

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024
10:30 A.M.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

GREETING

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

Teach us, O Lord, how to lead lives of holiness and godliness while, in accordance with your promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*HYMN 136

Go Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Hear these words of the Apostle Peter, "Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." With humble and trusting hearts, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, we confess we neglect to seek your wisdom for our lives. Instead, we think more highly of ourselves and our own knowledge, choosing to go our own way in this world. Lord, have mercy. We let the cares and concerns of this world crowd out the promise of your Word, that you are with us always. Christ, have mercy. We confess we face the future with uncertainty and misgivings. Help us put our trust in you so we may live

faithful and obedient lives, as we depend on the wisdom of your Holy Spirit and the love of Christ to shape our lives and actions. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John appeared by the Jordan River, baptizing for the forgiveness of sins. Remember your baptism and be thankful!

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GLORIA (TAIZE)

**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

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

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 137)

He Came Down

HE CAME DOWN

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Diane Bowers

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with you in worship there.

Children may depart the sanctuary for Kids' Kirk. They will return before communion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Wisdom, as the Scriptures teach us, what is spiritual comes to us who are mortal. By your blessing, the breath of the Almighty brings understanding. Send your Holy Spirit upon us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed, that we may be encouraged and strengthened to live lives worthy of our calling as your people.
Amen.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 148 (O.T. p. 582) The Psalms are Israel's songbook. **We sing in praise of God.**

*Luke 2:41-52 (N.T. p. 59) The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

Rev. Matthew Covington

*HYMN 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Declaration of Faith

The Word which was with God from the beginning was embodied in Jesus Christ. We hold that what God says to us and does for us centers in Jesus Christ our living Lord as he is remembered, known, and expected. In Christ God's Word of acceptance takes flesh: by grace through faith we are set right with God, adopted as children of God, not because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has done. In Christ God's Word of demand is lived out: to love God and neighbor as he did is what God requires of us. The Spirit adds no different Word from God, but leads us deeper into the truth of God uttered in Jesus Christ.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The letter to the Hebrews calls us to a life of gratitude and generosity with these words: "Through Jesus let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Let us present our tithes and offerings with glad and generous hearts.

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

*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.**

SEALING THE WORD WITH THE SACRAMENT

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:

Sung by all: (Hymn 552)

**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 prayer continues.

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

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. Ushers will guide you forward to partake by taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Gluten free elements are available on the small plate near the baptismal font. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Coming forward and receiving Christ, we pray to be filled with the knowledge of God's will. In wisdom and understanding, we ask for help in living worthy lives. We would live lives that are fully pleasing to Christ, and able to bear fruit in every way. May grace and peace be ours, along with all the saints. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE CREATED ORDER

*HYMN 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington*

Liturgist: *Marilyn Ericksen*

Communion Servers: *Mary Lou Taylor & Debbie McCoy*

Kids' Kirk: *Linda Morris*

You are invited to make a gift to support our church's ministry of sharing God's love:

- As the offering plate is passed
- By scanning the QR code to the right
- Online at fpcobky.com/give
- Or by contacting the church office to set up automatic withdrawa



The Life of the Church

Year End Giving: The end of the year is quickly approaching. All 2024 donations need to be sent to the office no later than Sunday, January 12th.

If you are currently using **ACH (direct debit)** for your offering and would like to make any changes for 2025, please contact the office immediately to let us know what changes need to be made. The current setup for your ACH will continue in 2025 unless we hear from you.

The Church Office will be closed until Thursday, January 2nd.

Annual Reports from each church committee are due to the church office no later than Monday, January 13, 2024.

2025 Giving Envelopes are located on the table in the hallway outside of the library. The boxes are no longer numbered. Please reach out to Debbie Hutchinson if you have any questions.

2025 Pledge Update: 63 pledges received for a total of \$306,160. Please be sure to turn in your pledge card so we can make our goal of \$450,000.

Financial Update Our ministry is funded by the giving of members and friends. Thank you for your generosity.

Year (through Nov.)	Month of Dec. (to date)	Week Ending Dec. 24
Income: \$443,279.18*	Income: \$ 48,855.50	Income: \$ 4,893.00
<u>Expense: \$493,830.76</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 39,107.66</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 16,249.55</u>
Balance: -\$ 50,551.58	Balance: \$ 9,747.85	Balance: -\$ 11,356.55

*This includes \$20,000.00 from Permanent Funds

Want to help? If you are writing or renewing your will, please remember the church.



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.

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FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SESSION

Debbie McCoy, Clerk
Pat Corkran
Tom Furlong
Creda Heffelfinger
Debbie Hutchinson
Don Preuss
Jerry Price
Patti Price
CeCe Robinson
Mary Lou Taylor

DEACONS

Susan Furlong
Judy Hughes
Linda Kabalen
Janice Odom
Beverly Swanson
Karen Taylor
Patti Burns Taylor

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington
Interim Pastor

Stephanie Dube
Director of Children's &
Youth Ministries

Patrick Ritsch
Music Director & Organist

Sasha O'Bryan
Office Manager &
Pastoral Assistant

Angie Hall
Custodian

Debbie Hutchinson
Bookkeeper