

# First Presbyterian Church

December 13, 2020 • 10:30 a.m.



*Embodying Christ's inclusive love through heart, mind, and service*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Oak Ridge, Tennessee**  
**A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**  
**December 13, 2020 • Third Sunday of Advent**

*(For the sake of brevity, we occasionally sing selected verses of hymns.)*

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles** *(based on Psalm 126)*

When God restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those in a dream.

***Our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongues with songs of gladness.***

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

***Shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.***

We light the candles of hope, peace, and joy this morning.

***Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.***

**Hymn**

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

*(Glory to God, 93)*

*(verses 1 and 2)*

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;*

*The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart*

*From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

**Prayer of Confession**

***God of joy and goodness, we confess that we fall short of your desire for us. You call us to trust you with our whole hearts, but we still seek security in power and possessions. You call us to share with others the blessings you have given us, but we continue to hold back more than we need. You call us to do justice, but we are slow to let go of the grudges we hold. Turn us back toward home, we pray. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, that we might be your good-news people each and every day; in the name of Emmanuel. Amen.***

**The Peace of Christ**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

***And also with you.***

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

**Sung Response**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

*(Glory to God, 113, refrain)*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

**Sermon**

*Home for the Holidays*

*Sharon Youngs*

*3. Homecoming*

**Musical Reflection**

**Call to Prayer**

*While We Are Waiting, Come*  
(verse 1)

(Glory to God, 92)

*While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

**Prayers of the People - with the Lord's Prayer (ecumenical)**

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.***

**Hymn**

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

(Glory to God, 100)

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?*

**Refrain**

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.*

**(Refrain)**

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.*

**(Refrain)**

*Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.*

**(Refrain)****Charge and Blessing****Sung Response**

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*  
(verse 4)

(Glory to God, 107)

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless,  
The rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;  
May God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.*

**Postlude**

## Announcements

**Memory and Hope**—FPC will hold our annual service of memory and hope on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m., via Facebook (same link as the one for Sunday morning worship). This service provides a quiet, reflective moment to remember loved ones who are no longer with us, and to gather strength for these present days.

**Stewardship**—Many thanks to those who have returned financial pledges for 2021. We are most grateful! We ask that you return your pledge as soon as possible and no later than this Tuesday, Dec. 15. You can send your pledge by mail, or you can complete an online pledge form via this secure link: [forms.gle/2021FPCpledge](https://forms.gle/2021FPCpledge).

### Advent and Christmas schedule

Dec. 19, 6:00-8:00 p.m.: Drive-thru Nativity (see the December *Banner* for details)

Dec. 20, 10:30 a.m.: Lessons and Carols, and ordination and installation of elders (virtual)

Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m.: Drive-in family Christmas Eve service

Dec. 24, 8:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Communion and candlelight service (virtual)

**Visit our YouTube channel** (<https://bit.ly/2LoqJrw>) for Advent music videos and Christmas stories done by FPC members. New items are posted regularly.

**Christmas Joy offering**—On Christmas Eve we traditionally receive the Christmas Joy Offering, a PC(USA) special offering that supports past and present church leaders through the Board of Pensions Assistance Program, and helps prepare the way for future leaders by promoting education and leadership development through the establishment and support of racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please take a moment to send a check to the church (note “Christmas Joy” in the memo) or donate online via the QR code below or on the FPC website, [www.fpcor.org](http://www.fpcor.org).

**Year-end contributions**—As we quickly approach the end of the year, please note the following deadlines for 2020 contributions: online by December 31, or to the office by noon on December 31 (remember to allow time for the mail). If you want to make an early contribution for next year, please be sure to note that on the memo line of your check. Thank you.

### Weekly online gatherings

(See weekly emails or call the church office for Zoom links.)

#### Sundays:

9:00 a.m. classes Early Birds, Rise ‘n’ Shine, and  
Let’s Talk About It

11:00 a.m. Post-worship fellowship

11:30 a.m. Pathfinders: children’s class

5:30 p.m. Faith seekers: Youth class

#### Mondays:

9:30 a.m. Coffee Chat with Sharon

#### Wednesdays:

5:30 p.m. Mid-week Bible study

#### Thursdays:

7:00 p.m. Brewing Questions

### First Presbyterian Church—A PC(USA) Congregation

P.O. Box 6106 ❖ Oak Ridge, TN 37831 ❖ (865) 483-1318

❖ [fpcor.org](http://fpcor.org) ❖ on Facebook at First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge, TN

Sharon Youngs, Pastor Anna Thomas, Director of Music Peggy Hinkle, Organist

Ryan Tilley, Director of Children & Youth Ministries Adrienne Walker, Office Manager



give online

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of FPC. You can mail your regular financial contribution to FPC (address at left) or give online using the QR code here or via the link on [fpcor.org](http://fpcor.org).