



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH *of*  
CHATTANOOGA

# The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 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, the prophet of Christmas,  
leads us to see the ministry of Jesus,  
Whose coming brought light to a land  
enshrouded in darkness.

This light is not merely physical but spiritual,  
illuminating hearts and restoring hope  
through the presence of the divine King.

— *adapted from Alec Motyer*

God has set a Savior against sin,  
a heaven against a hell,  
light against darkness, good against evil,  
and the breadth, length, depth, and height of grace  
that is in Himself for my good,  
against all the power, strength, and subtlety  
of every enemy.

— *John Bunyan*

Back in the 8th century B.C., the prophet Isaiah  
looks outward at the world in which he lives  
and inward at his own heart  
and sees a menacing darkness  
that is not just imaginary,  
but incredibly real and perilous.  
Into this terrifying darkness,  
He prophesies about God's rescue plan—  
how God's light would conquer the darkness.

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Merciful God,  
You sent Your messengers the prophets  
to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation.  
Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,  
that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

### PRELUDE

*Emma Burnsworth, harp*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*More news and other resources are located on pages 8-10.*

### THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

#### CHORAL INTROIT

*Youth Choir*

*“Tell It on the Mountain” arr. Lloyd Larson*

*Please sing bold text as directed.*

#### **Chorus:**

**Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born**

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
When, lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light

Go, tell it!  
Tell it on the mountain

#### **Chorus**

Tell it! Jesus Christ is born!  
Go now and tell it  
Jesus Christ is born!

*Chorus*

#### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

† *Please stand as you are able.*

#### † HYMN OF PRAISE

*No. 208 (vv. 1-4)*

#### *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

1 **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**

3 **Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above  
Glory to God in the highest**

*Chorus*

*Chorus:*

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

4 **Yea, Lord, we greet Thee  
Born this happy morning  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n  
Word of the Father  
Late in flesh appearing**

*Chorus*

2 **God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb  
Very God, begotten, not created**

*Chorus*

1 Angels, from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o’er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation’s story  
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth

*Chorus:*

**Come and worship, come and worship  
Worship Christ, the newborn King**

2 Shepherds in the fields abiding  
Watching o’er your flocks by night  
God with us is now abiding  
Yonder shines the infant Light

*Chorus*

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 34*

Pastor: Why do we call Jesus “our Lord”?

**People: Because not with gold or silver, but with His precious blood,  
He has set us free from the darkness of sin and from the tyranny of the devil,  
and has bought us, body and soul, to be His very own.**

#### CONFESSION OF SIN

O God, Whose glory it is always to have mercy,  
be gracious to us for we have gone astray in our hearts.  
Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
but in our pride we exalt ourselves.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
but in our envy we recoil from others’ happiness.  
Blessed are the meek and the peacemakers,  
but in our wrath we lash out in revenge.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
but in our sloth we despair of virtue.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
but in our greed we demand to possess and fail to give.  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
but in our lust we sacrifice others to serve ourselves.  
Forgive us for all the ways that we have loved the darkness.  
We ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

4 Saints before the altar bending  
Watching long in hope and fear  
Suddenly the Lord, descending  
In His temple shall appear

*Chorus*

5 All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son  
Evermore your voices raising  
To th’eternal Three in One

*Chorus*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Luke 1:78-79 ESV*

Because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
to give light to those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

## †HYMN OF ASSURANCE

*“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”*

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|---|--|
| <p>1 <b>Let all mortal flesh keep silence<br/>And with fear and trembling stand<br/>Ponder nothing earthly minded<br/>For with blessing in His hand<br/>Christ our God to earth descendeth<br/>Our full homage to demand</b></p> <p>2 <b>King of kings, yet born of Mary<br/>As of old on earth He stood<br/>Lord of lords in human vesture<br/>In the body and the blood<br/>He will give to all the faithful<br/>His own self for heav’nly food</b></p> | <p>3 <b>Rank on rank the host of heaven<br/>Spreads its vanguard on the way<br/>As the Light of light descendeth<br/>From the realms of endless day<br/>That the pow’rs of hell may vanish!<br/>As the darkness clears away</b></p> <p><b>Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia<br/>Lord Most High!</b></p> |
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## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

## OFFERTORY

*“All Is Well” arr. Ronn Huff*

*Youth Choir*

*Soloist: Anna Fluhner*

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|--|---|
| <p>1 All is well, all is well<br/>Angels and men rejoice!<br/>For tonight darkness fell<br/>Into the dawn of love’s light<br/>Sing alle, sing alleluia!</p> <p>2 All is well, all is well<br/>Let there be peace on earth<br/>Christ is come, go and tell<br/>That He is in the manger<br/>Sing alle, sing alleluia!</p> | <p>3 All is well, all is well<br/>Lift up your voice and sing<br/>Born is now Emmanuel<br/>Born is our Lord and Savior<br/>Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia!<br/>All is well</p> <p>4 Born is now Emmanuel<br/>Born is our Lord and Savior<br/>Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia!<br/>All is well, all is well</p> |
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## GREETING & DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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

†DOXOLOGY

*Bulletin p. 7*

## THE WORD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

SERMON

**“A Salvation Like No Other”**

**Isaiah 9:1-2 (p. 573)**

*The Prophet of Christmas: Advent Studies in Isaiah*

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

SERMON OUTLINE

1. The Reach of God's Salvation (v. 1)

2. The Reality of God's Salvation (v. 2)

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 O little town of Bethlehem<br>How still we see thee lie!<br>Above thy deep and dreamless sleep<br>The silent stars go by<br>Yet in thy dark streets shineth<br>The everlasting Light<br>The hopes and fears of all the years<br>Are met in thee tonight      | 4 O Holy Child of Bethlehem<br>Descend to us, we pray<br>Cast out our sin and enter in<br>Be born in us today<br>We hear the Christmas angels<br>The great glad tidings tell<br>O come to us, abide with us<br>Our Lord Emmanuel |
| 3 How silently, how silently<br>The wondrous gift is giv'n!<br>So God imparts to human hearts<br>The blessings of His heav'n<br>No ear may hear His coming<br>But in this world of sin<br>Where meek souls will receive Him still<br>The dear Christ enters in |  |

THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

†BENEDICTION

*based on John 1:5*

May the light of Christ, which shines in the darkness  
and can never be overcome,  
illuminate your heart and fill you with peace.  
May His presence dispel every shadow,  
and His power sustain you in every trial  
until the day breaks and the shadows flee away! Amen.

POSTLUDE

*“Praeludium in C, BWV 545” by J.S. Bach*

*Patrick Rice, organ*

# DOXOLOGY

*using The First Noel*

B $\flat$  B $\flat$  B $\flat$  F E $\flat$ (add2) B $\flat$

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise

7 E $\flat$ (add2) B $\flat$ /D E $\flat$  F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  B $\flat$  F

Him all creatures here below, Praise Him above Ye

13 E $\flat$ (add2) B $\flat$  E $\flat$ (add2) B $\flat$ /D E $\flat$  F B $\flat$  F B $\flat$  F

heav'n - ly host, Praise Fath - er, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost! No -

19 B $\flat$  B $\flat$ /D E $\flat$  B $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$  E $\flat$  F B $\flat$  F $^7$  B $\flat$

- el, no - el, no - el, no - el. Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## Worship Leader

Darrin Hassevoort, *Director of Music & Worship*

## Presiding Liturgist

Gunther Griffin, *Director of College Ministry*

## Minister of the Word

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer, *Senior Pastor*

## *Sanctuary Flowers Dedication*

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Edgar J. Jolley, Sr., and in celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Nancy Jolley and family. The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers to our homebound and hospitalized on Monday, December 9.



## 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](http://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](http://1stPresbyterian.com) under the “Resources” tab.



### ***Giving Update***

as of 12/1

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	\$2,328,846	\$605,769
Raised	\$2,158,048	\$518,166



To make a secure contribution to 1st Pres, scan the QR code or go to [1st Presbyterian.com/Give](http://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

### ***New Member Correction***

Please welcome new members Frank and Nicole May, who joined Sunday, November 24, and their covenant children Elise, Thomas, Ani, Sophie, Kai, Eden, River, and Bryce!

### ***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](mailto:Janette.Barnes@Gmail.com) or [Rwrenn@Epbfi.com](mailto:Rwrenn@Epbfi.com).

### ***Honor Roll Christmas Cakes***

Christmas cakes will be ready downstairs outside of the Fellowship Hall for delivery to our Honor Roll and Honor Friends on Thursday, December 12, during and after *It's a Wonderful Life!* We appreciate any volunteers who are able to come help deliver cakes.

### ***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 for our free annual 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! Childcare is available for ages 5 and under upon request; please email our Nursery Coordinator Mary Campbell Harris at [MC@1stPresbyterian.com](mailto:MC@1stPresbyterian.com) by December 13.

### ***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](mailto:Shad@1stPresbyterian.com).

### ***December 24 & 29 Worship Schedules***

Please take note of our worship schedules during the holidays. On Christmas Eve, we will have two identical communion services at 4:00pm and 6:00pm, and on Sunday, December 29 we will have our usual worship at 9:00am and 11:00am, but Sunday School will only be available for children; youth and adults are invited to a time of fellowship at 10:15am in the Fellowship Hall!

## NEW & UPCOMING AT FIRST PRES, CONTINUED

### ***New Children's Ministry Director***

We are excited to announce the hiring of a new Director of Children's Ministry, Jessica Livermore! Jessica spent most of her growing up years in Florida and Indiana, in a family where the Gospel was central, and she came to trust in Jesus at an early age. She studied Elementary Education at Ball State University, then spent two years sharing the Gospel with college students in East Asia as an intern with Cru. After returning to the states, the Lord led her to serve as a children's ministry director for the last five years in Carmel, Indiana. We will welcome her to First Pres starting mid-February.

### ***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 questions, please email [CapitalCampaign@1stPresbyterian.com](mailto:CapitalCampaign@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](mailto:JimLyon1@Gmail.com). If you're interested in being an event Usher, please contact Deacon Dale [Granberry DaleG13@Gmail.com](mailto:Granberry DaleG13@Gmail.com).

### ***"First Takes," a Podcast from First Pres***

What is the difference, if any, between the Bible being inerrant and infallible? If there is a difference, what is the significance? Pastor Gabe Fluhrer has the answers in the latest release from our podcast, *First Takes*, available on Apple, Spotify, and anywhere you get your podcasts! Got a question? Submit it for consideration for our "Ask a Pastor" segment to our Director of Media Arts Dylan Thomas at [Dylan@1stPresbyterian.com](mailto:Dylan@1stPresbyterian.com).

### ***Recently Bereaved***

Please be in prayer for those in our congregation who have recently lost a loved one: The Spangler family, in the passing of First Pres member Margaret Spangler on November 26; First Pres member Jan Hardy Fanslow, Kay Baker, and family in the passing of their father, First Pres member Warren Hardy on November 28; the Franklin family, in the passing of First Pres member Betty Franklin on November 30.

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