



Mary & Elizabeth, Lauren Wright Pittman, A Sanctified Art: sanctifiedart.com

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



The Third Sunday
of Advent
Sunday, December 12, 2021
10:30 A.M.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Bryan and Anne Leazenby

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

In Christ there is life and light for all people.

Jn. 1

Now lift up your heads and rejoice: your redeemer is drawing near.

Lk. 21

Prepare the way of the Holy One! All flesh will see the salvation of God.

Lk. 3

Christ has come to baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Lk. 3

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!

Lk. 2

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you. Now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 108

O Come All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Matt Curry

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with you in worship there.

Children may depart the sanctuary with their teacher for Worship & Wonder. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

In the world, and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own. We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God's grace, let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Silence is kept for personal confession.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 88)

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;

Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

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

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Mighty One, who scatters the proud and fills the hungry, by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Micah 5:2-5a The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hebrews 10:5-10 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Rejoice Greatly from *Messiah*
Shelby Ratliff, Soprano

G.F. Handel

Luke 1:39-55 The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

“Why Mary Sang”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Declaration of Faith

Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Gloria

John Rutter

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest!

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Pastorale

Arcangelo Corelli

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mighty God, holy is your name. We thank you for gathering us at your table and feeding us with the bread of life. As we leave this table to go to the many places where you call us, send your Spirit to accompany us, so that we may share in your magnificent work: lifting up those who are laid low, showing mercy to all in need of human kindness, and feeding the bodies and hearts of all those who are hungry. Amen.

THE SENDING

CHORAL RESPONSE

The Dream Isaiah Saw
Tevin Vincent, Baritone

Glenn Rudolph

*Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: justice purifying law.*

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: *John Lashbrook*
Communion Servers: *Kim Lashbrook & Brad Smith*

We are grateful to the musicians sharing their gifts in worship this morning.

The First Presbyterian Church Choir
Dennis Jewett, Music Director
Patrick Ritsch, Organist
Wade Baker, Trumpet

Isaac Morton, Trumpet
Jeff Heiger, Horn
Kenneth Steinsultz, Trombone
Austin Nickens, Tuba

The Life of the Church

Our Christmas Food Basket Ministry is well underway with many contributions having been made toward providing food for 80 hungry families in our area. A donation of \$90 will fund a full basket, though any amount is welcome!

- Saturday, December 18 at 9:00am – Meet in Fellowship Hall to help pack baskets
- Sunday, December 19 following worship – Plan to help us make a few deliveries

The Longest Night Service will be held Tuesday, December 21 at 6:00pm. This service is a time to acknowledge the grief, pain, and struggles many of us bear that can seem worse this time of year. This time of prayer, song, candlelighting, and communion, is an opportunity to share the gift of hope we find in community with one another.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received next Sunday, December 19. This offering provides support for past, present, and future Presbyterian leaders. Learn more at pcusa.org.

2021 Financial Contributions must be received in the church office by 10:00am on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 (as long as it is dated in 2021) to be applied toward your 2021 Giving Statement. Thank you for your generosity!

Hearing Assistance Devices are available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one.



Poinsettias will be ordered again this year through the Kentucky Hemophilia Foundation. There will be a choice of red or white and they will cost \$11 each. Please fill out the form below and place in the offering plate along with a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church with Poinsettia in the memo. You may also call the church office, 270-684-1467, or email, office@fpcobky.com, to place your order. Order deadline is Monday, December 13th.

In honor/memory of _____

Given by _____

Red _____ White _____ Quantity _____



First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.



1328 Griffith Avenue
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Rev. Matt Curry, Pastor
Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music
Patrick Ritsch, Organist
Stephanie Dube, Director of Youth Ministries & Weekday School
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant
Staci Estes Horn, Financial Secretary
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Kate Bowley, Nursery Care Provider