



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH *of*
CHATTANOOGA

The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 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

The titles of the Child in Isaiah 9:6 are not merely honorary. They describe the essential character and actions of the Messiah. He is the Wonderful Counselor Who guides with divine wisdom, the Mighty God Who conquers, the Everlasting Father Who loves and provides, and the Prince of Peace Who restores shalom.

– *John Oswalt*

The Prophet adorns Christ with these titles, that we may learn that in Him all that is necessary for our salvation is contained. It is as if He had said that the perfection of everything good resides in Christ alone.

– *John Calvin*

Our Lord has multi-faceted methods of assisting us. When we need wisdom, let us remember that He is the wonderful counselor. When we need strength, let us learn to soothe all temporal distresses with the knowledge that He is the God of might. When we experience rejection, let us run into the arms of a Father Who lavishes His love upon us, His children both now and throughout eternity. When Satan attempts to disturb our consciences, let us remember that Jesus is the prince of peace.

– *adapted from Ray Ortlund*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord Jesus,
You are the wonderful Counselor;
You have the best ideas and strategies.
Grant us grace to follow You.
You are the mighty God; You defeat all Your enemies.
In our weakness, let us hide ourselves in You.
You are the everlasting Father; You love us endlessly.
Cause us to experience more fully the wonder of Your love.
You are the prince of peace; You have reconciled us to God even while we were yet Your enemies.
Show us how to welcome Your reign
and worship You in spirit and truth. Amen.

PRELUDE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645” by J.S. Bach Patrick Rice, organ
(“Awake, the voice is calling”)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

More news and other resources located on pages 9-11.

THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHORAL INTROIT

Sanctuary Choir

"The Coming Joy" by Joseph Martin

My soul doth magnify the Lord. How can I keep from singing?
I will praise forevermore, Love's music in me ringing.

Chorus: Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, for God has shown me favor.
Soon I'll greet the happy morn, when I shall hold the Savior. *Chorus*

Gentle Mary, chosen one, hear this salutation:
You shall bear God's holy One. He will rule the nations.
Call His name Emmanuel, God to earth descending;
Promised King of Israel, bringing joy unending.

My soul doth magnify the Lord. His grace is in me living.
I will praise forevermore. I'll serve Him with thanksgiving. *Chorus*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

† *Please stand as you are able.*

† CAROL OF PRAISE

No. 203 (vv. 1-3)

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

***Chorus:* Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. *Chorus***

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. *Chorus***

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains.
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Chorus: Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav’nly song?

Chorus

Come to Bethlehem and see Him Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Chorus

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Who do you confess that Jesus Christ is?

People: We believe that Jesus Christ is
the Child Who was born to us
and the Son Who was given for our salvation.
We confess that He is our Wonderful Counselor,
Whose wisdom is perfect and Whose guidance is sure.
We believe that He is the Mighty God,
Who came in power to conquer sin, death, and the grave.
We confess that He is our Everlasting Father,
Who loves us with an unchanging love,
Who cares for us with tender mercies,
and Who brings us into His eternal family.
We believe that He is the Prince of Peace,
Who reconciles us to God through His cross.
Therefore, we place our hope and trust in Him,
Who is our Brother, our Captain, and our King. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

**Gracious, heavenly Father,
we are humbled by the promise of Your Son,
the Child born to us and the Son given for us.
We confess that, although He is the Wonderful Counselor,
we often lean on our own understanding
and neglect His perfect wisdom.
Though He is the Mighty God,
we confess our lack of trust in His power.
Though He is the Everlasting Father,
we often live as spiritual orphans,
distant from Your love and care.
Forgive us for failing to rest in His fatherly provision.
Though He is the Prince of Peace, we confess that
too often fear, anxiety, and discord rule in our hearts.
We have failed to live in the peace that He provides
and have refused to serve as peacemakers.
Forgive us, we pray in Jesus's name. Amen**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
But He was pierced for our transgressions;
He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with His wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4-5 ESV

“O Holy Night”

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Savior’s birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Oh, praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Choir

*“Joy to the World” arr. Dan Forrest
Please join the choir on bold text.*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King.
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room, and heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature,
(Choir) Sing!**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

(Choir) Joy! Joy! Joy to the earth!
Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ!
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy! Joy!

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love!**

(Choir) Sing Joy! Joy! Sing Joy!

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

Bulletin, p. 8

THE WORD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

SERMON

“A King Like No Other”

Isaiah 9:6 (p. 573)

The Prophet of Christmas: Advent Studies in Isaiah

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

SERMON OUTLINE

1. The Nativity of the King (v. 6a)

2. The Names of the King (v. 6b)

“The First Noel”

The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Chorus: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!

Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon their knee
And offered there in His presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense. *Chorus*

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav’nly Lord, That hath
made heav’n and earth of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought. *Chorus*

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

† BENEDICTION

Hebrews 13:20-21 ESV

Now may the God of peace
Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,
equip you with everything good that you may do His will,
working in us that which is pleasing in His sight,
through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Jig Medley on Good Christian Men, Rejoice” arr. S. Whitacre

Celtic Ensemble

Worship Leader

Darrin Hassevoort, *Director of Music & Worship*

Presiding Minister

Ron Brown, *Pastor of Congregational Care*

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 Teeny and Lawrence Lassiter by Charlotte McNally, Lynn Lassiter-Kendrick, and Charles Lassiter.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11.

The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers to our home-bound and hospitalized on Monday, December 23.

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. Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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 12/15

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	\$2,461,923	\$640,385
Raised	\$2,339,497	\$590,481



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.

December 24 & 29 Worship Schedules

On **Christmas Eve**, we will have two candlelight Communion services at 4:00pm and 6:00pm. The nursery will be closed during both services, so our staff may have the evening off to worship. We encourage all ages to attend either service, and will have a children's sermon during the 4:00pm service. On **Sunday, December 29**, we will have our usual worship at 9:00am and 11:00am. Youth and adult Sunday School is canceled (except for the Bible 101 class), and instead, you are invited to a time of fellowship at 10:15am in the Fellowship Hall. Children's Sunday School will still take place.

First Cup – January 7

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

Women's Winter/Spring Bible Studies – Starting January 10 & 14

Women's Bible Studies start January 10th & 14th and we'd love you to join us! Our women's studies offer a place to grow spiritually and connect with friends. There are 7 options to choose from in a variety of formats and meeting days/times and frequencies. For details on times and study topics and to register, go to 1stPresbyterian.com/Women. If you registered for a study in the fall, you do NOT need to re-register unless you are joining a different study. **Childcare** is available upon registration for the morning studies only.

Inquirer's Class – February 22

Are you interested in learning more about 1st Pres or would you like to become a member? Come hear about our church's vision for the city, what we believe, and discipleship and ministry opportunities at our next Inquirer's Class on Saturday, February 22, in the Nell Davis Room from 8:30am - 12:00pm! A light breakfast will be provided. Register at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events by Friday, February 14.

Capital Campaign Update

A major update was released from the Capital Campaign this past Friday via email to those subscribed to our announcements. If you did not receive this letter, or you do not use email, there are hard copies available in the Connector at the literature table.

Hospitality Coordinator Hire

We are excited to announce the hiring of a new staff member, Hospitality Coordinator Nicky Lewin! Nicky grew up in Tacoma, Washington, and inherited a passion for cooking, particularly baking, from her parents; her dad was a restaurant manager and her mom a pastry chef and wedding cake maker. Nicky is also a musician, having graduated with a degree in vocal performance from Covenant College, and has participated in several music events at First Pres. She and her husband, whom she met while studying abroad in France, have been happily married for 23 years here in Chattanooga and have five children—four sons and a daughter. As Hospitality Coordinator, Nicky will manage our kitchen, oversee midweek meals, organize hospitality supplies, and assist ministry teams with hospitality needs. She will begin full-time with us in January!

NEW & UPCOMING AT FIRST PRES, CONTINUED

Nursery Coordinator

Our Interim Nursery Coordinator Mary Campbell Harris, will be stepping away at the end of December. We are so thankful for the time and love she has poured into our Children's Ministry during her time with us. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in this part-time position, please email Pastor of Discipleship Joshua Adair at Josh@1stPresbyterian.com.

"First Takes," a Podcast from First Pres

What is the most impactful thing we can do as members of First Pres (or any local church) to further the Gospel? 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.

First Pres Sermons Podcast

Our sermons are available to listen back to on your favorite podcast platform! Just search "First Presbyterian Church Chattanooga."

Church Office Holiday Closure

Our offices will be closed and our staff operating at a limited capacity December 23 - 27 in observation of Christmas and December 31 - January 1 in observation of the New Year.

554 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37402

(423)-267-1206

Office@1stPresbyterian.com

www.1stPresbyterian.com