

# First Presbyterian Church

Established 1988 PCA

December 7, 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

## Second Sunday of Advent – December 7, 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

Man's Maker was made man, that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother's breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey; that the Truth might be accused of false witness, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die.

—Augustine

### Call to Worship

Psalm 24

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,  
<sup>2</sup> for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.

<sup>3</sup> Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?

<sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.

<sup>5</sup> He will receive blessing from the LORD  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

<sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *Selah*

<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory?  
**The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle!**

<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>10</sup> Who is this King of glory?  
**The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory! *Selah***

### Prayer of Adoration

# Hymn of Praise — Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!



1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the  
 2. A help - er just he comes to thee, his cha - riot  
 4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 5. Re - deem - er come! I o - pen wide my heart to  
 6. So come, my So - v'reign, en - ter in! Let new and



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 is hu - mi - li - ty, his king - ly crown is  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 thee; here Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner  
 nob - ler life be - gin! Thy Ho - ly Spi - rit



draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pi - ty in dis - tress.  
 heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 pre - sence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.  
 guide us on, un - til thy glo - rious crown be won.

## Scripture Reading – Isaiah 61:1-4

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup> to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.  
<sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

## Hymn of Praise – Join All the Glorious Names



1. Join all the glo - rious names of wis - dom, love, and pow'r, that  
2. Great pro - phet of my God, my tongue would bless thy name: by  
3. Je - sus, my great high priest, of - fered his blood and died; my  
4. Thou art my coun - sel - or, my pat - tern, and my guide, and  
5. My sa - vior and my Lord, my cono - qu'ror and my King, thy  
e - ver mor - tals knew, that an - gels e - ver bore: all  
thee the joy - ful news of our sal - va - tion came, the  
guil - ty con - science seeks no sac - ri - fice be - side: his  
thou my shep - herd art; O keep me near thy side; nor  
scep - ter and thy sword, thy reign - ing grace, I sing: thine  
are too poor to speak his worth, too poor to set my Sa - vior forth.  
joy - ful news of sins for - giv'n, of hell sub - dued and peace with heav'n.  
pow'r - ful blood did once a - tone and now it pleads be - fore the throne.  
let my feet e'er turn a - stray to wan - der in the crook - ed way.  
is the pow'r; be - hold I sit in will - ing bonds be - neath thy feet.

## Profession of Faith — Westminster Catechism Question 24

How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?

**Christ executes the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.**

## 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.

2.  
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 — I John 1:5-9

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

## Hymn of Rejoicing — The First Noel (Born is the King)

1. The first no - el, earth and Hea - ven em - braced, as a vir - gin be -  
2. The Son of God, in kind - ness he came, as a friend to the  
3. The Au - thor of life there life - less he lay, as the grave cast its

-held her new born babe. From realms on high to a man - ger on  
hope - less, the lost, and the lame. Our sins he bore, yet his name we des -  
sha - dow and dark - ness reigned. Then out of death broke forth a great

earth, sal - va - tion had dawned in a low - ly birth. No -  
pised, and the hands that brought heal - ing were pierced as he died.  
light, as he rose up in vic t'ry, the glo - ri - ous Christ.

1. 2.  
- el, no - el, no - el, no - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

3.  
born is the King, born is the King, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

**Sermon**

God has spoken to us through his Son  
Hebrews 1:1-4

Pastor Andy Aikens

**Sermon Notes:**

## Song of Response – Fullness of Grace



1. Full-ness of grace in man's hu-man frail - ty: this is the won-der of Je-sus.
2. Full-ness of grace, the love of the Fa - ther, shown in the face\_\_ of Je-sus.
3. Full-ness of hope in Christ we had longed for, pro-mise of God\_\_ in Je-sus.



Lay - ing a - side his pow - er and glo - ry, hum-bly he en - tered our world.  
Stoop - ing to bear the weight of hu-ma-ni - ty, walk - ing the Cal - va - ry road.  
Through his o - be - dience we are for - gi - ven, o - p'ning the flood - gates of Heav'n.



Chose the\_\_ path of\_\_ mean - est\_\_ worth, scan - dal\_\_ of a\_\_ vir - gin birth.  
Christ the\_\_ ho - ly\_\_ in - no - cent took our sin and pun - ish - ment.  
All our\_\_ hopes and dreams we\_\_ bring glad - ly\_\_ as an\_\_ of - fer - ing.



Born in a sta - ble, cold and re - ject - ed, here lies the hope of the world.  
Full-ness of God, de-spised and re - ject - ed, crushed for the sins of the world.  
Full-ness of life and joy un-speak - a - ble: God's gift in love to the world.

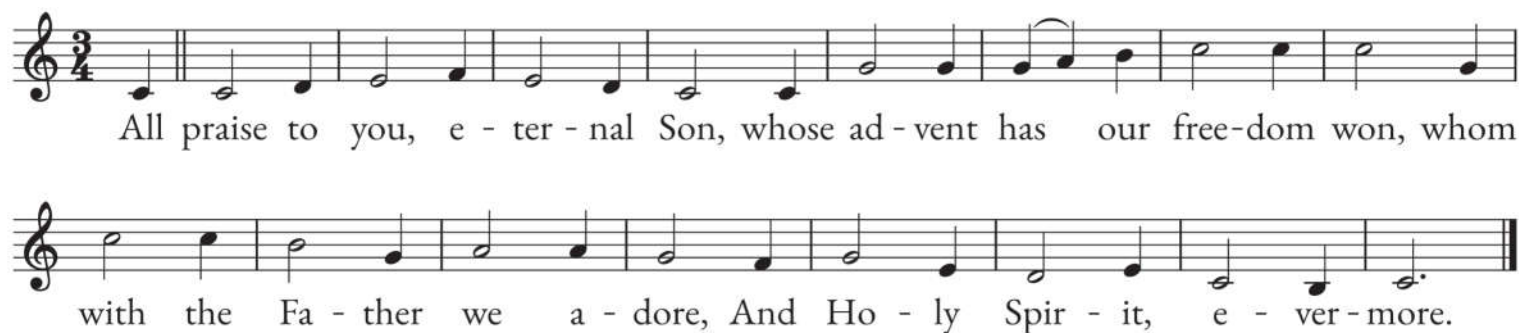
## Serving of the Lord's Supper

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.

FPC members are encouraged to remain for the Annual Congregational Meeting following the worship service and a short break for refreshments. Visitors are welcome too.

The Wednesday Christmas Eve worship service will be at 6 p.m.

## 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 14 - December 7

How did you break the covenant of life?

**Adam represented all people, and so I fell with Adam in his first sin.**

## 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 11/30	\$ 4,240
Giving YTD	\$ 517,787
YTD Budget	\$ 455,548

### 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	Kevin Wyson
Next Week	Bill Allbright

## Ministry Support

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

## Greeters

Today	David & Karen Phillips
Next Week	Terri Fleck

## Nursery

Today	Robyn Mayhugh Laura Powell
Next Week	Holly Kisly April Marion