



*indicates standing, if able.
This service is being recorded by video and audio means.



~We Gather~

Welcome

Rev. Matt Nieman

Advent Candle Lighting:

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

Responsive Reading: Isaiah 9:6

One: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

All: **And the government will be on his shoulders.**

One: And he will be called

All: **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Message: Brian Davison as the Fisherman

Response: Romans 15:13

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

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

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 in peace. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

*Call to Worship

In a world that is lonely,
we will save a seat for you.

In a world that is anxious,
we will light candles against the gloom.

In a world that is weary,
we will sing songs of joy and truth.

I am not alone.

We are not alone.

For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

Light the candles! Sing with joy! We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.



*Opening Song

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
you have seen his na - tal star:
to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

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| James Montgomery
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***Prayer of Confession and Declaration of Forgiveness**

I have tried to make my own way.
I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith.
I have said a thousand times, “*turn back,*” as if I am fine on my own.
But the days are long and I am forgetful.
I need your help. Can you remind me?

**We will remind you of this everlasting truth:
You are not alone.
Where you go, God goes.
You are held in grace.
Trust in this good news.**

Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

**Now we need your help.
We, too, have tried to make our own way.
We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths. We have said a thousand times, “*turn back,*” as if we are fine on our own.
But the days are long and we are forgetful.
We need your help. Can you remind us?**

I will remind you of this everlasting truth:
You are not alone.
Where you go, God goes.
You are held in grace.
Trust in this good news.

**Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe.
Alleluia! Amen.**

***The Peace**

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

~We Proclaim~





Children's Christmas Pageant



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Congregation (seated)

**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!**



Joy to the World
Congregation (seated)

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**



We Three Kings of Orient Are
Congregation (seated)

**We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar;
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy perfect light!**



Angels We Have Heard on High
Congregation (seated)

**Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Away in a Manger
Children

Go Tell It on the Mountain
Children with CiCi Teasley, soloist



CAST AND CREW:

Mary.....	Shannon Needham
Joseph.....	Charles Needham
Innkeeper.....	Brian Davison
Angel.....	Mason Warren
Shepherds, Wisemen, Angels, Star.....	FPC children
Narrator.....	LisaKay Matchen
ASL Interpreter.....	Thomas Houlihan
Youth Readers.....	Julianna Snelling-Brandon Peyton Houlihan Layla Oakley Micah Bohlken Landon Eiffert
Authors.....	LisaKay Matchen & Sarah Mashue
Costumes.....	LisaKay Matchen, Mary Ellen Haig, Helen Nalley & Nancy Pevey
Set.....	Clay and Denise Griffin
Flute.....	Ashley Boone
Piano.....	Sandra Bohlken
Soloist.....	CiCi Teasley



Sermon

“Words for the Beginning: We Cannot Go Alone”
Scripture text: Ruth 1:8-18

Rev. Matt Nieman

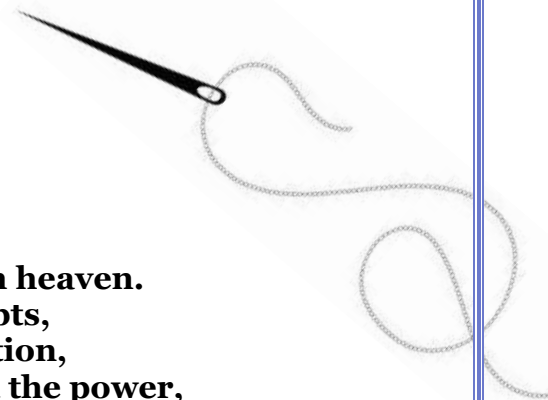
~We Respond~

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

Sing to the King

Billy Foote/ Charles Horne

VERSE

♩ = 108

E B/E A/E E

1. Sing to the King Who is com - ing to reign.
2. For His re - turn - ing we watch and we pray;

5 B/E A/E E

Glo - ry to Je - sus, the Lamb that was slain. Life and sal -
We will be read - y the dawn of that day. We'll join in

10 B/E A/E E B/E

va - tion His em - pire shall bring, and joy to the na - tions, when
sing - ing with all the re - deemed, 'cause Sa - tan is van - quished and

CHORUS

15 A/E E E

Je - sus is King. Come, let us sing a song, a
Je - sus is King.

20 F#m7 A2(no3) E

song de - clar - ing that we be - long to Je - sus; He is all we need.

25 D2(no3) E F#m7

Lift up a heart of praise. Sing now with voic - es raised to Je -

30 A2(no3) E

sus; Sing to the King.

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*Charge and Benediction

Today's music ensemble:

Sandra Bohlken, piano and vocals ~ Joey Nieman, guitar and vocals
Mindy Houlihan and Shannon Needham, vocals
Charles Needham, bass guitar ~ Kevin Zetina, percussion
Ushers ~ Thom Haig and Gary Heidinger

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



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
COOKIE RECEPTION
AFTER THE SERVICE IN THE NARTHEX



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.



Next 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 provided by our Church Life Committee. The Service of Lessons and Carols is a traditional seasonal service of scripture and music. You won't want to miss singing the beloved carols of the season in this special service.


We will also honor Dr. Angela Batey and Tami Newsom for their leadership of Lessons and Carols over many years and their numerous contributions to our music ministry.



SUNSET GAP SECRET SANTA AND MITTEN TREE

TODAY is the last day to bring your wrapped donations. Gifts will be sorted this afternoon and delivered to Sunset Gap this week. If you have any questions please contact Debbie Long.

ADVENT GIFT MAKING all ages come make gifts for your loved ones, Sunday, December 15 at 3:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Mason Warren with questions.





THE NATIVITY PAGEANT
of KNOXVILLE, INC.

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 14 * 3:00PM
SUNDAY
DECEMBER 15 * 3:00PM
MONDAY
DECEMBER 16 * 7:00PM
Knoxville Civic Coliseum

FREE ADMISSION
Non-Profit Community Effort Sponsored by Individual and Business Contributions
Sign language and Spanish translation provided

THE NATIVITY PAGEANT of KNOXVILLE, INC.
PO BOX 53258 * KNOXVILLE, TN 37950-3258
www.KnoxvilleNativity.com



Come see the Christmas Story told with live actors and animals! Our church member, Eva Quinley Lynch, is the Chair of the Music Committee this year and has helped arrange and coordinate fabulous music for **THE NATIVITY PAGEANT OF KNOXVILLE, INC.**

Our Casual Worship Leaders, Sandra Porter Bohlken and Charles Needham will be providing special music at 2:30pm prior to the 3pm performance on Saturday, December 14. The event is free for all ages, although there is a \$5 parking fee.

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 last month. Thank you also to Beth Honey and 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.

Shepherd Ministry



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.

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.



HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

If you would like to help us offset the cost of decorating the church for the holidays by making a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, just fill out this form and include your check made payable to Farragut Presbyterian Church, with "*Holiday Decorations*" designated in the memo line. Place your check and this form in the sanctuary basket, drop them off in the church office or mail them to the church. **Our cost per poinsettia is \$10.00**, however, your gift may be in any amount. An insert will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin listing the dedications.

I am making a gift towards holiday decorations, to the Glory of God, and:

Please Print Clearly

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

Donated by: _____



FLOWERS TODAY

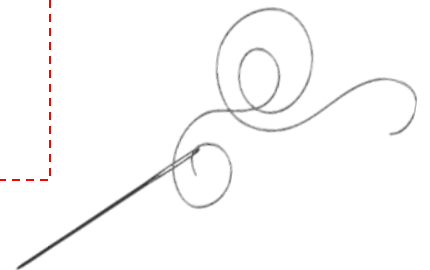
are given to the Glory of God and in honor of **Liz Preston's birthday** by her children and grandchildren.

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, Tami Newsom, Irene Rice, Gail Wallace

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: www.presbyteryeasttn.org (please choose the PET Disaster Response Fund option when making your donation).



“Binding Braids”

Digital Painting by Nicolette Peñaranda

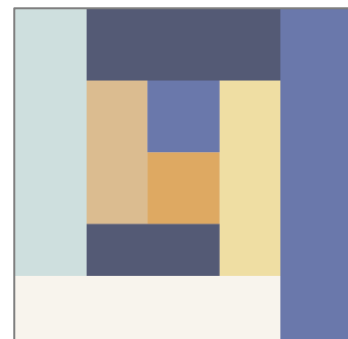
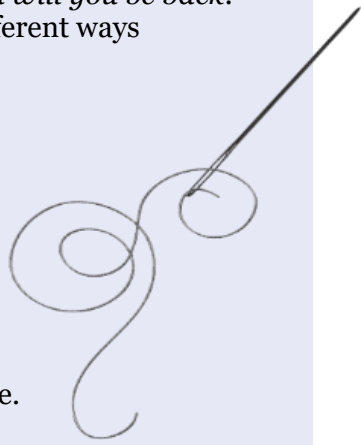


“Ruth and Naomi find themselves bound by their widowhood and familial grief. And while Orpah made the choice to return to her village, Ruth bound herself to her mother-in-law: “Where you go, I will go.” They too have spiritual connections that are deeper than the surface. The two of them are connected through a simple braid; they are also reaching for each other from opposing sides of the braid (in the middle of the canvas). This piece conveys several different forms of connection over a blanket of decorative textiles quilted together. *Binding Braids* continues a whimsical fantasy I incorporated in a former work, *Lift Off*.² These are sister pieces meant to invite the audience into an otherworldly, fluid space for biblical wonderment.” —Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda

“When Will You Be Back?”

Yesterday I visited an old man in the hospital.
I was not the only one. We talked on the elevator ride down—
Has he gained any weight? Will he stay in that room?
Does he like the food? Has he called?
All the man wanted to know was, *When will you be back?*
We ask that question in a thousand different ways
every single day,
our hearts leaning over themselves,
bending to get closer to love.
We say, *Text me when you're home.*
Call me when you're free.
One more kiss!
I love you all the time.
When will you be back?
What we really mean is—
I can't go through life alone.
Please don't let me go through life alone.

Poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed



We Can't Go Alone

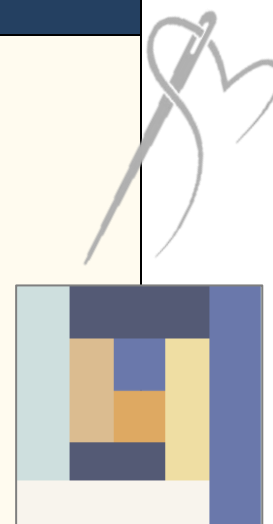
This quilt square design is called a “log cabin,” and is meant to symbolize that together we can hold one another up and make something greater.

 Sanctified Art

@sanctifiedart | sanctifiedart.org

This Week at FPC

Sun Dec 08	10:00 a.m. Casual Service with Children's Pageant		
Mon, Dec 09	12:00	p.m.	Parking lot reserved for Farragut Christmas Parade
	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Narthex
	3:00	p.m.	New Elder Orientation/Library
	5:00	p.m.	Stephen Ministry/home of Beth White
Tues, Dec 10	7:00	p.m.	Christian Education Committee/Zoom
	10:00	a.m.	PW Circle #1/Room A
	10:00	a.m.	PW Circle #2/Library
	12:00	p.m.	Big Fish Chapel/Sanctuary
Wed, Dec 11	7:00	p.m.	Boy Scouts #444/FH, Narthex, Room A
	7:00	p.m.	Session/Library
	10:00	a.m.	PW Circle #3/Library
	12:00	p.m.	Big Fish Chapel/Sanctuary
Thur, Dec 12	6:00	p.m.	Casual Worship Musician Practice/Room A
	6:00	p.m.	Handbell Practice/Sanctuary
	7:30	p.m.	Chancel Choir/Room A
	9:00	a.m.	Big Fish Christmas Program/Sanctuary, Narthex
Fri, Dec 13	6:30	p.m.	Cub Scouts/Fellowship Hall
	9:00	a.m.	Big Fish Christmas Program/Sanctuary, Narthex
Sat, Dec 14	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Narthex
	7:00	p.m.	Gentle Yoga/Narthex
	9:00	a.m.	Lessons & Carols Rehearsal/Sanctuary, Room A, Narthex



Sunday School ~ 10:00 a.m. next Sunday

- **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."*