

First Presbyterian Church

Established 1988 PCA

December 14, 2025

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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

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand. King of kings yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away. At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

-Liturgy of St. James, 5th century

Call to Worship

Psalm 147:1-7

Praise the LORD!
For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.
² The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
³ He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

⁴ He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.
⁵ Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.
⁶ The LORD lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷ Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre!

Prayer of Adoration

Hymn of Praise — Angels from the Realms of Glory



1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep-herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend-ing, watch-ing long in hope and fear,
5. All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God the Fa - ther, Spi - rit, Son;



ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
seek the great de - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:
sud - den - ly the Lord, de-scend-ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:
e - ver-more your voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born King.

Scripture Reading – Luke 46b-55

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Hymn of Praise – He Who is Mighty



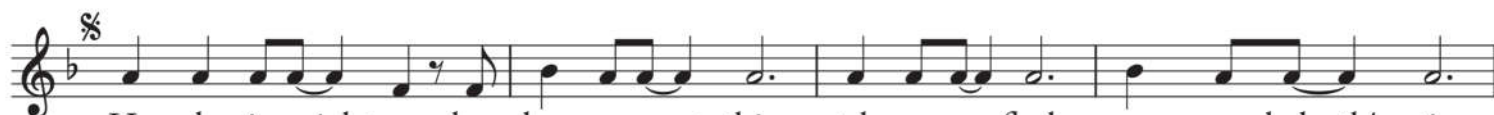
1. Oh, the mer - cy our God has shown to those who sit in death's sha - dow.
2. Oh, the free-dom our sa - vior won; the yoke of sin has been bro - ken.



The sun on high pierced the night born was the cor - ner - stone._
Once a slave, now by grace, no more con - dem - na - tion.



Un - to us a Son is giv - en; un - to us a Child is born.



He who is might-y has done a great thing; tak-en on flesh, con-quired death's sting;



shat-tered the dark - ness and lift - ed our shame, ho - ly is his name.



name. ho - ly is his name. Now my soul mag - ni - fies the Lord; I re -



-joice in the God who saves. I will trust his un - fail - ing love; I will



sing his prais - es all my days. My all my days.

Profession of Faith — Westminster Catechism Question 25

How does Christ execute the office of a priest?

Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

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.

The musical notation is written on a single staff in 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. There are two first endings, marked with '1.' and a repeat sign. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing.

Time of Silent Confession and Pastoral Prayer

Assurance of Pardon — Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

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

Hymn of Rejoicing — Before the Throne of God Above



1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove, I have a strong and per - fect
2. When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me of the guilt with-
3. Be - hold him there, the ri - sen Lamb, my per - fect, spot - less right-eous-
plea: a great High Priest whose name is love, who e - ver lives and pleads for
- in, up - ward I look and see him there, who made an end of all my
- ness, the great un - change - a - ble "I AM", the King of glo - ry and of
me. My name is grav - en on his hands; my name is writ - ten on his
sin. Be - cause the sin - less sa - vior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
grace. One with him - self, I can - not die; my soul is pur - chased by his
heart. I know that while in Heav'n he stands no tongue can
free, for God the just is sa - tis - fied to look on
blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my
bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
Sa - vior and my God, with Christ my Sa - vior and my God.

Sermon

Our New and Better Priest
Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:1-10

Pastor Andy Aikens

Sermon Notes:

Song of Response – O Come, All You Unfaithful



1. O come, all you un - faith - ful; come, weak and un - sta - ble;
2. O come, bar - ren and wait - ing ones, wea - ry of pray - ing;
3. O come, bit - ter and bro - ken; come, with fears un - spo - ken.
4. O come, guil - ty and hid - ing ones, there is no need to
5. So come, though you have no - thing; come, he is the of - fering;



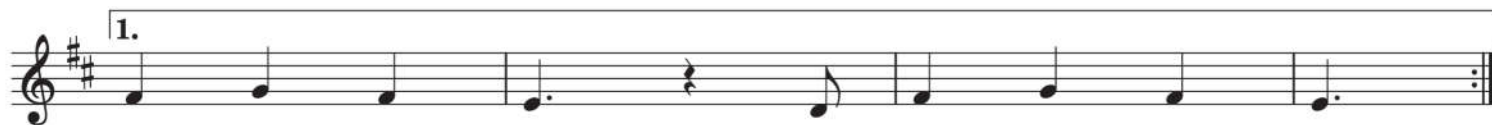
come, know you are not a - lone.
 come, see what your God has done.
 come, taste of his per - fect love.
 run; see what your God has done.
 come, see what our God has done.



Christ is born, Christ is born. Christ is born for you.



He's the lamb who was giv - en, slain for our par - don; his



pro - mise is peace for those who be - lieve.



pro - mise is peace for those who be - lieve. 5. So

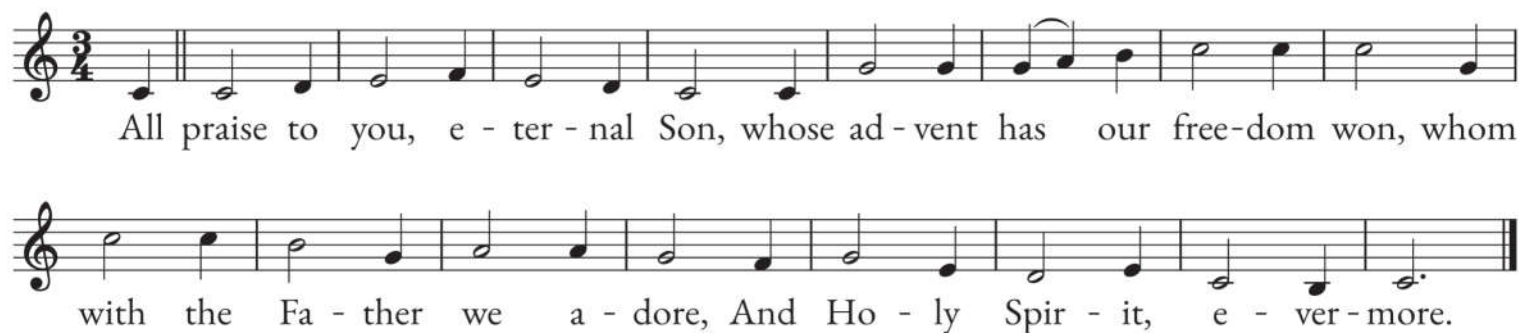
Serving of the Lord's Supper

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.

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

All women in the church are invited to meet for prayer this week on Thursday, December 18 at 10:00 a.m. We will meet in the CEC building. Please come through the door on the side of the gravel parking lot. If you are able, please join us for lunch and fellowship following our prayer time.

Please check your mailboxes for Christmas cards.

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 15 - December 14

What is sin?

Sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of 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 12/7	\$ 10,020
Giving YTD	\$ 527,807
YTD Budget	\$ 465,038

Deacon's Fund

2025 YTD Giving	\$ 10,443
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	Bill Allbright
Next Week	Orville Ennis

Ministry Support

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

Greeters

Today	Terri Fleck
Next Week	Mike & Nancy Tuuk

Nursery

Today	Holly Kisly April Marion
Next Week	Hope Aikens Jenae Larsen