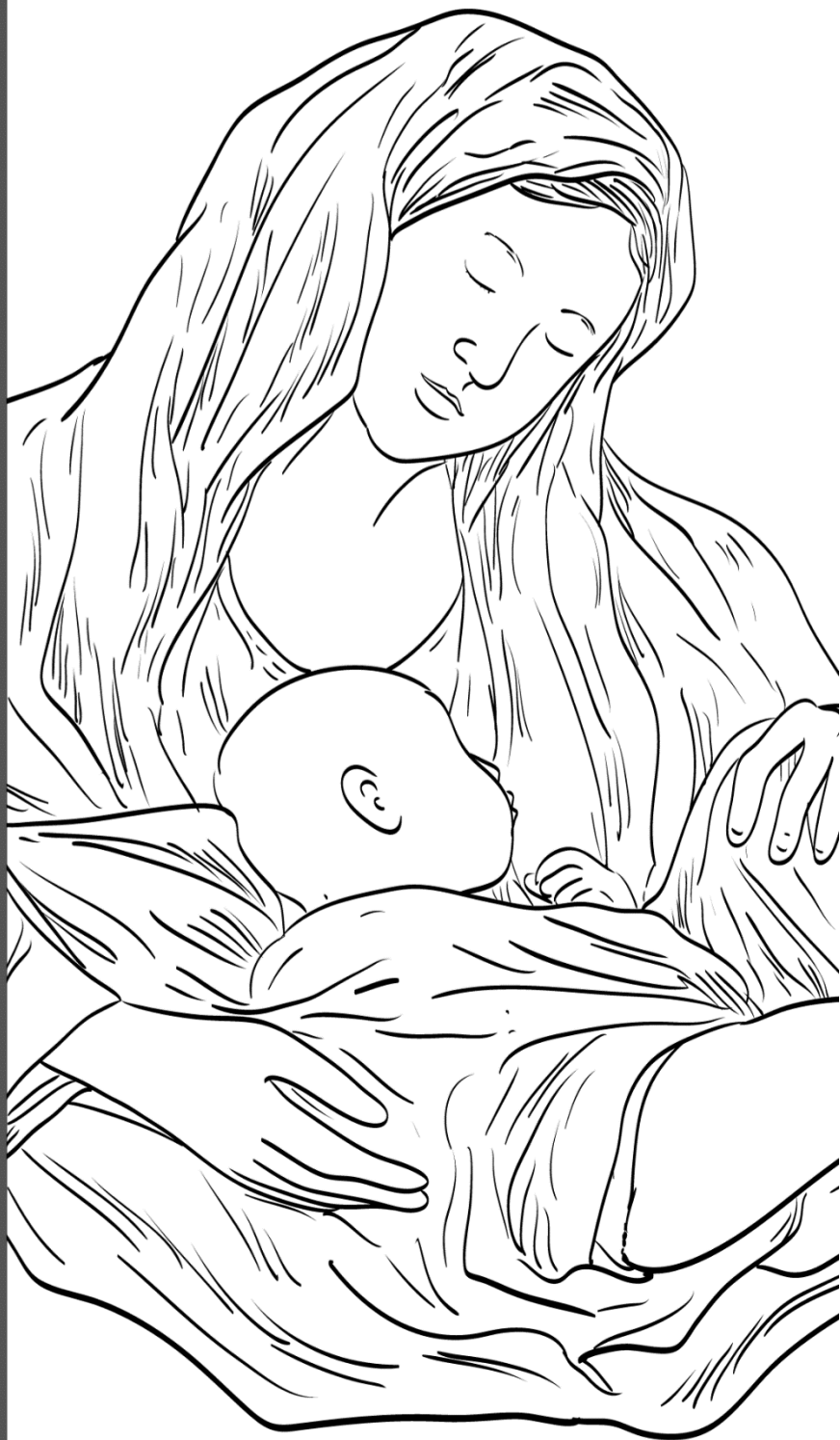


# First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023

10:30 A.M.



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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## THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

As the land is renewed each year and new crops sprout,

**So the Lord God is restoring us.**

We are transformed by God's glory and power,

**God's revelation in a little child.**

Salvation shall bring complete transformation.

**The Lord God is saving us.**

**With our whole being we rejoice in our God.**

**Let us worship God!**

\*OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

\*HYMN 146

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Stephanie Dube

*Children will remain in the sanctuary today.*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

*Titus 2:11-12*

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all and teaching us to renounce what is evil in this world. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.**

*A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.*

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ our Savior gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from our sin and claim us as his own people. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

\*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 113, Refrain)

GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!** (*Glory to God in the highest!*)

\*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 127)

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

**Hark! The herald angels sing: Jesus, the light of the world.  
Glory to the newborn King, Jesus, the light of the world.**

*Refrain:*

**We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.  
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
O, shine all around us by day and by night.  
Jesus, the light of the world.**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Jesus, the light of the world.  
Hail, the Sun of righteousness! Jesus, the light of the world.** *Refrain*

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh—good news of great joy for all—so that we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:10-62:3      The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 2:22-40      The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

### SERMON

Rev. Patrick Wallace

### \*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 a 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

\*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:

*Sung by all:*

**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. Prepackaged gluten-free elements are available in the baskets near the communion stations. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace and peace, as you have shared your life with us through the child in the manger and this simple meal together, let us share your life with others as the body of Christ in the world; through Jesus, bread of heaven.  
Amen.

THE SENDING

\*HYMN 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

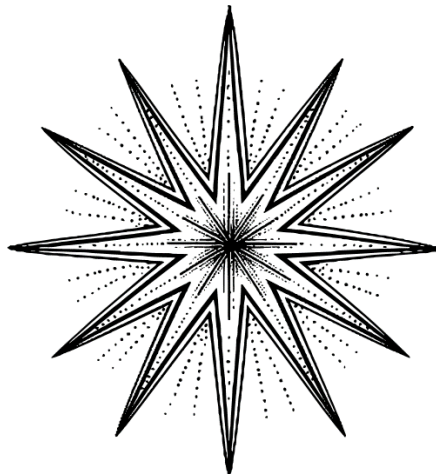
\*POSTLUDE

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: Rev. Patrick Wallace | Liturgist: Patrick Corkran  
Communion Servers: Patti Price & Janice Odom  
Pianist: Rayma Bramschreiber



# The Life of the Church

**Rev. Patrick Wallace** has taken a call to serve as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Mayfield, Kentucky, beginning in January. Please join us following worship today in Fellowship Hall for a reception to say thank you to Patrick, Andi, Asher, and Cohen for all of the ways they have enriched our church over the past three years and to wish them well in this next chapter.

**An Epiphany Lunch** will be held following worship next Sunday, January 7. Use the form on the insert in today's bulletin to RSVP. There will be a \$5 suggested donation per person, \$25 max per family.

**Annual Reports** from each church committee are due to the church office no later than Thursday, January 11, 2024.

**End of Year Donations** must be received by the office no later than January 8, 2024 to be credited to your 2023 statement.

**Nursery Care Volunteers** are being sought to help provide care for the youngest members of our church family from 9:15-11:30am on Sundays. A once a month commitment is all that is needed. Contact Jerry Price or the church office if you are interested.

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

PEACE ON EARTH





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.

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

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#### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Matt Curry  
Pastor

Jeff Moles  
Director of Christian  
Education & Mission

Stephanie Dube  
Director of Children's &  
Youth Ministries

Dennis Jewett  
Director of Music

Sasha O'Bryan  
Office Manager &  
Pastoral Assistant

Dylan Schroader  
Custodian