

First Presbyterian Church

December 20, 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 20, 2020 • Fourth 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 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

What Child Is This

(Glory to God, 145)

*What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherd's watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!*

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.

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!

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Lesson 1

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Steve Layendecker

Benedictus

Jenkins

*Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domine. Hosanna!
(Blessed is the one that comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna!)*

Lesson 2

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Anna Thomas

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

(Glory to God, 129)

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, a mid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.*

*This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us
And lightens every load.*

Lesson 3

Matthew 1:18-25

Cradle Carol

Forrest

*Lord Jesus, Savior, infant weak, why come to earth as one so meek?
A newborn babe, helpless and small; And Creator of us all.
Thou hast no beauty, form, or grace; no fortune, rank, no fame, no place
that men should see Thee and adore a babe so humbled and so poor.
But to the soul whose eyes are healed, to whom the truth has been revealed,
Thy glory challenges the sun; Thou art a thousand joys in One.
Though strangers see a babe in straw, thy children see the Lord of all
who laid aside His rightful reign to take away our sin and shame.
This sacrifice of love divine, this condescension to mankind
with beauty robes the lowly frame, and sanctifies thy simple name.
O aid my worship, Mighty King, that I might with the angels sing,
"Glory to God on high!" Now crowned again beyond the sky!
Oh, help me see Thee and adore this little child, my God and Lord.*

Prayers of the People

Lesson 4

Luke 2:8-16

Camille Graves

Alleluia! Alleluia!

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies,
He, who, throned in light sublime, sits among the cherubim.
Hail thou ever blessed morn, Hail, redemption's happy dawn,
Sing throughout Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this.
Hail thou ever blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lesson 5

John 1:1-5, 14

Sharon Youngs

Hymn

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

(*Glory to God*, 119)

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

Charge and Blessing

Sung Response

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

(*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



Thank you to our musicians today:

*Karen Kartal, violin; Christy Graffeo, viola; Jeannine Wilkinson, cello
Camille Graves, soprano; Steve Boyce, tenor; Peggy Hinkle, piano, organ*

First Presbyterian Church—A PC(USA) Congregation

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

❖ fpcor.org ❖ on Facebook at First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge, TN

Rev. Sharon Youngs, Pastor



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.

Service of Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elders

Sentences of Scripture

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but the same Lord is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination and Installation

Presentation of Candidates

Constitutional Questions to the Candidates

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

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 pray for them, 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.

Prayer of Ordination and Installation

Declaration of Ordination and Installation

Sung Response

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Announcements

Christmas Eve schedule

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.

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.