

First Sunday *of* Advent

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

8:15 & 11:00 AM

Prelude: The prelude is a time for quiet reflection and preparation. As the music begins, worshipers are invited to center their hearts on God and enter the presence of the Holy.

The Liturgy of the Word

PRELUDE:
"Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme (Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying), BWV 645" . . . . . J.S. Bach
"Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen (Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming)" . . . . . Johannes Brahms

Leo Davis, organ

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
Zach, Miller, and Ainsley Erickson (8:15)
Jinbin Zhai and Hong Lin (11:00)

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

CHORAL INTROIT: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" . . . . . DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 405AD; tr. John Mason Neale, 1854 / Music: arr. Trevor Manor / John 1:1, 14

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending, He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

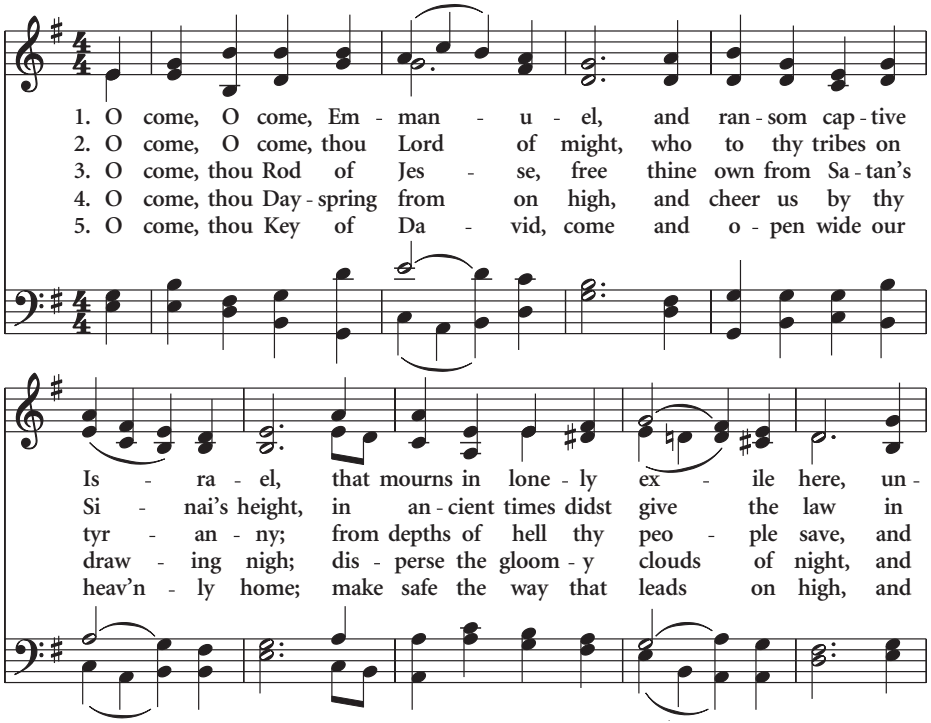
O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face, evermore and evermore.

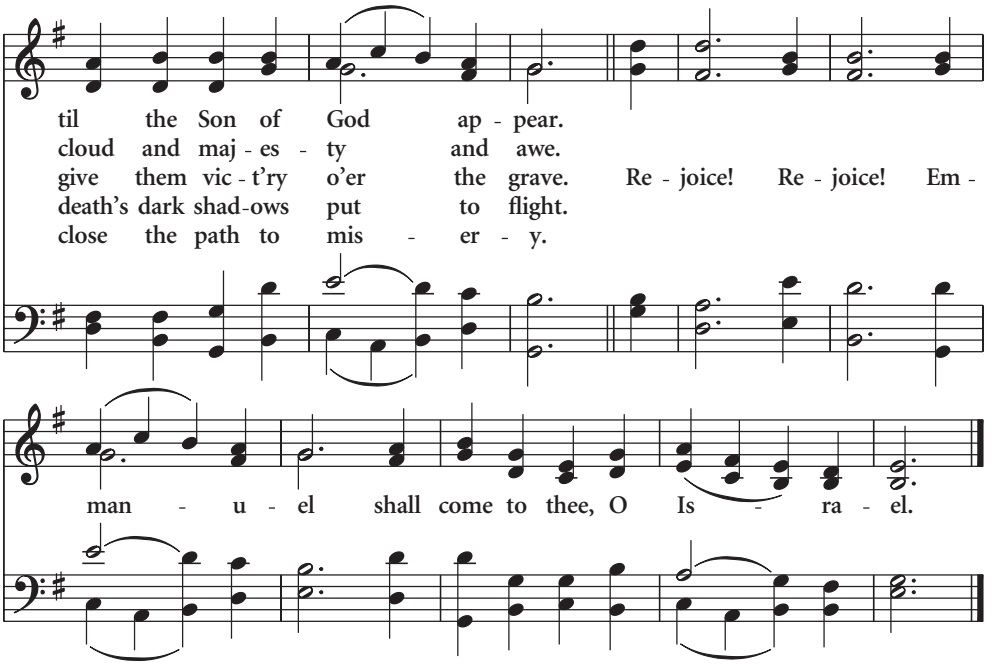
The Chancel Choir
Calvin Ellis, director

CALL TO WORSHIP: John 1:14. . . . . Josh Preston

✠PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 127 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" . . . . . VENI EMMANUEL

Words: Latin, trans. John Mason Neale, 1851 / Music: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854 / Isaiah 59:20





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.

✞INVOCATION

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

Please place the laminated offering card from the pew racks in the offering plate as a physical act of worship to represent a financial gift made in the prior week.

Give Online: *2pc.org/give*
Give by Text: *Text SECOND to (901) 410-9500*
Give by Mail: *Second Presbyterian Church, 4055 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "No Night There" . . . . . Dan Forrest

Words and Music: Dan Forrest / Matthew 1:23, 28:20; Revelation 21:3; Psalm 118:6, 23:4

God is with us; God is for us; do not be afraid.

There shall be no night there, no crying there,
God shall wipe away ev'ry tear, every tear from their eyes.

Even in the valley of the shadow of death,
God is with us, I will fear no evil; God is for us.

Lo, I am with you always, even to the end.
God is for us. I am with you to the end.

Do not be afraid.
God is with us, God is for us.
No night there.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

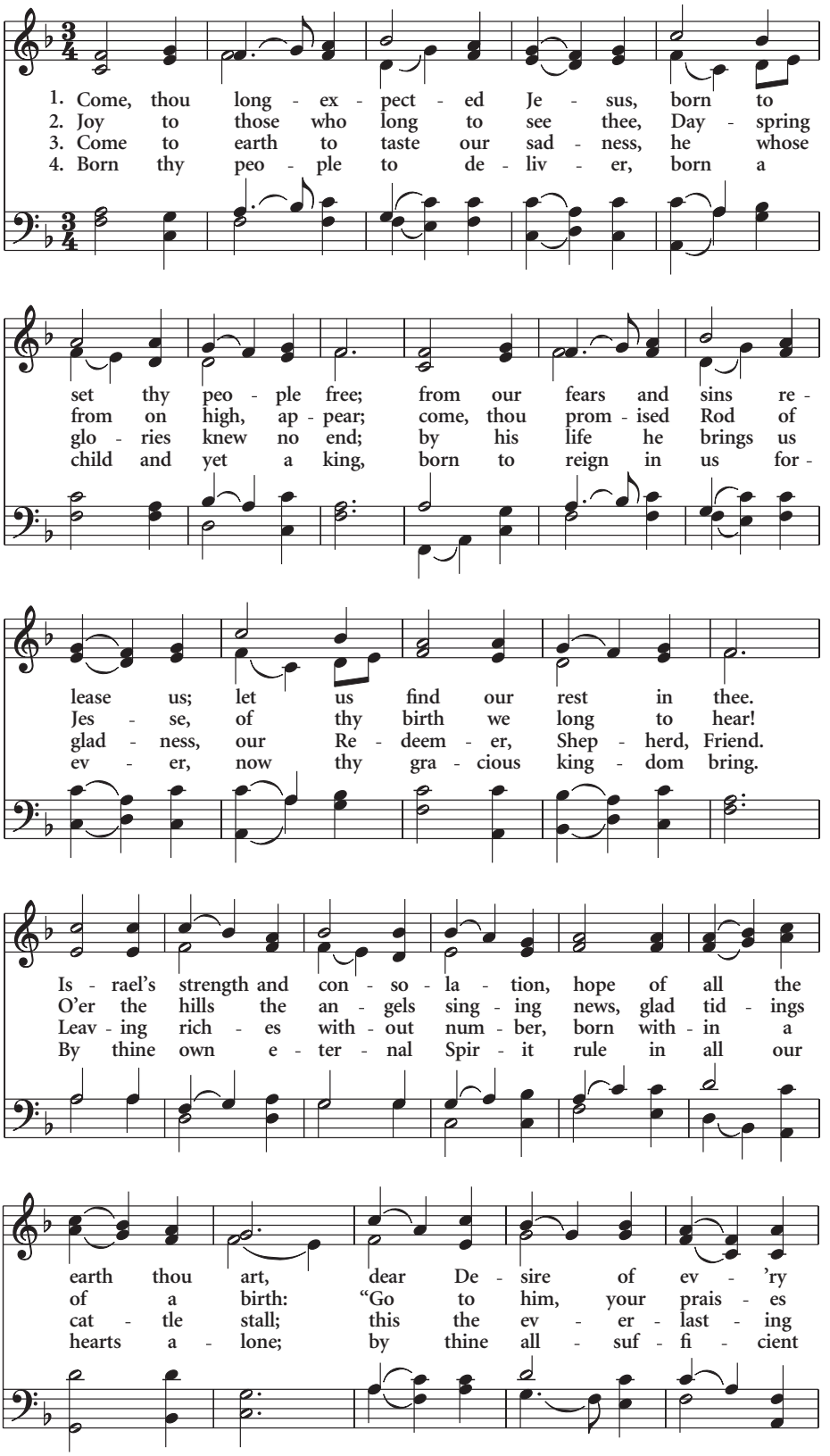
GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

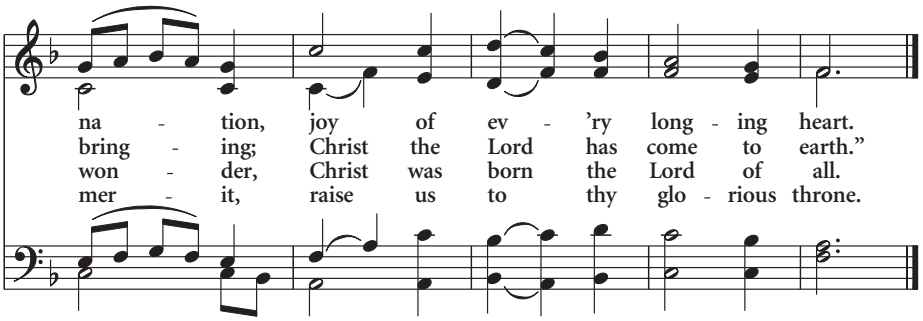
At this time, parents may take children to the nursery.

✞PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

✙HYMN OF PREPARATION: No. 131 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus". . . . . HYFRYDOL

Words: Charles Wesley (vss. 1, 4), 1744; Mark E. Hunt (vs. 2, 3), 1978 / Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830 / Luke 2:25





SCRIPTURE LESSON. . . . . Matthew 4:12-16 and Isaiah 9:1-2
(pages 809 and 573 in pew Bible)

The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever. *(Isaiah 40:8)*

SERMON: "The Great Light" . . . . . George Robertson

I. **Darkness** *(Matthew 4:12-16a; Isaiah 8:23-9:2)*
A. Gloom
B. Anguish
C. Dishonored

II. **Light** *(Matthew 4:16b; Isaiah 9:2-3)*
A. Glorious
B. Joy
C. Honored

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

The Liturgy of the Table

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

✠PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH . . . . . The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man,
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried;
and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead;
whose Kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amēn. **universal*

The Nicene Creed, first formulated at the Council of Nicea (325), affirms Biblical truths about the Trinity and the person of Jesus. We use it in worship to profess what we believe about our triune God and His church.

✞GLORIA PATRI . . . . . GREATOREX

Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851 / Psalm 29:2

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious, heavenly Father,
all of us stand in fresh need of rescue and release
from the weight of our sin by our Lord Jesus Christ.
We confess as we begin this Advent that
instead of peaceful, we are anxious;
instead of joyful, we are irritable;
instead of amazed, we are indifferent;
and in the place of anticipation, we are fearful.
In our unbelief, we have become impoverished.
Pardon and free us from these sins that plague us,
for we pray in the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON. . . . . I Timothy 1:15

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

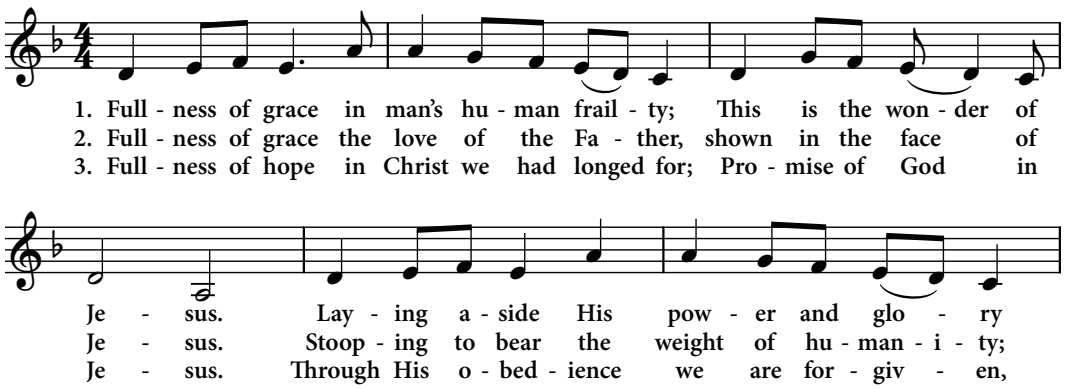
PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

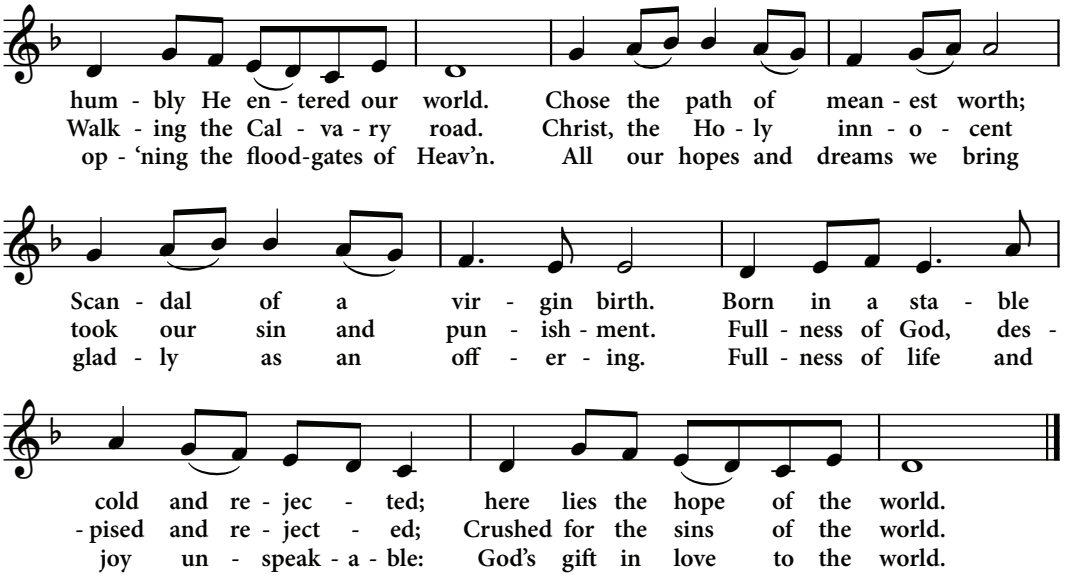
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power,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

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

"Fullness of Grace" . . . . . Getty Music

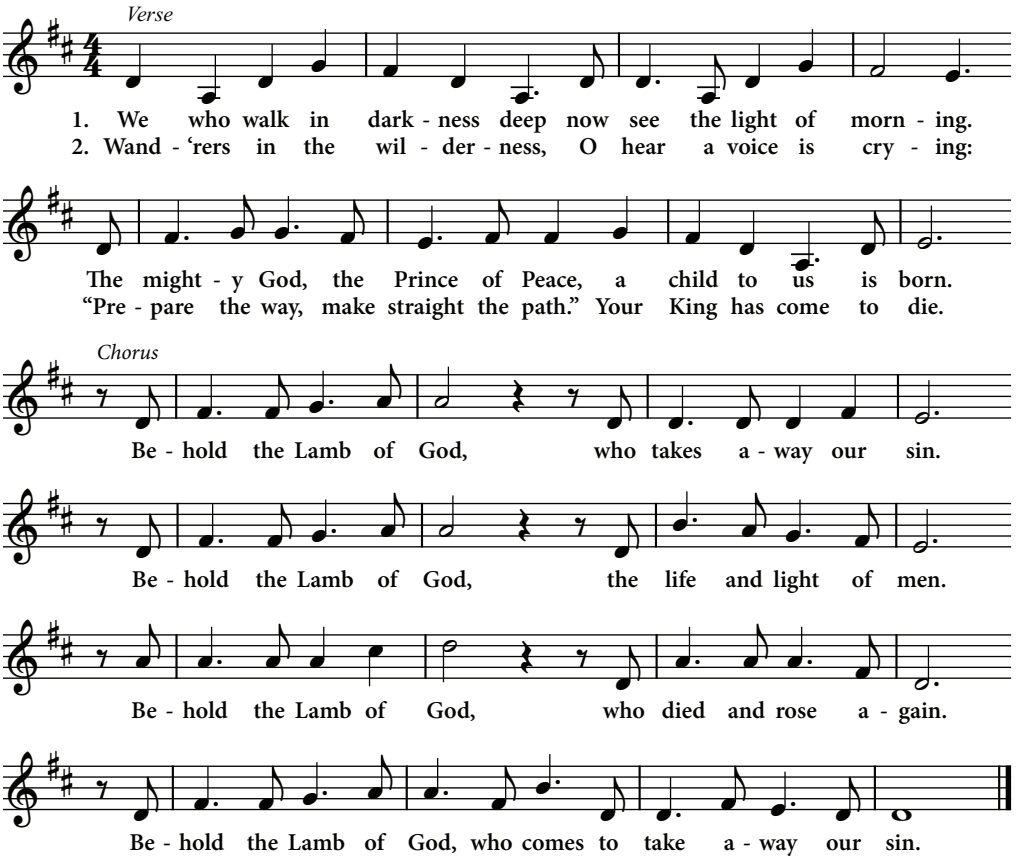
Words and Music: Keith and Kristyn Getty; Stuart Townend





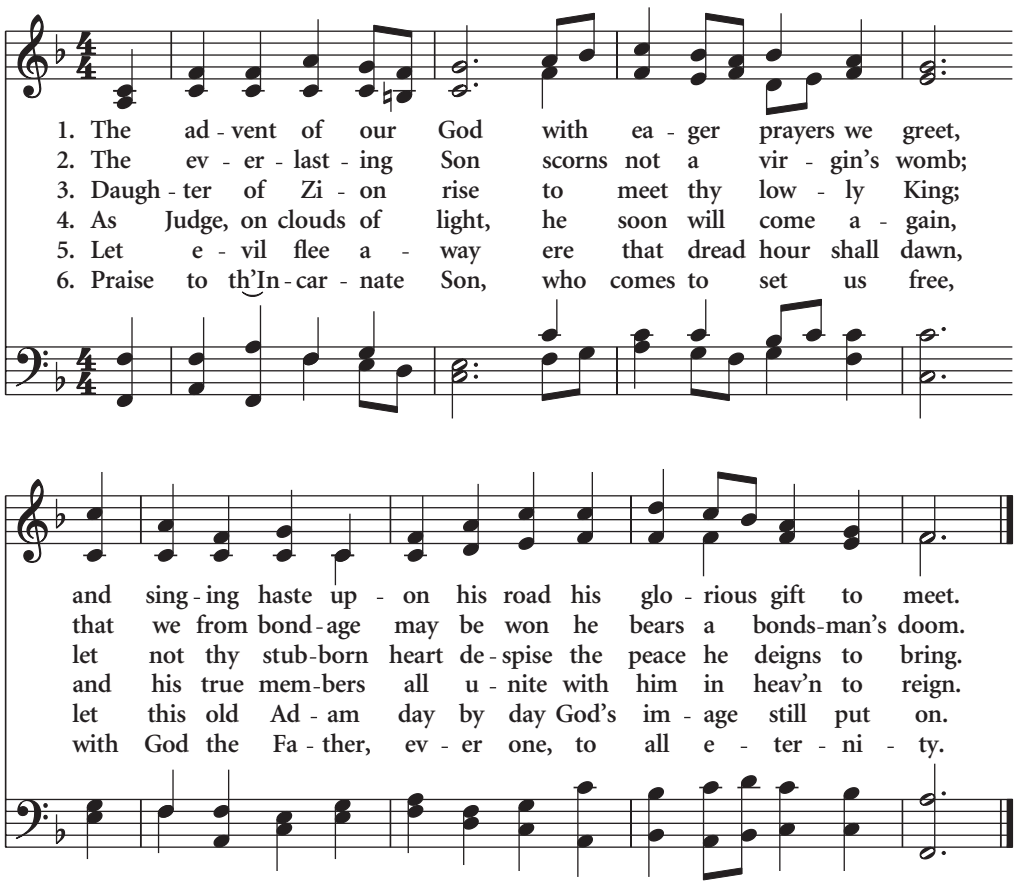
"Behold the Lamb of God" ..... Andrew Peterson

Words and Music: Andrew Peterson / John 1:29



✟HYMN OF THANKSGIVING: No. 133 "The Advent of Our God" . . . . . ST. THOMAS

Words: Charles Coffin, 1736; tr. John Chandler, 1837, Harriett Packer, 1906 / Music: Aaron Williams, 1763 / Philippians 2:6-7



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

✟BENEDICTION

✟BENEDICTION RESPONSE. . . . . VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

POSTLUDE: Toccata on "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus". . . . . J. Christopher Pardini

✟*Indicates congregation standing* *CCLI License #252778*

Advent *at* Second

Hanging of the Green
Tonight, starting at 5:00 p.m.

We'll kick off Advent Season tonight with Hanging of the Green! All ages are invited to arrive at 5:00 p.m. to help deck the halls of the church and to enjoy cookie decorating, crafts, and games.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:00. We'll move to the Sanctuary at 6:00 for a special worship service, led by our children's choirs, that ends with a live nativity outdoors.

Deck the Halls from 5:00–6:00 p.m.

- International Ministry Tree *(near French Doors, west of Nursery)*
- Tree in the Fellowship Hall
- Nativity Scene *(table in the hallway outside the Bookmark Bookstore)*
- Hang outdoor wreaths on exterior building doors

Women's Christmas Coffee
December 2, 10:30 a.m.

Festival of Carols
December 6, 6:00 p.m.

NCC Service Night @ 2PC
December 9, 6:00 p.m.

Sing Hallelujah
December 13, 6:00 p.m.

Nine Lessons and Carols
December 20, 8:15 & 11:00 a.m.

Christmas PJ Party
December 20, 4:30 p.m.

A Gospel Christmas
December 20, 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 or scan the QR code for more details and for a list of service opportunities.

Service Opportunity for All Ages: December 9

All ages are invited to the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 9, at 6:00 p.m. to pack Christmas food boxes for Neighborhood Christian Centers! NCC is bringing part of their packing operation to our campus, giving church members a chance to serve together.

Dinner will be served beforehand from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in C310 ($5.50 for kids; $8.50 for adults). We will also have a Christmas Card Station and Prayer Stations during the evening for anyone who would like to serve in that way. Come for 30 minutes or stay the whole time—every bit helps!

Nursery will be available for ages 2 and under during the event. To help us plan, please visit 2pc.org/christmas and let us know if you plan to eat dinner and/or to register for the nursery. Email kevesha.snow@2pc.org with questions.

Caring Ministry Update

Sympathy to:
John Brooks on the death of his sister, *Shirley Moore,* November 19, 2026, in Little Rock, AR. *(Germantown Parish)*

In the Hospital *(as of 11/23/26):*
Nancy Peeples, *Baptist East (Richland Parish)*

Weekly Prayer Focus

World Missions–Joel and Michelle: Joel and Michelle serve in Southeast Asia, equipping indigenous leaders for gospel ministry. They are thankful for the Lord's blessing on their language and cultural acquisition during their two years of service. Joel is part of the strategic planning team for their ministry. On a recent leaders retreat, Joel and Michelle were saddened to learn of the childhood wounds that many of the leaders carry that are common in their culture. Pray that the Lord will bring healing and hope to these dear people as He gives Joel and Michelle wisdom and compassion to help them. Pray that this dear couple would abide in Christ, serve humbly, remain in constant prayer, and walk in obedience to the Lord. Pray also that their young daughters, Esther and Lani, will always know the love of Jesus.

Mission Memphis–Refugee Empowerment Program: Refugee Empowerment Program (REP) is a nonprofit serving refugees and immigrants in Memphis. REP empowers newcomers through tailored programs that help them integrate into American culture and set goals for themselves. Please pray for the safety and protection of those at risk because of changing policies. Pray that God would give the staff wisdom as they serve refugees in our city. Lastly, please pray for safe, affordable, and convenient housing options for low-income residents in Memphis, including those of refugee and immigrant origin.

2PC Ministry–Women In Ministry: Our women's ministry aims to help Second's sisters grow in knowing Christ, becoming like Him, and making Him known in their various callings and contexts. Join us in praising God for the good work He's done by His Word among Second's sisters and our friends as we've studied Acts this Fall. Throughout this holiday season, pray that Second's sisters would take bolder initiative than ever before in inviting unchurched friends to "come and see" the Lord Jesus. Pray also that God would grant us Christ's wisdom and strength for the various relational gatherings the holidays often hold—some of which involve difficulty and pain.

November Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary this month are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of: *Walker Bush* by his family; *Ann and Oscar Edwards* by Mary and Jimmy Edwards and their family; *George Shea Flinn* by his sons, George, Fred, Carl, and their families; *Joel Jones Hobson III* by Jennifer's Overflow small group; *Liza Fletcher* on her birthday by her Hutchison friends; *Mary Elizabeth Garrott* by her siblings Brandon, Murray, and Allison; *Robert Tipton, Jr.* by Deborah and Mary Elisabeth Tipton.

General Fund Giving Update

	This Year Budget	This Year Actual	Variance to Budget	Prior Year Actual	Variance to Prior Year
October	$ 797,748	$ 1,040,469	$ 242,721	$ 701,467	$ 339,002
YTD 7/1/26–10/31/26	$ 3,132,454	$ 3,647,719	$ 515,265	$ 2,970,278	$ 677,441

Please email jay.tayloe@2pc.org for instructions to make contributions of appreciated stock or to make qualified charitable distributions from your IRA.

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) and enter your name and email address—then watch for it to arrive in your inbox on Fridays! For even more content, follow @2pcmemphis on Facebook and Instagram.

Getting Connected at Second

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

Christmas Flower Order Form

I/We wish to contribute $_____ to the Flower Ministry of Second Presbyterian Church for use in decorating the church for the Christmas season in memory or honor of loved ones. Please acknowledge the gift (omitting the amount) in the bulletin on Sunday, December 20 as follows:

Please check ***ONLY*** one: ☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of ☐ In Gratitude for

Name: .....

Given by: .....

Donor Phone Number: .....

December 13 is the deadline for the inclusion of names in the bulletin on December 20, 2026.
Please return this form with your check made out to Second Presbyterian Church and send to 4055 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38111. Clearly designate the gift for the "Flower Ministry."
An online order form is available at 2pc.org/flowers.

Second
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