



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH *of*
CHATTANOOGA

The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

11:00 AM

At First Presbyterian, we seek to be a healthy church exhibiting all the fullness of Christ as we disciple believers who develop spiritually, connect relationally, and engage missionally to reach Chattanooga and the world with the gospel.

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORSHIP REFLECTION

Isaiah prophesies that there is coming
a virgin-born child Whose name is Emmanuel
—“God with us.”

“The name ‘Immanuel’ encapsulates
the essence of God’s promise:
His presence among His people,
providing assurance even in the face of crisis.
This sign declares that God’s purposes will not fail,
no matter the human or political obstacles.”
— *Alec Motyer*

“God’s answer to everything
that has ever terrorized us is a child.
The power of God is so far superior to the Assyrians
and all the big shots of this world
that He can defeat them by coming as a mere child.
His answer to the bullies swaggering through history is
not to become an even bigger bully.
His answer is Jesus.”
— *Raymond Ortlund*

“What greater proof do we need of God’s love
for sinners than that He should choose to dwell with us?
Immanuel is the answer to our deepest fears
and the fulfillment of our greatest hopes.”
— *Charles Spurgeon*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God,
You have poured upon us the new light
of Your incarnate Word—Jesus our Savior.
Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts,
may shine forth in our lives.
We pray in the name of the One
Whom the darkness could not conquer,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” arr. Lloyd Larson”

Reformation Bell Choir

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

More news and other resources are located on pages 8-11.

THE PRAISE OF GOD’S PEOPLE

CHORAL INTROIT

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light
And usher in the morning
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright
But hear the angel’s warning | 2 This Child, now weak in infancy
Our confidence and joy shall be
The pow’r of Satan breaking
Our peace eternal making |
|---|---|

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

† Please stand as you are able.

† HYMN OF PRAISE

No. 194 (vv. 1,3,4,5)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear | 3 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death’s dark shadows put to flight |
|--|--|

Chorus

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

- 2 O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave

Chorus

- 4 O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav’nly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery

Chorus

Chorus

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

1 **Come, Thou long-expected Jesus**
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel’s strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear Desire of every nation
Joy of ev’ry longing heart

2 **Born Thy people to deliver**
Born a Child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 35

Pastor: What does it mean that He “was conceived
by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary?”

**People: That the eternal Son of God,
Who is and remains true and eternal God,
took to Himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit,
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,
a truly human nature so that He might also
become David’s true descendant,
like His brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy and gracious Father,
You have given us a greater gift
than we could ever ask for or imagine—
“Immanuel, God with us.”
Yet we frequently live as spiritual orphans,
doubting Your promises
while seeking security in things and people.
Forgive us for our fear, our lack of faith,
and our reliance on worldly solutions.
We acknowledge that we have turned away
from the wonder of Your miraculous intervention
and have sought comfort in things that cannot save us.
We repent of our unbelief and ask You to renew our hearts
to walk faithfully in the light of Your presence
and to rest joyfully in the assurance
that You are with us and for us,
both now and forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Matthew 1:21 ESV

“She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus,
for He will save His people from their sins.”

†HYMN OF ASSURANCE

No. 181 (vv. 1,3,4,5)

“We Come, O Christ, to You”

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 We come, O Christ, to You
True Son of God and man
By Whom all things consist
In Whom all life began
In You alone we live and move
And have our being in Your love</p> <p>2 You are the living Truth!
All wisdom dwells in You
The Source of every skill
The one eternal TRUE!
O great I AM! In You we rest
Sure answer to our every quest</p> | <p>3 You only are true Life
To know You is to live
The more abundant life
That earth can never give
O risen Lord! We live in You
In us each day Your life renew!</p> <p>4 We worship You, Lord Christ
Our Savior and our King
To You our youth and strength
Adoringly we bring
So fill our hearts, that all may view
Your life in us, and turn to You</p> |
|--|---|

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERTORY

“Wexford Carol” arr. Elaine Hagenberg

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Good people all, this Christmas time
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending His beloved Son
With Mary holy, we should pray
To God with love this Christmas Day
In Bethlehem upon that morn
There was a blessed Messiah born</p> <p>2 Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep
To whom God’s angels did appear
Which put the shepherds in great fear
“Prepare and go,” the angels said
“To Bethlehem. Be not afraid
For there you’ll find this happy morn
A princely babe, sweet Jesus born”</p> | <p>3 With thankful heart and joyful mind
The shepherds went the babe to find
And as God’s angels had foretold
They did our Savior Christ behold
Within a manger He was laid
And by His side the virgin maid
Attending on the Lord of Life
Who came to earth to end all strife</p> <p>4 With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas Day
In Bethlehem upon that morn
There was a blessed Messiah born
Sweet Jesus born
Messiah born</p> |
|--|---|

GREETING & DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*Please take your PreK-1st grade children to the check-in station
at the 1st – 3rd grade Children's Wing on the first floor behind the Sanctuary.*

†DOXOLOGY

THE WORD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

SERMON

“A Child Like No Other”

Isaiah 7:14 (p. 572)

The Prophet of Christmas: Advent Studies in Isaiah

Gabriel N.E. Fluhner

SERMON OUTLINE

1. God Is With Us

2. God With Us

“The Advent of Our God”

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

†BENEDICTION

based on Matthew 1:22-23

May the Lord Almighty fill your hearts with His abiding presence
so that the assurance of His nearness brings you peace,
the promise of His power gives you strength,
and the wonder of His love fuels your life.
Go forth in the confidence that God is with you,
now and forevermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“The First Noel” arr. Bill Ingram

Reformation Bell Choir

Worship Leader

Darrin Hassevoort, *Director of Music & Worship*

Presiding Minister

Randy Nabors, *Pastor of Missions*

Minister of the Word

Gabriel N.E. Fluhner, *Senior Pastor*

Sanctuary Flowers Dedication

The flowers today are given to the glory of our Lord and Savior and in loving memory of Miss Nancy and her Dad Larry Jones by Betty Jones and Mo. The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers to our homebound and hospitalized on Monday, December 2.

The Advent of Our God

Be glad . . . for I am coming, and I will live among you. Zech. 2:10

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The first system contains two verses of lyrics. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

1. The Ad - vent of our God With ea - ger hearts we greet; And
2. All glo - ry to the Son, Who comes to set us free; With

we must praise Him in this hour With hymns and an - thems sweet.
Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er One Through all e - ter - ni - ty. A - men.

TEXT: Charles Coffin; translated by John Chandler, altered
MUSIC: Aaron Williams
A higher setting may be found at No. 21

ST. THOMAS
S.M.

NEW MEMBERS

Take time to welcome and get to know our new additions to the 1st Pres family, who joined this past Sunday, November 24. Please be in prayer that the love and enrichment they receive from and add to our community will be a reflection of God's grace and glory!

Samual & Bekah Aranda

Meredith McLean Bradford

Braxton Browning

Tom Caywood

Joshua Davis

Nadine Gadberry

Ric & Audra Gilliland

Panitan "Pan" & Kelly Kayasit, daughters Arysa (unable to join at this time) & Emma

Mickey King

Mark & Tara McLaughlin

Larry & Lisanne Mullinax

James Orlando

Russell & Beverly Roop

Ben Snyman

Interested in joining? Keep an eye on our announcements for the next scheduled Inquirer's Class next year!

RESOURCES

Connect with Us

New to 1st Pres? Scan the QR code with your phone camera to fill out a connect card, and one of our pastors will get in touch with you.



Sunday School

Scan the QR code, or go to 1stPresbyterian.com/SundaySchool to view a list of Sunday School offerings for adults, youth, and children. Flyers with adult classes are also available in the Connector and posted around the building.



Stay Up-to-Date

Sign up for our newsletter to receive a comprehensive email each Friday on all things First Pres and the occasional letter from our pastors with important updates. Scan the QR code, or go to 1stPresbyterian.com under the “Resources” tab.



Giving Update

as of 11/17

Fiscal year runs April 1 - March 1

	<u>Deacons (General Fund)</u>	<u>World Missions</u>
Annual Budget	\$3,460,000	\$900,000
Budgeted Giving	\$2,195,769	\$571,154
Raised	\$1,887,980	\$486,933



To make a secure contribution to 1st Pres, scan the QR code or go to 1stPresbyterian.com/Give.

NOTE: Donations to First Presbyterian Church are tax-deductible. In accordance with IRS regulations, donors agree that ultimate control over donated funds lies with the church.

NEW & UPCOMING AT FIRST PRES

First Cup – December 3

Please join us for our First Cup Men's Breakfast on the first Tuesday of each month from 7:00am - 8:00am in the Nell Davis room. We'll continue our study "The Marks of an Emotionally Healthy Disciple of Jesus," and enjoy delicious egg & cheese biscuits from Bluegrass Grill (\$5) and lots of coffee!

"Messiah" – December 6, 7, 8

First Pres and the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera present Handel's *Messiah*, in the Sanctuary December 6 at 7:30pm, December 7 at 7:30pm, and December 8 at 3:00pm! General admission tickets are \$35, and premium tickets are \$65. A discount of \$10 is available for First Pres members on general admission tickets, and the code is available via our weekly announcement emails. Go to ChattanoogaSymphony.org to purchase tickets!

It's a Wonderful Life! Senior Fellowship & Program – December 12

We will celebrate Christmas with composer, arranger, jazz pianist, and educator Prakash Wright. Prakash will bring us some of our Christmas favorites, with songs from his album "In the City of David." Fellowship begins at 10:30am, followed by the program at 11:00am and lunch (\$8) at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Reservations are required; please email Janette.Barnes@Gmail.com or Rwrenn@Epbfi.com.

Kids Playgroup – December 13

Families are invited every second Friday of the month from 9:00am - 11:00am to the Student Center for fellowship and connection with other parents while your kids (ages 0-5) play in a safe and fun environment!

"Joy to the World" – December 15

Join us at our annual free Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 15 at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary, as we contemplate the birth of Christ through scripture and song. Friends and family are invited!

Patten Towers Chili-Cornbreak-Cookies Cook-Off – December 19

We're looking for volunteers to help us make food for the Patten Towers Christmas Party on Thursday, December 19. This is a wonderful opportunity to show the love of Christ to our neighbors and bring them some holiday joy! Residents will cast their votes during the party on their favorite dishes. To participate, contact our Director of Community Outreach Shad Guinn at Shad@1stPresbyterian.com.

News from the Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign Committee is working on producing a Case Statement, a central repository of information regarding the project, which will answer questions like what the project is and how it was developed, including rough timelines and action plans. Please pray for our leaders as they work through the various challenges of capacity concerns, facility upgrades, and future capital needs, and that they may be able to answer these and more questions to put an accurate Case Statement together for the congregation. For question, please email CapitalCampaign@1stPresbyterian.com.

NEW & UPCOMING AT FIRST PRES CONT'D.

Midweek Serving Line Volunteers

We're looking for people willing to help serve food, take payments, and answer questions during Midweek next semester! We're especially in need of alternates who can step in when someone is unable to volunteer. If you already attend Midweek, this is an easy way to help out; many hands make the work light! If you're interested, or you have questions, please contact our Office Manager Crystal Middleton at Crystal@1stPresbyterian.com.

Connect Team & Event Usher Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to join our Connect Team and/or to help with event ushering! As part of these teams, you will be helping us build a warm and inviting atmosphere for newcomers by greeting people at various church entrances on Sunday mornings and assisting with directions and general information. These are both great ways to volunteer without a huge time commitment! You can volunteer once a month, once a quarter, or even once a year. Anything helps! If you're interested in joining our Connect Team, please contact Elder Jim Lyon at JimLyon1@gmail.com. If you're interested in being an event Usher, please contact Deacon Dale Granberry DaleG13@gmail.com.

"First Takes," a podcast from First Pres

With the ascension of Christ, does Scripture still apply that Jesus does not know when the Father will send Him back to claim His creation? Find out the answer on the latest release from our podcast, *First Takes*, on Apple, Spotify, and anywhere you get your podcasts! Got a question? Submit it for consideration to our Director of Media Arts Dylan Thomas at Dylan@1stPresbyterian.com.

New Additions

Rejoice and be in prayer for the new additions to families within our congregation: Judah Warren Riley, born October 21 to Rachel & Joe Riley and big brothers Jacob & Jonah; Juniper Jean Kinard, born November 13 to Meghan & Nate Kinard and siblings Noelle & Whitaker.

Recently Bereaved

Please be in prayer for those in our congregation who have recently lost a loved one: First Pres member Cathy Barker in the passing of her brother, Bob Elton, on November 17; First Pres member Jane Bock in the passing of her brother, Adam Bock, on November 17.

554 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37402

(423)-267-1206

Office@1stPresbyterian.com

www.1stPresbyterian.com