

# A Gospel Christmas



DECEMBER 21, 2025 • 6:00 PM  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# A Gospel Christmas

♠Indicates congregation standing as directed

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ..... Brian Lewis

♠CALL TO WORSHIP

**Call to Worship:** God invites us into His presence to worship in spirit and in truth—beginning a dialogue that continues throughout the service.

♠JOY TO THE WORLD/ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH ..... Israel Houghton

Words: Isaac Watts; Trad. French Carol / Music: G.F. Handel; French Carol Melody / Psalm 98:4; Luke 2:14

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -  
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room,  
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1. and heav'n and na - ture sing,  
 1. and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
 4. See with - in a man - ger laid Je - sus, Lord of heav'n and earth!

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.  
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, sing with us our Sav - ior's birth.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

♠ INVOCATION

**Invocation:** The word invocation means “to appeal to” or “cry out to.” In this prayer, we lift our hands and call on our Father to come and help us worship Him for who He is and all He has done.

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL..... Maverick City Music

*Words: Latin hymn; tr. John Mason Neale / Music: Thomas Helmore; arr. Danny Gokey / Isaiah 59:20*

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.***

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height  
In ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Jesus has come, heaven has won; God is with us, Emmanuel.

*Julian Cross, soloist*

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

***Give Online:*** [2pc.org/give](http://2pc.org/give)

***Give by Text:*** Text SECOND to (901) 410-9500 to give to the General Fund.  
Text WORLD to the same number to give to World Missions.

***Give by Mail:*** Second Presbyterian Church, 4055 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111

SOON AND VERY SOON..... SOON AND VERY SOON

Words and Music: Andraé Crouch / Revelation 21:3-4

♠ Congregation stands as directed

*Ephie Johnson, soloist:*

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King.  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King.  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

*Congregation joins:*



- 2. No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
- 3. No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
- 4. Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!



# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

◆PROFESSION OF FAITH . . . . . The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell;  
the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead;  
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic\* church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**The Apostles' Creed:** This concise summary of core Christian beliefs offers a clear framework for understanding who God is, the work of Jesus, the nature of the Christian life, and our hope for eternity. Though not written by the apostles, it summarizes what they taught.

*\*universal*

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

## SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

SWEET LITTLE JESUS BOY . . . . . Casting Crowns

*Words and Music: Robert MacGimsey (Traditional African-American Christmas Spiritual) / Luke 2:6-7*

Sweet little Jesus boy, born in a manger;  
Sweet little Holy Child, we didn't know who You were.  
Long time ago it seems You were born,  
Born in a manger Lord, sweet little Jesus boy.

Didn't know You'd come to save us all  
To take our sins away.  
Our eyes were blind we did not see,  
We didn't know who You were.

You have shown us how and we are trying;  
Master You have shown us how, even as You were dying.  
This world treats You mean Lord; treats me mean, too.  
But that's how things are done down here  
We didn't know it was You.

Didn't know You'd come to save us all  
To take our sins away  
Our eyes were blind we did not see  
We didn't know who You were.

*Danny Cosby, soloist*

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL ..... Tasha Cobbs

Words: Frederick Oakeley (1841 translation) / Music: John Francis Wade (18th century) / Luke 2:15-16

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

♠ Congregation stands and sings:

Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, sing, all ye  
cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God in the  
high - est; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

We'll praise His name forever, we'll praise His name forever,  
We'll praise His name forever, Christ the Lord!  
We give You all the glory, we give You all the glory,  
We give You all the glory, Christ, Jesus Christ,  
You are Christ the Lord!

♠ GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN ..... Maverick City Music

Words: John Work / Music: African American Spiritual; arr. Dan Galbraith / Luke 2:17

Go, tell it on the moun - tain o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;  
go, tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born.

1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when, lo! a - bove the earth
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through - out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bles - sed Christ - mas morn.

**Benediction:** God's people receive the Lord's blessing and are sent into the world, carrying the hope of the Gospel.

✦BENEDICTION

✦HALLELUJAH CHORUS (A Soulful Celebration).....Warren, Jackson, Kibble

*Music: G.F. Handel, adapted John Higgins; arr. Meroyn Warren, Michael O. Jackson, Mark Kibble / Revelation 11:15*

Hallelujah! For the Lord God, omnipotent reigneth.

The kingdom of this world is become.

The kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

And He shall reign forever and ever.

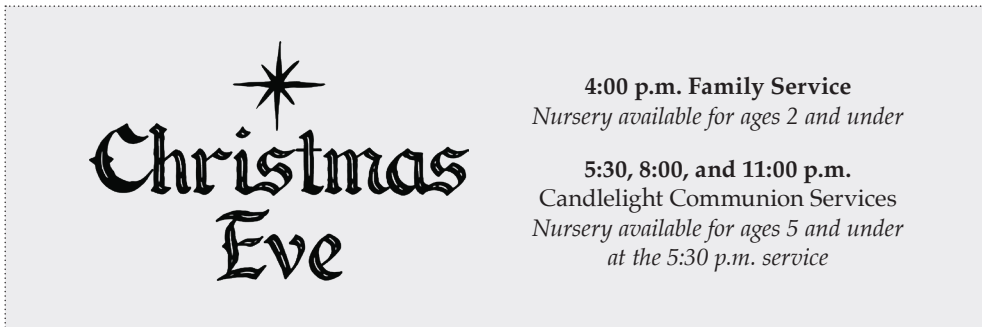
King of kings and Lord of lords.

And He shall reign forever and ever.

Hallelujah!

✦Indicates congregation standing

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The graphic features a light gray background with a dotted border. On the left, the words "Christmas Eve" are written in a large, black, gothic-style font. Above the word "Christmas" is a black eight-pointed star. To the right of the text, there are two service announcements in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The first announcement is for a 4:00 p.m. Family Service with a nursery available for ages 2 and under. The second announcement is for Candlelight Communion Services at 5:30, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m., with a nursery available for ages 5 and under at the 5:30 p.m. service.

## December 28 Worship Schedule

We'll meet for worship on Sunday, December 28, at 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Nursery will be available for ages 5 and under at the 8:15am service. All are invited to the Fellowship Hall from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for coffee, donuts, and fellowship between the services. We will not meet for Sunday School or Sunday Night Worship.

## Inquirers Class: January 23–25

Interested in learning more about Second or becoming a member? The next Inquirers Class for adults will meet January 23-25, and we'd love to have you join the class! Visit [2pc.org/inquirers](http://2pc.org/inquirers) to learn more and register. Contact Britton Laughlin at [britton.laughlin@2pc.org](mailto:britton.laughlin@2pc.org) or (901) 454-0034 with questions.

## Try Something New in the New Year

As we look forward to a new year, we'd love for you to find a fresh way to get involved at Second! Beginning in January, there are many ways to connect with others around God's Word—from Bible studies and support ministry groups for adults to programs for youth and children.

Our Wednesday night dinners will also be back, starting January 7, and we're excited about our annual World Missions Conference that begins February 25. Visit [2pc.org/winter](http://2pc.org/winter) for more details.

## Gospel Priorities: January Preaching Series

We'll kick off the new year with our annual Gospel Priorities series. Beginning January 4, we will hear from pastors during morning and evening worship on themes related to and discussed in Luke 4. Join us on these Sundays as we reflect on what Jesus made central to His ministry and consider how we can follow His example in our own lives today.

**January 4:** Damon Conley,  
*Assistant Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church*

**January 11:** Ali Chambers,  
*Lead Pastor, Mosaic Church Memphis*

**January 18:** Justin Varughese,  
*Lead Pastor, Fellowship Memphis*

**January 25:** George Robertson,  
*Senior Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church*

## Year-End Giving Reminder

Per IRS regulations, year-end gifts not mailed to the church must be placed in the Sunday offering at church or delivered to the church office no later than Wednesday, December 31, 2025, to qualify as a charitable gift for the 2025 tax year. Also, online giving will be available at [2pc.org/give](https://2pc.org/give) until midnight on December 31.

Contributions mailed to the church must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service by December 31, 2025, to qualify as a charitable gift for the 2025 tax year. Mailed envelopes postmarked after December 31, 2025 must be reported as a 2026 gift, regardless of the date on the enclosed check.

Any who may have questions or need assistance with transfers of appreciated securities or giving a portion of the required minimum distribution (RMD) from an IRA through Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) directly from a brokerage account should please contact Jay Tayloe at [jay.tayloe@2pc.org](mailto:jay.tayloe@2pc.org) or (901) 454-0034.

## Do You Receive *The Messenger* on Fridays?

The best way to find out what's going on at Second is to subscribe to our weekly email newsletter. To subscribe, simply scroll to the orange box at the bottom of our homepage ([2pc.org](https://2pc.org)) and enter your name and email address—then watch for it to arrive in your inbox on Fridays! For even more content, follow [@2pcmemphis](https://www.facebook.com/2pcmemphis) on Facebook and Instagram.

## Weekly Worship Playlist

Listening to our playlist of hymns and songs is a wonderful way to grow familiar with the music, reflect on the words, and enjoy personal or family worship throughout the week. Visit [2pc.org/playlist](https://2pc.org/playlist) to subscribe on your preferred platform.

## Getting Connected at Second

Want to learn more about our church? Visit [2pc.org](https://2pc.org), call us at (901) 454-0034, or email us: [pastor@2pc.org](mailto:pastor@2pc.org) for pastoral questions or [info@2pc.org](mailto:info@2pc.org) for general inquiries. We'd love to hear from you!



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