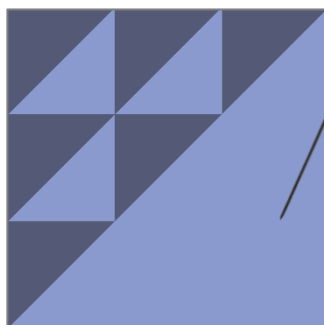


3:00 p.m. – Candlelight Casual Worship Service with Communion
(Prelude music with various soloists to begin at 2:30 p.m.)

7:00 p.m. – Candlelight Traditional Worship Service with Communion
(Dr. Linda Stutzenberger will begin the harp prelude starting at 6:50 p.m.)

“Joseph’s Dream”

Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on patterned paper
by Lauren Wright Pittman



Hope is Worth the Risk

This traditional quilt square design is called “birds in the air.” Sometimes when we take a risk, hope takes flight. At times it may feel like you’re falling, but you’ll find that, in God’s embrace, you are flying.

Lessons from the Schoolyard

A baby bird fell out of her nest.
She cried and pattered about on the sidewalk below.
We children formed a circle,
amazed at how small her bobbing body was.
Eventually a sixth grader scooped her up.
Held her tenderly in cupped hands.
She said, *You have to be gentle.*
You have to be steady.
You have to let her grow,
so that one day she can fly.
I think hope is a lot like that baby bird.
Hold it with both hands.
Let it grow.
One day, it will fly.

Poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed



@sanctifiedart | sanctifiedart.org

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Kathy Emmerson, Marilyn Felts, Chuck Foriska, Frank Guess, Dixie Heflin, Beth and Jimmy Loyless, Ann McAnally, Irma McGuffey, Maria Medina, Tami Newsom, Irene Rice, Linda Scothorn, Les Shear

SPECIAL PRAYERS:

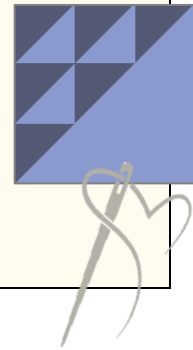
Please continue to pray for the devastated families of the Southeast that have been affected by the Hurricane Helene tragedy. If you would like to help support the disaster relief efforts from our presbytery, go to:

<https://www.presbyteryeasttn.org/donate/>

(please choose the PET Disaster Response Fund option when making your donation).

This Week at FPC

Sun Dec 22	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 23	10:00	a.m.	Lectio Divina/Room D
Tues, Dec 24	*****	*****	OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON
	2:30	p.m.	Christmas Eve Service Special Music/Sanctuary
	3:00	p.m.	Casual Christmas Eve Service/Sanctuary
	6:50	p.m.	Christmas Eve Special Harp Prelude/Sanctuary
	7:00	p.m.	Traditional Christmas Eve Service/Sanctuary
Wed, Dec 25	*****	*****	MERRY CHRISTMAS! OFFICE CLOSED
Thur, Dec 26	*****	*****	OFFICE CLOSED
Fri, Dec 27	9:00	a.m.	Office is open until 1pm



Sunday School ~ 10:00 a.m.

- **KidZone** is for children ages 3-9 who meet in Fellowship Hall at 9am to learn about the love of God, through Bible verses, songs, videos and fun activities.
- **Adult Bible Study** meets in Room D to discuss the weekly Lectionary text. Everyone is welcome. Contact Elizabeth Wilson with questions.
- **Pastor Matt's Class** is studying our Advent theme, "Words for the Beginning." Join us in the library at 10:00.
- **FPC Youth Class** meets at 10am in the Café (parlor) each week during the school year to "Dive In" to the Old Testament. Contact Mason Warren for more information.



Farragut Presbyterian Church

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

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm; Friday 9am-1pm



<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."*