

First Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023 • 7:00 p.m.

Christ is born!



Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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 24, 2023 • Christmas Eve

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

Prelude

Welcome

Introit

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

(hymn 143, verse 1)

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

Call to Worship and Lighting of Candles

On this holiest of nights we come,

joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.

On this most silent night we come,

our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.

On this night of carols and candlelight we come,

our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.

Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles and four promises offered by God.

And in the center is the light of the world, which the darkness cannot overcome.

The waiting is over; the Christ child is born!

Let heaven and nature sing!

***Hymn 112**

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

***Invitation to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

(a moment for silent confession)

God of truth and wonder, we confess that we have fallen short of your desire for us. We have made little to no room in our lives for the Christ child. We have been hesitant to welcome the light or trust good news to be good. Forgive us, Lord. Be born in us again this night, that we might reflect your grace and acceptance to all we meet; in the name of the Word-Made-Flesh we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

***The Peace of Christ**

Not an easy peace, not an insignificant peace, not a halfhearted peace,
but the peace of God in Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

***Sung Response** (from hymn 113, refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

Anthem *Comfort Ye and Ev'ry Valley Shall Be Exalted* Handel

Second Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-20

Meditation

Musical Reflection

The Eucharist

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy ... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty ... Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit ... all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

Prayer after Communion

God of grace, as you have shared your life with us in this simple meal together, let us share your life with others as the body of Christ in the world; through Jesus, the Bread of Heaven we pray. Amen.

Hymn 122 *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

***Charge and Blessing**

Postlude

Announcements

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

*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.
If you'd like to know more about First Presbyterian Church, let's talk!
Please speak with Sharon or any of the ushers after the service.*

—Thank you to the following people for helping with this evening's service: Cathy Goodman, liturgist; Eli Sledge, guest vocalist; and Ethan Hess, Mason Crowder, Emily Perez, and Nick Thompson, guest accompanists.

—The church office will be closed Dec. 25-26.

—Next Sunday, Dec. 31: Informal worship with stories and songs, followed by a toast to the New Year

—Contributions for 2023 must be received by Dec. 31. If you use the mail, please allow plenty of time for holiday-related postal delays. If you contribute online, allow several days for the transaction to work its way through the system. In addition, if you make a contribution early for 2024 to deduct it from this year's taxes, please note "2024 contribution" on the memo line. Thank you for your faithful giving!

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

❖ On Instagram @firstpresbyterianchurchor ❖

Sharon Youngs, Pastor Anna Thomas, Director of Music

Peggy Hinkle, Organist Madison Green, Office Manager

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of FPCOR.

*You can mail your regular financial contribution to FPCOR (P.O. Box above)
or give online using the QR code to the right or via the link on fpcor.org.*

