

# First Presbyterian Church

Established 1988 PCA

November 30, 2025

(931) 484-4644

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## Who is First Presbyterian Church?

We belong to the family of the Redeemed.  
Transformed by the grace of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection,  
we are delighting in the supremacy of God in all things  
as we reach up to Him in worship,  
reach in to one another with biblical teaching and shepherding care,  
and reach out to the world with Christ.

*So that in everything He might be preeminent.*  
Colossians 1:18

First Sunday of Advent – November 30, 2025

The days on the calendar between Thanksgiving and Christmas have historically been a season of preparation and repentance for the church known as Advent. This season invites us to experience the emotion of anticipation born out of expectation by retracing the history of Israel as she waited for the arrival of Messiah and paralleling that story with our own waiting for Christ's second appearing. The word Advent itself means arrival or appearance. Defined in a single sentence, Advent is a four week period in which the church remembers the promises of Jesus' first coming, and looks forward to his promise to come again.

As you worship with us this Advent, you will notice a Bible centered focus in all that we do. We believe that worship happens as we

Read the Bible  
Pray the Bible  
Sing the Bible  
Preach the Bible and  
See the Bible (Sacraments)

Because in everything we do in worship we seek to be Word centered, it's important to understand why Advent and Christmas are appropriate emphases for God's people. In the history of the church there has been a lot of debate about the appropriateness of these celebrations. Among the Reformed churches we are encouraged to hold on to the celebrations rooted in the history of salvation. One Reformed Confession puts it this way,

Moreover, if in Christian liberty the churches religiously celebrate the memory of the Lord's nativity, circumcision, passion, resurrection, and of his ascension into heaven, and the sending of the Holy Spirit upon his disciples, we approve of it highly. But we do not approve of feasts instituted for men and for saints. [2nd Helvetic Confession XXIV (1566)]

Therefore, this year we are focusing on the Incarnation of Christ. In Scripture and Sacrament we celebrate Christ's entrance into history (Philippians 2:5-11) as the fulfillment of God's saving work. His life, death, and resurrection give us hope of his return. May your observance of Advent as the celebration of Christ's arrival in history renew your faith and stimulate your passion for his mission in the world. A mission you share by *knowing him* and *making him known*.

On behalf of the Session,  
Pastor Andy

## Order of Worship

### Welcome and Announcements

Psalm 121:1-2

Where does our help come from?  
**Our help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

### Preparation for Worship

The infinite became finite, the eternal and supratemporal entered time and became subject to its conditions, the immutable became mutable, the invisible became the visible, the Creator became the created, the Sustainer of all became dependent, the Almighty infirm. All is summed up in the proposition, "God became man."

—John Murray

### Call to Worship

Psalm 92:1-4; 9-15

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

<sup>2</sup> to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night,

<sup>3</sup> to the music of the lute and the harp,  
to the melody of the lyre.

<sup>4</sup> For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

<sup>9</sup> For behold, your enemies, O LORD,  
for behold, your enemies shall perish;  
all evildoers shall be scattered.

<sup>10</sup> But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;  
you have poured over me fresh oil.

<sup>11</sup> My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;  
my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

<sup>12</sup> The righteous flourish like the palm tree  
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup> They are planted in the house of the LORD;  
they flourish in the courts of our God.

<sup>14</sup> They still bear fruit in old age;  
they are ever full of sap and green,

<sup>15</sup> to declare that the LORD is upright;  
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

### Prayer of Adoration



## Hymn of Praise — O Come, O Come Emmanuel



1. O come, O come Em - man - u - el and ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on  
 3. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's  
 4. O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by thy  
 5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the  
 ty - ran - ry; from depth of hell thy peo - ple  
 draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on

here un - til the Son of God ap - pear Re -  
 law in cloud and ma - je - sty and awe.  
 save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
 night, and death's dark sha - dows put to flight.  
 high, and close the path to mi - se - ry.

-joice! Re-joyce! Em - man u - el shall come to thee O Is - ra - el.

## Scripture Reading – Isaiah 7:10-15

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

## Hymn of Praise – Savior of the Nations, Come



1. Sa - vior of the na - tions come; vir - gin's Son, make here your home.  
2. Not of flesh and blood the Son, off-spring of the Ho - ly One;  
3. Won-drous birth! O won-drous Child of the vir - gin un - de - filed,



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
born of Ma - ry e - ver blest, God in flesh is man - i - fest.  
though by all the world dis - owned, still to be in heav'n en-throned.



From the God-head forth you came, and re - turn un - to the same,  
Bright-ly does your man - ger shine, glo-rious is its light di - vine.  
You, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son, have o'er sin the vic-t'ry won.



cap - tive lead - ing death and hell. High the song of tri - umph swell!  
Let no sin o'er-cloud this light; e - ver be our faith so bright.  
Bound-less shall your king - dom be. When shall we its glo - ries see?



Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,



Praise to God the Spi - rit be e - ver and e - ter - nal - ly.

## Profession of Faith — Westminster Catechism Question 23

What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?

**Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.**

## Congregational Confession from Psalm 27

You, O Lord, are our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear? You are the stronghold of our life; of whom shall we be afraid? One thing we ask of you our Lord, that will we seek after: **That we may dwell in your house, all the days of our life, so that we may gaze upon your beauty, O Lord, and to inquire in your temple.**

Hear, O Lord, when we cry aloud; be gracious to us and answer us!

**You have said, “Seek my face.” Our hearts say to you, “Your face, Lord, do I seek.”**

Hide not your face from us. Turn not your servants away in anger, O you who have been our help.

**Do not cast us off, nor forsake us, O God of our salvation!**

## Song of Confession — Shine on Us



1. Lord, let your light,\_\_\_ light of your face\_\_\_ shine on\_\_\_ us.  
2. Lord, let your grace,\_\_\_ grace from your hand\_\_\_ fall on\_\_\_ us.



us, that\_ we may be saved, that\_ we may have life,\_\_\_ to find our



way\_\_\_ in the dark - est night. Let your light shine on\_\_\_ us.

## Time of Silent Confession and Pastoral Prayer

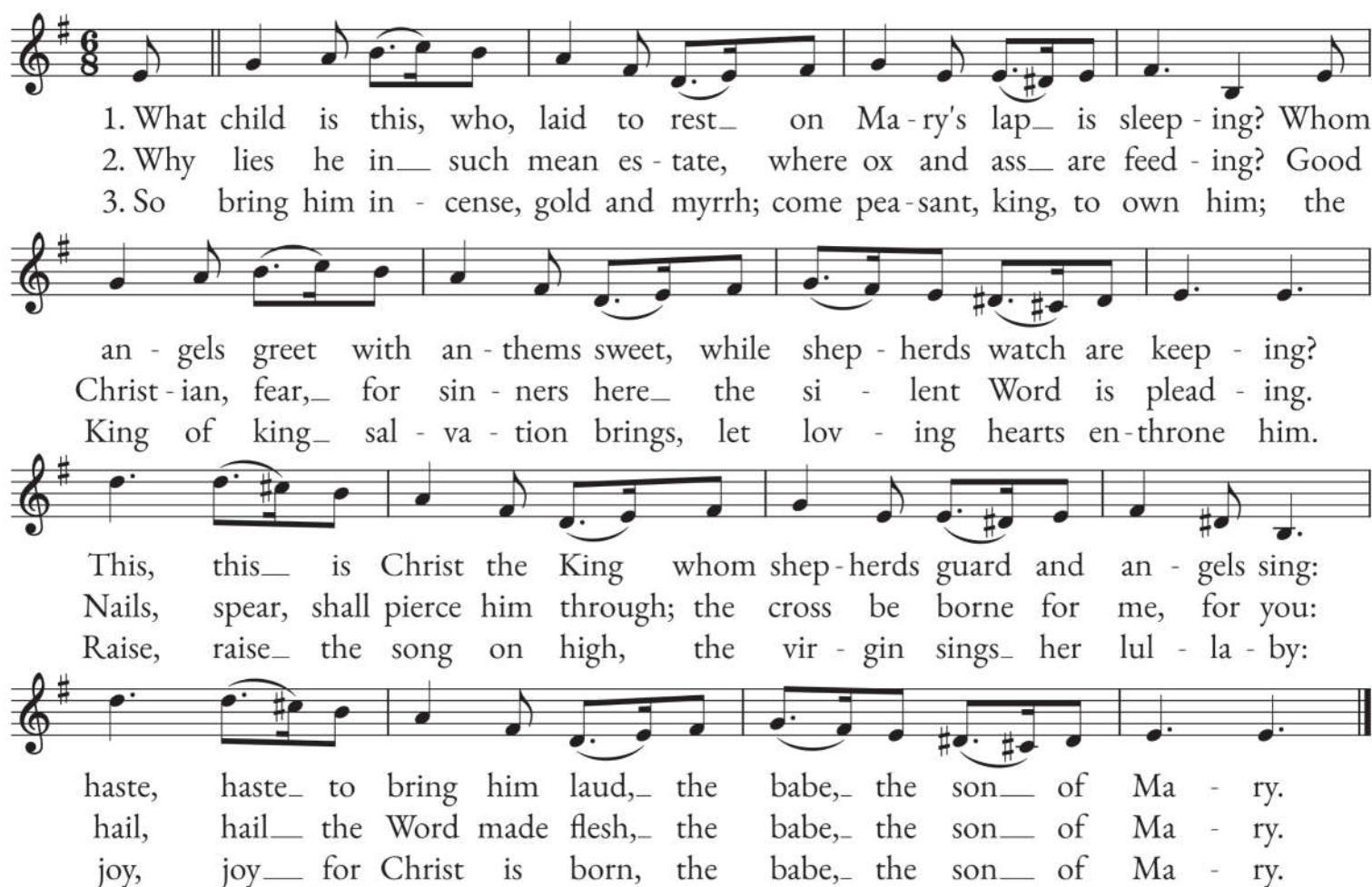
## Assurance of Pardon — Hebrews 7:23-26

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,<sup>24</sup> but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.<sup>25</sup> Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

<sup>26</sup> For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens

To all who have received the Gospel,  
know that in Christ, your sins are forgiven and be at peace.

## Hymn of Rejoicing — What Child is This



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest\_ on Ma-ry's lap\_ is sleep-ing? Whom  
2. Why lies he in\_ such mean es-tate, where ox and ass\_ are feed-ing? Good  
3. So bring him in - cense, gold and myrrh; come pea-sant, king, to own him; the  
an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Christ-ian, fear,\_ for sin - ners here\_ the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
King of king\_ sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.  
This, this\_ is Christ the King whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing:  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:  
Raise, raise\_ the song on high, the vir - gin sings\_ her lul - la - by:  
haste, haste\_ to bring him laud,\_ the babe,\_ the son\_ of Ma - ry.  
hail, hail\_ the Word made flesh,\_ the babe,\_ the son\_ of Ma - ry.  
joy, joy\_ for Christ is born, the babe,\_ the son\_ of Ma - ry.

**Sermon**

Born of Woman, Redeemer of Those Under the Law  
Galatians 4:1-6

Pastor Andy Aikens

**Sermon Notes:**



## Song of Response – Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus



1. Come, thou long\_ ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Joy to those who long to see\_ thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, born a child and yet\_ a king,



from our fears\_ and sins re - lease us: let us find our rest\_ in thee.  
come, thou pro - mised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!  
by his life\_ he brings us glad - ness, our Re-deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.  
born to reign\_ in us for - e - ver, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all\_ the earth thou art,  
O'er the hills\_ the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of\_ a birth:  
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in\_ a cat - tle stall;  
By thine own\_ e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all\_ our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire\_ of e - v'ry na - tion, joy of e - v'ry long-ing heart.  
"Go\_ to Him, your prai - ses bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."  
this\_ the e - ver - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.  
by\_ thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to\_ thy glo - rious throne.

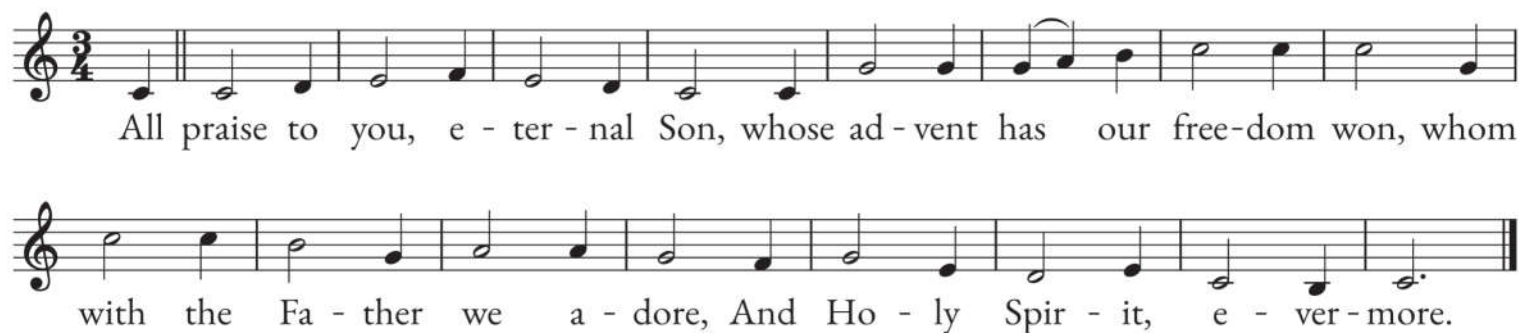
## Serving of the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is the family meal for Christians. We invite all baptized Christians who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ, to come forward to the table.

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. You may use the lyrics of the hymns as well as the Scriptures to guide your praying.

As you come to the table be mindful that all the bread is gluten free, the grape juice is in the outer ring, and the wine is in the inner ring of each tray.

## Advent Doxology



## Benediction – Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

## News and Announcements

Please silence your phones.

Mark your calendars for the annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 7. The meeting will be in the Sanctuary after the worship service. Please bring a sack lunch or snack if needed. Tea and water will be provided. During the Congregational meeting, members will be asked to vote on Dave Miser and Greg Wood as Deacons, and Eric Larson as Elder, for three-year terms.

## First Catechism

What is the gospel and its reward?

**God, the righteous Creator, rescues sinful people from separation to himself through Jesus' sinless life, death, and resurrection. Repenting of our sins and believing in Jesus' work unites us to Jesus and transforms us to grow in ways pleasing to God. The eternal presence of God is our reward!**

Weeks 1-5 God

Weeks 6-12 Creation

Weeks 13-19 Fall/Sin

Weeks 20-28 Salvation by grace alone, through Christ alone

Weeks 29-30 Repentance and Faith

Weeks 31-48 Growing in Grace

Weeks 49-52 Heaven now and in the future

Week 13 - November 30

Did Adam keep the covenant of life?

**No. He sinned against God.**

## Schedule

Sunday Morning Worship Service  
Sunday Morning Bible Study (all ages)  
Sunday Evening Worship  
Women's Monday Theology Study  
Men's Thursday Bible Study  
Octogenarian/Nonagenarian (ON) Lunch  
Women's Tuesday Bible Study

10:45 a.m.  
9:30 a.m.  
6:00 p.m. On Break  
2:00 p.m.  
9:00 a.m.  
Monthly  
9:30 a.m. On Break

## Giving

### General Fund

2025 week 11/23	\$ 3,560
Giving YTD	\$ 513,547
YTD Budget	\$ 446,057

### Deacon's Fund

2025 YTD Giving	\$ 9,533
2024 Rollover	\$ 2,610
2025 Disbursements	\$ 2,092

## Our Missionary Family International

Lydia Goeglein, MTW Sofia Bulgaria  
Brian & Becky Schrader, Pioneers in Africa  
Lee Leadbetter, RUF International at UT  
Julian & Rachel Bacon, MTW Brussels

## North America & Local

Plateau Pregnancy Services  
Good Samaritans, 10th Street  
RUF Tennessee Tech, Ryan Angel  
Rural Church Development, Corey Pelton  
Myers Park Initiative, Greg Salazar  
Mercy Presbyterian, Rob Herron  
Occom Ministries, Native American Initiative

## Session

Andy Aikens TE, Senior Pastor  
Robert Berman, RE '27  
Bobby Duck RE '25  
Jim Sparks RE '26  
Richard Parks RE '27  
Forrest Marion RE, Clerk, '26

## Deacons

Dave Miser, Chair '25  
John Reed '26  
Mike Tuuk '27

## Staff

Music/Sound Director	Matt Bundy
School of Music Director	April Stewart
Finance/Admin	Holly Kisly

## Security Team

Today	Greg Wood
Next Week	Kevin Wyson

## Ministry Support

Treasurer	Bill Allbright
Newsletter	Darlene Gendjar
Library	Kathy Pipkin
Children's Ministry	Hope Aikens

## Greeters

Today	Bob & Patti Thompson
Next Week	David & Karen Phillips

## Nursery

Today	Bethany Powell Nancy Tuuk
Next Week	Robyn Mayhugh Laura Powell