First Presbyterian Church  
December 24, 2017  
10:00 a.m.

The Season of Advent

Unraveling the Mystery

Embodying Christ’s inclusive love with heart, mind, and service
First Presbyterian Church
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
December 24, 2017 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Please stand, in body or in spirit. Text printed in bold italics to be read in unison.

Prelude
Carol of the Bells
Hayes

Chiming of the Hour
Welcome

Introit
Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel. (hymn 97)

*Lighting of the Advent Candles
We watch and wait for the coming of the Christ child.
*We prepare for the approaching birth of Emmanuel, God-with-Us.*
The child will be named Jesus, for he will save God’s people from their sins.
*He will be called Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace.*
The lights of hope, peace, joy, and love remind us of God’s promise and presence.
*God’s light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.*

*Hymn 133
O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Invitation to Confession

*Prayer of Confession
(silent confession)
*O God of compassion, have mercy on us. You send forth your Spirit, yet we ignore your direction. Christ dwells among us, yet we fail to obey him. We sing of peace on earth, yet hostility continues. Forgive us, Lord. Widen our hearts to receive you anew this day, that we might point others to the splendor of the baby soon to be born in Bethlehem; in the name of the Word-Made-Flesh. Amen.*

*Assurance of Forgiveness
*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 113, refrain)*

\textit{Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!}

**Time with the Children**

\textit{Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the entire service this morning.}

**The First Lesson**

\textit{Isaiah 9:2-7}

\textbf{Anthem}
\textit{Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old} \hspace{1cm} \textit{American Folk Melody}

\textbf{Hymn 130}
\textit{Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light}

**The Second Lesson**

\textit{2 Samuel 7:1-11}

\textbf{Hymn 83}
\textit{Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus}

**The Third Lesson**

\textit{Luke 1:26-38}

\textbf{Anthem}
\textit{The Angel Gabriel} \hspace{1cm} \textit{Basque Carol}

**Call to Prayer (hymn 92)**

\textit{While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.}
\textit{Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.}

**Prayers of the People, with The Lord’s Prayer (ecumenical version)**

\textit{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.}

**The Fourth Lesson**

\textit{Luke 2:1-14}

\textbf{Anthem}
\textit{The First Noel} \hspace{1cm} \textit{Larson}

**The Fifth Lesson**

\textit{Romans 16:25-27}

\textbf{Hymn 110}
\textit{Love Has Come}
Offering of God’s Tithes and Our Gifts

Offertory  
*In the Bleak Midwinter/Love Came Down at Christmas*  
arr. Wagner

*Doxology (hymn 606) and Prayer of Dedication*

*Hymn 132*  
*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

*Charge and Blessing*

*Sung Response (hymn 105)*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.*

Postlude  
*Postlude on “In Dulci Jubilo” 15th Cen. melody/arr. Martin*

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*The poinsettias at the front of the sanctuary for the season have been given by Bill & Debbie Bostick, George & Irene Darko, Arlene Crawford, Colin Colverson, and Susan Sharp & Richard Ward.*

*Today Arlene Crawford dedicates them to the glory of God and in memory of her husband Oakley.*
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church (FPC)!

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here. We hope you feel the love that is present and our joy in having you with us. Please join us for refreshments in the fellowship hall following worship.

◊ Nursery care is available in the Education building. Ask any of the ushers to direct you, if needed.
◊ Hearing assistance units and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.
◊ Audio recordings of sermons and more information on FPC are at fpcor.org. Please call the church office (483-1318) for audio recordings of the entire service.

Worship Notes

Even though it’s Christmas Eve, we focus on the Fourth Sunday of Advent this morning. We’ll turn our attention to Bethlehem this evening.

Lessons and Carols had its origin at Truro Cathedral (England) on Christmas Eve 1880, when a service of scripture and supporting carols was developed by the Bishop of Truro, F. W. Benson. Some 38 years later in 1918, this format was adapted for Christmas Eve at King’s College Chapel, Cambridge, England. In our time, there are many adaptations of Lessons and Carols. Our service today uses five lessons that focus on our 2017 Advent theme, “Unraveling the Mystery.”

Christmas Eve Schedule

There are two worship opportunities this evening as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Both services will include Communion and the lighting of candles as we sing “Silent Night.”

The 4:30 p.m. service is designed with children in mind. It will include the Sacrament of Baptism for Ada Margaret Billings, daughter of Jay Billings and Paige Landry.

The 10:30 p.m. service is more traditional in nature and will feature a beautiful anthem for women’s voices and a glorious solo by Anne Scott.

Today’s Worship Volunteers

10:00 a.m. service
Liturgist: Susan Sharp
Acolytes: Maddie and Megan Stone
Time with Children: Chris Black
Sound Guild: Carolyn Krause
Ushers: Sam Boley, Andrew Brittain, Teresa Brittain, Mary Childress, Gail King, Phillip King, Anna Robinson, Dennis Strickler
Counters: Mary Childress, Bonnie Murray
Flowers: Arlene Crawford
Fellowship Hosts: Pat & Wayne Clark
Open/Close: Anne Backus, Dennis Strickler

Christmas Eve (4:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.)
Liturgist: (4:30 p.m.) Jim Tonne
(10:30 p.m.) Matt Lindsey
Acolytes: (4:30 p.m.) Bert Everitt, Andre Darko
Time with Children: Sharon Youngs
Sound Guild: Carolyn Krause
Ushers: (4:30 p.m.) Priscilla Campbell, Walt Porter, Shirley Sauls, Dennis Strickler
(10:30 p.m.) George Darko, Dennis Strickler
Counters: (4:30 p.m.) Priscilla Campbell
(10:30 p.m.) Dave Mullins, Dan Terpstra
Open/Close: Anne Backus, Dennis Strickler

We welcome Anne Scott and always appreciate her singing with our choir.

Today we receive the annual PC(USA) Christmas Joy offering, which provides assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church. It also supports leadership development and education at Presbyterian schools and colleges. Please make checks payable to FPC and put “Christmas Joy” on the memo line. Thank you!
**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**
December 24-31, 2017

**Sun. 12/24**
*Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve*
9:00 a.m. Early classes (next page)
10:00 a.m. Worship (sanctuary)
4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service (sanctuary)
10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service (sanctuary)

**Mon. 12/25**
*Christmas Day*
Office closed

**Tues. 12/26**
Office closed
5:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (library)

**Wed. 12/27**
Office open 9:00 a.m. to noon
11:30 a.m. Al Anon (library)
5:45 p.m. Bible study (parlor)

**Thurs. 12/28**
Office open 9:00 a.m. to noon

**Fri. 12/29**
Office open 9:00 a.m. to noon
7:30 p.m. Chinese Bible study (room 6)

**Sat. 12/30**
9:00 a.m. “Uncensored” (room 102)
4:00 p.m. Eagle Scout Ceremony (sanctuary)

**Sun. 12/31**
*First Sunday after Christmas*
9:00 a.m. Early classes (next page)
10:00 a.m. Worship (sanctuary)
11:15 a.m. “Fifth Sunday” celebration (fellowship hall)

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**
The office will be open 9:00 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday this week.

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**Birthdays this week …**
12/25  Mike Hilliard
12/27  Jean Bangham

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**Remember those who are … in healthcare and retirement communities:**
Bob Clausing, Boyd Coker, Leslie Cowan, Peggy Gregory, Ronnie Griffin, Lois Lacy, Anna & Marvin Randolph

**homebound:**
Sandra Edwards

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**LOOKING AHEAD**
*Sun., Jan. 7—Epiphany*

*Sat., Jan. 13—Session retreat*

*Sun., Jan. 14, 21 & 28—Sign-ups for photo directory sessions*

*Sat., Jan. 27—“Uncensored,” 9:00 a.m., room 102*

*Sun., Jan. 28—Annual lasagna dinner & congregational meeting, after worship in the fellowship hall*

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As the year comes to a close, please take a moment to review whether you need to finish your 2017 pledge. Contributions to be credited on this calendar year need to be received by next Sunday, Dec. 31. If you are mailing a check, it will need to arrive by Friday, Dec. 29. Please allow for mail delays due to holidays. Thank you!
There’s arguably no better time than the eve of a new year to reaffirm our baptismal covenant. We’ll do that in worship at 10:00 a.m. Afterward, you are invited to ring in 2018 a little early! Since Dec. 31 is a fifth Sunday, we will gather after worship in the fellowship hall for hors d’oeuvres and a champagne toast.

We will celebrate Epiphany on Jan. 7, the first Sunday in January. The three wise men will reach the Bethlehem stable. Also, following our ritual of the last few years, a star word will be given to each of you in worship, along with the invitation to reflect on what that word means for the coming year and how God might speak to you through it.

“Uncensored,” a monthly gathering for those 40-ish and younger, meets this Saturday, Dec. 30, at 9:00 a.m., in room 102, for biscuits and conversation. Childcare will be available.

There will be no Sunday school classes after worship today or next Sunday, Dec. 31.

We are taking a break for Christmas and New Year’s. Youth grades 4-12 (and friends) will meet again on Sunday, Jan. 7, 5:30-7:00 p.m. for Star Wars night. We’ll share a snack supper, games, and a cool lesson. Drop off and pick up will be in the fellowship hall.

The Midweek Bible study is taking a break for the remainder of this month. We’ll pick back up the first Wednesday of January with a look at 2 Thessalonians.
There is a new flower calendar for 2018 on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please sign up to donate flowers ($35) for worship in memory or honor of a person or occasion. You will be contacted regarding the wording of your dedication for that Sunday’s bulletin.

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS—DECEMBER 31**

- **Liturgist**: Janet Swift
- **Acolytes**: Rebecca Davenport, Amelia Everitt
- **Time with Children**: Colin Colverson
- **First Steps**: Chris Black, Teresa Brittain
- **Sound Guild**: Sydney Murray
- **Ushers**: Richard Alexander, Priscilla Campbell, Irene Darko, Linda Fall, Bonnie Murray, Shirley Sauls, Jim Tonne
- **Counters**: Priscilla Campbell, Katy Everitt
- **Flowers**: Colin Colverson
- **Fellowship Hosts**: Susan Sharp & Richard Ward
- **Open/Close**: Anne Backus, Dennis Strickler

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**EAGLE SCOUT CEREMONY AND CELEBRATION**

You are invited to join BSA Troop 42 in celebrating our three newest Eagle Scouts: **Andrew Brittain, Wyatt Goodrich, and Kenny Moon**. The ceremony will be on Saturday, Dec. 30, at 4:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

This is an important milestone for these scouts and their families. We hope you will help us celebrate their accomplishments.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Youngs</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Thomas</td>
<td>Director of Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adrienne Pyle</td>
<td>Office Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Black</td>
<td>Dir. of Cong. Care &amp; Discipleship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peggy Hinkle</td>
<td>Organist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omer Breeden</td>
<td>Custodian</td>
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P.O. Box 6106 ❖ Oak Ridge, TN 37831 ❖ (865) 483-1318 ❖ fpcor.org
Located at 1051 Oak Ridge Turnpike on the corner of Lafayette Church Office Hours: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.—12:00 - 4:00 p.m.