

# First Presbyterian Church

December 18, 2022 • 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 18, 2022 • *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*\*Please stand, in body or in spirit. Text printed in bold italics to be read in unison.  
(For the sake of brevity, we occasionally sing selected verses of hymns.)*

**Prelude**

*Gabriel's Oboe  
Once in Royal David's City*

Morricone  
arr. Walters

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candles**

Look to the east, people of God, for the Light of the World is soon to appear!  
***The journey to Bethlehem is nearing its end; the Messiah is soon to be born!***  
We light four candles in anticipation of this Promised One:  
candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.  
***Let us worship the One who illumines our way to the Christ child.***

**\*Hymn 347**

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence  
(verses 1 and 2)*

**\*Hymn 87**

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Litany of Confession and Forgiveness**

Holy God of Promise, our words and our deeds remain far from your design for us.  
When our spirits despair and we doubt your blessings to us,  
***Forgive us, we pray. (silence)***  
When we distance ourselves from those we deem unworthy of care,  
***Forgive us, we pray. (silence)***  
When our selfish actions leave others hungry for bread or for belonging,  
***Forgive us, we pray. (silence)***  
With gratitude, we claim your promise of redemption.  
***With humility, we receive your love and forgiveness.***  
With joy, we renew our commitment to be your faithful people.  
***Alleluia! Amen.***

**Ordination and Installation of Elders**

**Presentation of the Candidates**

**Constitutional Questions to the Candidates**

**Constitutional Questions to the Congregation**

Do we, the members of the church, accept these brothers and sisters in Christ as ruling elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

***We do.***

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

***We do.***

**Laying On of Hands and Prayer of Ordination  
Declaration of Ordination and Installation**

**\*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** (*hymn 137, sing twice*)

***He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.***

**Time with Children**

*(Children are welcome to return to their seats or join the activity in the fellowship hall.)*

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 1:18-23

**Reading**

*This, Tonight, Is the Meeting Place*

**Anthem**

*O Holy Night*

arr. Christopher

**Hymn 112**

*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

(verses 1 and 4)

**Reading**

*The Shepherds*

**\*Hymn 133**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

(verses 1 and 3)

**Hymn 118**

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night*

(verses 1 and 4)

**Musical Reflection**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

**Call to Prayer** (*hymn 121, verse 3*)

***How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!***

***So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.***

***No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,***

***where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.***

**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.***

**Reading**

*Angel-Filled Advent*

**Anthem**

*The First Noel*

Forrest

**Hymn 123**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

(verses 1, 2, and 5)

**Hymn 119**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**Reading**

*The Child Is Born Again*

**Hymn 146**

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

**\*Hymn 110**

*Love Has Come*

## \*Charge and Blessing

\*Sung Response (hymn 133, refrain)

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

## Postlude



*The flowers today are given by Susan Sharp and Richard Ward to the glory of God.*



## Announcements

—Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Sunday when we usually have our Service of Lesson and Carols. This year, I decided to use our hymn-sing format and include many of our cherished Christmas carols. The readings are taken from *Cloth for the Cradle* (Wild Goose Worship Group), Pieter Stok's blogsite, and *Kneeling in Bethlehem* (Ann Weems). May the joy of the season be yours!--*Anna Thomas*

—Thank you to our worship leaders today: Sherrie Fairchild-Keyes, liturgist; Joe Everett and Jo Kendrick, candle lighters; and David Overall, horn.

—Our Christmas Eve service is this Saturday at 7:00 p.m. The service will include Communion, the lighting of candles, and the singing of "Silent Night" (accompanied by Peggy Hinkle on harp).

—**Please note:** The worship service on Christmas Day will be online only. That morning, we are invited to join other congregations within the Presbytery of East Tennessee (PET) and beyond in making use of the worship service that was pre-recorded by PET folks for Christmas Day. Wendy Neff is the preacher; Sharon is one of the musicians.

—The church office will be closed on Dec. 26.

—Final contributions for 2022 must be received by Dec. 31. If you mail in your contributions, please allow plenty of time to account for any holiday-related postal delays. If you contribute online, also allow several days for the transaction to work its way through the system before the end of the year. In addition, if you send in a contribution early for 2023 in order to deduct it from this year's taxes, please note "2023 contribution" on the memo line. Thank you for your faithful giving!

## Looking Ahead:

Jan. 1: Star Words and a New Year's toast

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

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

❖ On Instagram @firstpresbyterianchurchor ❖

Sharon Youngs, Pastor   Anna Thomas, Director of Music

Peggy Hinkle, Organist   Devin Earhart, Technical Assistant

Madison Hinkle, Office Manager

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