

A detailed blue-toned illustration of a Nativity scene. Mary is seated on the left, holding the infant Jesus who is lying on a cloth. Joseph is seated to the right of the infant, with his hands clasped in prayer. Several other figures, including shepherds and wise men, are gathered around the infant. In the foreground, a shepherd is kneeling, and a lamb is lying down. The background shows a rustic stable with wooden beams and a starry night sky. The entire scene is overlaid with a pattern of small yellow dots.

# Festival of Carols

DECEMBER 7, 2025 • 6:00 PM

## The Meaning of Christmas

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**The carols tonight focus on the unique identity, majestic divinity, and saving work of Jesus Christ. They basically tell the story of the gospel in three words:**

**Cradle:** The cradle of Christmas proves that God is with us—Emmanuel. We are not alone in this world. We are not alone in our guilt, shame, and struggle. We are not alone when we walk through the valley of the shadowlands—even death itself. The little baby in the feeding trough in the cave in Bethlehem is the incarnate God. He came to live a life of perfection that we never could and to die a sacrificial death to free us from guilt, shame, sin, and death.

**Cross:** These carols remind us that the gospel story continues with another transforming event. The cross of Calvary proves that God is for us and not against us. We no longer have to work to earn His favor and acceptance; the cross serves as proof of God's grace and love. Jesus endured our sin, our judgment, our hell, and our death on that cross so that, by believing in Him, we might enjoy forgiveness, acceptance, heaven, and eternal life.

**Crown:** The good news gets even better. These carols remind us that Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to rule and reign. He is now crowned with glory and honor. The crown reminds us that God will ensure that we arrive safely home to His glorious kingdom. Jesus will triumph over all of His and our enemies. Our future is bright indeed. At Advent, we also celebrate that Jesus is coming again to make all things new.

Have you gazed upon that cradle, that cross, and that crown? Throughout this Advent season, let us worship our Savior, born in a cradle; the Son of God, slain on a cross; and the King of Glory, who has secured our way home to the Father's house!



# Festival of Carols

*presented by*

The Music Ministry of Second Presbyterian Church

**Calvin Ellis**, *Director of Choirs*

**James Ryan**, *Director of Music Outreach & Conservatory of Music*

**Leo Davis**, *Organist*

**Katie Hutcheson**, *Administrative Assistant*

**Barton Kimbro**, *Pastor & Director of Worship*

♠Indicates congregation standing as directed

Orchestral Prelude: "Christmas Fantasy for Orchestra" ..... Dan Goeller

*James Ryan, director*

Call to Worship ..... Damon Conley

Organ Meditation: "Greensleeves" from *Four Carol Preludes* ..... Richard Purvis

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ..... arr. Barlow Bradford

*Words: Latin hymn; tr. John Mason Neale / Music: arr. Barlow Bradford / Isaiah 7:14*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Desire of Nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.

Emmanuel.

*The Chancel Choir*

*Sarah Bacon, Emma Grace Burgess, Carter Coleman, and AnneDavis Vander Have, handbells*

*Calvin Ellis, director*

Congregational Carol: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" . . . . . arr. Dan Forrest

Words: Charles Wesley, Mark E. Hunt / Music: Rowland H. Prichard; arr. Dan Forrest / Luke 2:25

♠ Congregation stands as directed

All 1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy  
 Choir 2. Come O Sov - 'reign Prince of Heav - en; come, O won - drous  
 All 3. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us;  
 Love Di - vine. Earth and heav - en bow be - fore Thee,  
 yet a king, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and  
 Ev - er - last - ing Peace sub - lime. O Thou Source of  
 now Thy gra - cious King - dom bring. By Thine own e -

con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art;  
 joy and won - der, bless us as we seek Thy face.  
 - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion,  
 At Thy man - ger grant us mer - cy,  
 by Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it,

joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
 In Thine Ad - vent grant us grace.  
 raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

♠ Invocation

“E’en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” ..... Paul Manz

*Words and Music: Paul Manz / Revelation 22*

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God,  
Who was and is and is to come: Sing holy, holy, Lord:

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!

E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all!

♠ Congregational Carols: “Sing the Carols of Christmas” ..... arr. Gary Fry

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;

come and be - hold Him, born the King of an - gels;

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the e - ver - last - ing light;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

"What Child Is This?"

*Mary Mason Tait, Nora Nease, and Joseph Song:*

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?


Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

*Congregation joins:*

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.**

**Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"

Joy - ful all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

## Worship of God with the Gifts of God

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

Offertory Anthem: "O Come, Divine Messiah" . . . . .arr. Michael McElroy, Joseph Joubert

*Words and Music: Simon Joseph Pellegrin; arr. Michael McElroy, Joseph Joubert / Isaiah 40:3-5*

O come, divine Messiah, the angels sing of your glorious birth.

The heav'nly gates are open. O come, reside on earth.

O come, divine Messiah, we long to see your blessed face.

Break the chains of our captives, descend, reveal Your grace, Your grace.

O Savior come, lowly Your cradle be.

In manger born this blessed morn, hear Angels sound your nativity.

O Lord, hear our heart's offering. Joy to all is the gift that you bring.

O come, O come, O come. Dwell here on earth, O Lord, we pray.

Come from above, reveal your love. You are the light to show us the way.

O Son of God, don't delay. Bring us peace in our world's disarray.

O come, O come, O Savior. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

O come, O come, O come. In wisdom, in power, in honor, in glory,

In mercy, in truth and grace, Messiah, come!

*Beldon Partson, soloist*

♣ Congregational Carol: "Carols for Congregation and Orchestra" . . . . .arr. Paul Roberts

"Silent Night"



1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God,  
4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and Child.  
at the sight! Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face,  
lend Thy light; with the an - gels let us sing

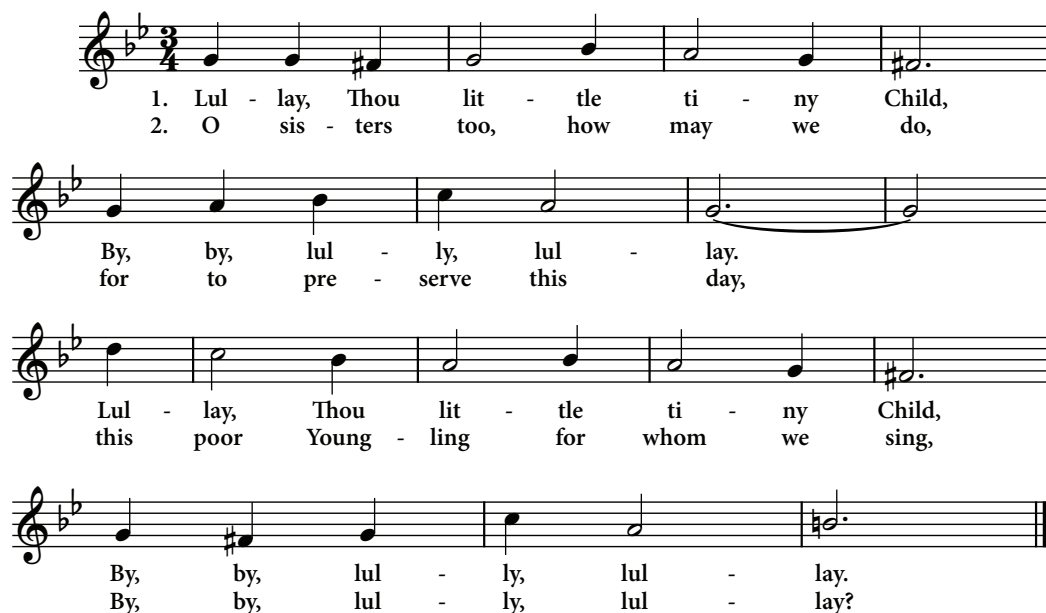


Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild,  
heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia!  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
al - le - lu - ia to our King.



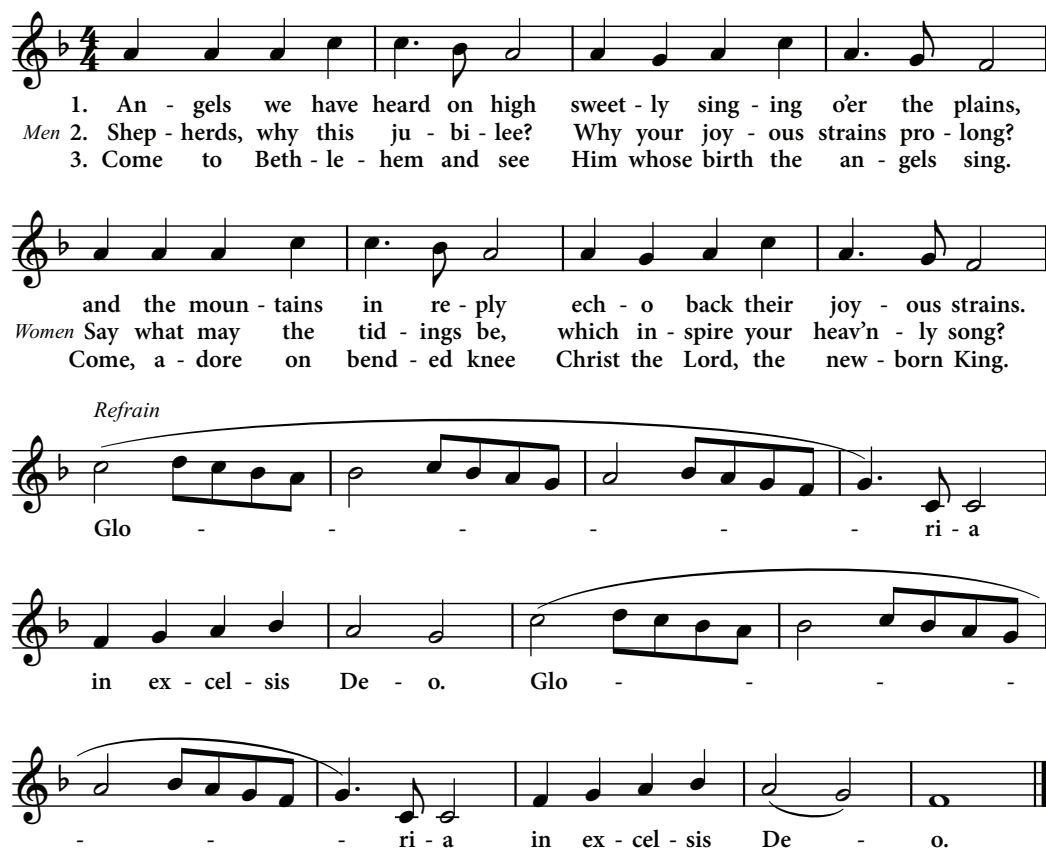
sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord at Thy birth.  
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior is born!

"Coventry Carol"



1. Lul - lay, Thou lit - tle ti - ny Child,  
2. O sis - ters too, how may we do,  
By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay.  
for to pre - serve this day,  
Lul - lay, Thou lit - tle ti - ny Child,  
this poor Young - ling for whom we sing,  
By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay.  
By, by, lul - ly, lul - lay?

"Angels We Have Heard on High"



1. An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
*Men* 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.  
and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
*Women* 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.  
*Refrain*  
Glo - ri - a  
in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a  
in ex - cel - sis De - o.



"Joy to the World"

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 right-eous-ness

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

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

"And the Glory of the Lord"..... G.F. Handel

*Music: G.F. Handel / Isaiah 40:5*

And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
 And all flesh shall see it together;  
 For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

"Glory to God" ..... G.F. Handel

*Music: G.F. Handel / Luke 2:14*

Glory to God in the highest  
 And on earth peace, good will to men.

"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" .....Getty Music

*Words: Traditional English Carol; arr. Keith Getty, Fionan de Barra / Luke 2:10*

*Faithline Youth Choir:*

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;  
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas Day.

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;  
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

In Bethlehem, in Israel, this blessed Babe was born,  
And laid within a manger upon this blessed morn,  
The which His mother Mary did nothing take in scorn.

From God our Heav'nly Father a blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind  
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm, and wind  
And went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find.

*Congregation joins:*

**Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy!**

**This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy!**

♠ Congregational Carol: "Festival First Nowell" .....arr. Dan Forrest

Words and Music: Trad. English Carol; arr. Dan Forrest / Luke 2:8

♠ Congregation stands as directed

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say, was to cer - tain poor  
 Women 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the  
 3. Then let us all with one ac - cord sing prais - es

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing their  
 East be - yond them far, Men and to the earth it gave great  
 to our heav - en - ly Lord that hath made heav'n and earth of

Refrain  
 sheep on a cold, win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night. No - well, No  
 naught, and with His blood man - kind hath bought.

well, No - well, No - well! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Homily: Better Than Any King, *Isaiah 9:6* .....George Robertson

Prayer of Commitment

"Two Spirituals on a Christmas Star" .....arr. Gary Fry

*African American Spirituals "Behold That Star" and "Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow" / Matthew 2:9-10*

*This arrangement of two African American spirituals celebrates the guiding light of Christ's birth and the faithful response of those who seek Him. Fry's setting captures both the wonder of the heavenly sign and the joyful call to follow the Savior wherever He leads, inviting us to journey with the shepherds toward the true Light who shines in the darkness and draws all people to Himself.*

*Behold that star, behold that star up yonder. Behold that star, it is the star of Bethlehem.*

The wise men traveled from the East to worship Him, the Prince of Peace.

A song broke forth upon the night from angel hosts all robed in white.

Rise up, rise up, rise up, rise up!

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn; rise up, shepherd and follow.

It will lead to the place where the Savior's born. Rise up, shepherd and follow.

Leave your ewes and leave your rams, rise up, shepherd and follow.

Leave your sheep and leave your lambs. Rise up, shepherd and follow.

Follow, follow! Rise up, shepherd and follow.

Follow the star to Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel's word, rise up, shepherd and follow.

You'll forget your flock, you'll forget your herd. Rise up, shepherd and follow.

Leave your burdens, lay them down. Rise up, shepherd and follow.

For you, that Holy Child will wear a crown. Rise up, shepherd and follow.

*Marcus King, baritone*

“What Shall We Give?” ..... arr. Mack Wilberg

Catalonian Carol / Words: David Warner / Music: arr. Mack Wilberg / Psalm 116:12

*“What Shall We Give?” is a tender Christmas meditation that asks a timeless question: in light of God’s indescribable gift to us in Christ, what can we possibly offer in return? Drawn from a traditional Catalonian carol and arranged by Mack Wilberg, the text turns our hearts away from material gifts and toward the offerings God truly desires—our love, our compassion, our worship, and lives shaped by grace. May we remember that the greatest gifts we bring this season are not wrapped in paper but expressed in humble devotion, generous hearts, and acts of kindness as we follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.*

What shall we give to the Babe in the manger?  
What shall we offer the Child in the stall?  
Incense and spices and gold we’ve aplenty,  
Are these the gifts for the King of us all?

*Tam, patan, tam, patan, tam, patan, tantam;  
Tam, patan, tam, patan, tam, patantam.*

What shall we give to the Boy in the temple?  
What shall we offer the Man by the sea?  
Palms at His feet and Hosannas uprising,  
Are these for Him who will carry the tree?

What shall we give to the Lamb who was offered,  
Rising the third day and shedding His Love?  
Tears for His mercy we’ll weep at the manger;  
Bathing the Infant come down from above.

✦Benediction

Postlude: Toccata on “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” ..... arr. Paul Fey

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*Following the service, please join us for refreshments  
in the lobby outside the Bookmark Bookstore.*

## The Chancel Choir

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Becki Albert	Kennedi Dickens	Katie Hutcheson	Gay Rhodes
Ginny Atkinson	Mary Edwards	Macon Ivy	Jackie Robertson
Sarah Bacon	Jauna Ellis	Edlyn Jarquin	Ava Shatley
Vickie Baker	Sarah Enoch	Brenae Johnson	Leslie Shaw
Phillip Bond	Fred Flinn	Harold Knight	Sam Shaw
Jerry Bowman	Antoinette Good	Donna Lee	Steve Tackett
Marjorie Bowman	Emily Hale	Rob Liddon	Paola Tennon
Bob Bradsher	Eric Hale	West McElhaney	AnneDavis Vander Have
Valetta Brinson	Alex Happ	Daija McNeil	Elizabeth Wall
Suzanne Burgar	Mya Hawkins	Brody Melton	Tanisha Ward
Emma Grace Burgess	Garrett Heady	Maggie Moore	Susan Warner
Shawn Campbell	Alissa Heirigs	Benjamin Nguyen	Hope Whitehead
Carter Coleman	Jim Heirigs	Kenya Nichols	Emily Woelke
Pat Corbitt	Ben Hughes	Carol Overcast	<i>Calvin Ellis, director</i>
Januel Delarosa	Rosalyn Hurt	Beldon Partson	

## Faithline Youth Choir

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Harry Alexander	Chase Frazer	Matthew Lankford	Elle Wilkinson
Chase Ellingsworth	Claire Hallum	Wade Santos	Harry Wilson
Mary Ann Ellingsworth	Charlie Hottinger	Katie Thompson	Rainer Witherington
William Frazee	Ronshel Kurusanthony	Lark Thompson	<i>James Ryan, director</i>

## The Orchestra

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<b>Violin 1</b>	<b>Cello</b>	<b>Trombone</b>	<b>Bassoon</b>
Dan Gilbert	Mark Wallace	John Mueller	Christina Hazell
Priscilla Tsai	Ella Bondar	Steve Davis	
Ann Trujillo			
<b>Violin 2</b>	<b>Bass</b>	<b>Tuba</b>	<b>Percussion</b>
Lori Gilbert	Sean O'Hara	Joe Sellmansberger	Chris Burgess
Kristy Robinson			Christian Davis
Tim Shiu	<b>Horn</b>	<b>Flute</b>	<b>Timpani</b>
Lauren Miley	Jimmy Rhine	Delara Hashemi	Michael Karcz
Hannah Weber	Audrey Davis	Dee Walker	
	Bethany Beck	<b>Oboe/Eg. Horn</b>	<b>Electric Bass</b>
<b>Viola</b>	<b>Trumpet</b>	Courtenay Harter	Joe Mariencheck
Beth Luscombe	Michael Mckenzie	<b>Clarinet</b>	<b>Organ/Piano</b>
Michael Brennan	Alex Schuettrumpf	Robyn Jones	Leo Davis
Robyn Greene	Marc Franklin	Trevor Pavey	



# Advent

**Sing Hallelujah:  
An Evening of Advent Worship**  
*December 14 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary*

Through song, Scripture, and communion, we will trace the story of redemption from Creation to the Second Coming, remembering why Christ came once as a baby and looking ahead to His second coming to make all things new.

Worship will be led by our young adults, True North youth, Shine Ministry participants, and Sunday night musicians.

**Nine Lessons and Carols**  
*December 21, 8:15 & 11:00 a.m.*

**Christmas PJ Party**  
*December 21, 4:30 p.m.*

**A Gospel Christmas**  
*December 21, 6:00 p.m.*

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
*4:00 p.m. Family Service*  
*5:30, 8:00 & 11:00 p.m.*  
*Candlelight Communion Services*

*Visit [2pc.org/christmas](http://2pc.org/christmas) for more details and service opportunities.*

## 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 as Jesus begins His public ministry. Join us these Sundays for worship as we refocus on those things which Jesus made a priority in His ministry, that we might make them a priority in ours.

**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*

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