



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH *of*  
CHATTANOOGA

# The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

9:00 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.

## THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

† *Please stand as you are able.*

† GATHERING CAROL

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

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

*Chorus:* Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight *Chorus (2x)*

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 *Chorus (2x)*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

† CAROL OF PRAISE

*“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*

See within a manger laid, Jesus Lord of heav'n and earth  
Mary, Joseph lend your aid, with us sing our Savior's birth *Chorus*

*“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”*

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Earth and heav’n before Him bow; and He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven’s door, and man is blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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

†CAROL OF ASSURANCE

*“O Holy Night (Hear The Gospel Story)”*

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the 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, O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

Humbly He lay, Creator come as creature,  
Born on the floor of a hay-scattered stall.  
True Son of God, yet bearing human feature,  
He entered earth to reverse Adam’s fall.

In towering grace, He laid aside His glory,  
And in our place, was sacrificed for sin.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the gospel story!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

Come then to Him Who lies within the manger,  
With joyful shepherds, proclaim Him as Lord.  
Let not the Promised Son remain a stranger;  
In reverent worship, make Christ your Adored.

Eternal life is theirs who would receive Him;  
With grace and peace, their lives He will adorn.  
Fall on your knees! Receive the Gift of heaven!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born

O night, O holy night when Christ was born

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, all creatures here below  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel

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

*More room for notes on p. 8.*

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

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

† CAROL OF RESPONSE

*“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.

**Worship Leader**

West Breedlove, *Assistant Director of Worship*

**Presiding Minister**

Randy Nabors, *Pastor of Missions*

**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.





## 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 12/15

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](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.

### ***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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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