

First Presbyterian Church

Established 1988 PCA

December 21, 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 21, 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

If you had not been my shield and defense, innumerable evils would have surrounded me and danger would have overcome me, that I could not have left my bed and risen in health—therefore it becomes me to praise my God. Early do I seek you, and in the morning shall my prayers ascend unto you, that you would this day preserve me and all mine, from the devices and power of the devil, from sin and shame, and from all evil. Amen.

-Johann Habermann

Call to Worship

Psalm 72:1-8

- Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
- ² May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!
- ³ Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
- ⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!
- ⁵ May they fear you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- ⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!
- ⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- ⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!

Prayer of Adoration

Hymn of Praise — The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



1. The King shall come when morn-ing dawns, and light tri - um - phant breaks; when
2. O bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall this fair morn-ing_ be, when



beau - ty gilds the east - ern_ hills, and life to joy a - wakes. Not
Christ, our King, in beau - ty_ comes, and we his face shall see. And

3. The



as of old a lit - tle_ child to bear and fight and die, But
let the end - less bliss be - gin, by wea - ry saints fore - told, when
King shall come when morn - ing_ dawns, and light and beau - ty brings: Hail,

D.S. al Fine



crowned with glo - ry like the_ sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
right shall tri - umph o - ver_ wrong and truth shall be_ ex - tolled.
Christ the Lord! Thy peo - ple_ pray, come quick - ly King of kings.

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hymn of Praise – O Come, All Ye Faithful



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to
2. God of — God, — Light of — Light; — lo, he ab - hors not the
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing: Je - sus, to thee be —



Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him born the King of an - gels; O
vir - gin's womb; ve - ry — God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God — in — the — high - est;
glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther, late in flesh ap - pear - ing;



come let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him, O



come let us a - dore him — Christ — the Lord.

Profession of Faith — Westminster Catechism Question 26

How does Christ execute the office of a king?

Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

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 — John 1:14-17

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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

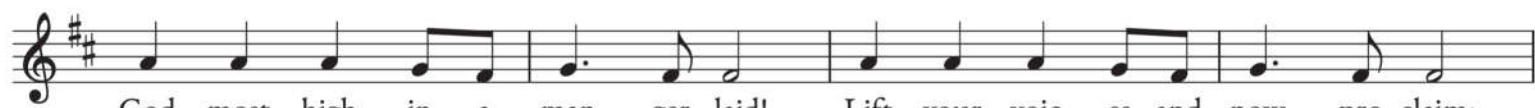
Hymn of Rejoicing — Sing We the Song of Emmanuel



1. Sing we the song of Em-man - u - el, this, the Christ who was long fore - told;
2. Come we to wel-come Em-man - u - el, King who came with no crown or throne.
3. Go spread the news of Em-man - u - el, joy and peace for the wea - ry heart.



lo in the sha-dows of Beth - le - hem, pro-mise of dawn now our eyes be-hold,
Help-less he lay, the in - vin - ci - ble, ma - ker of Ma - ry, now Ma - ry's son.
Lift up your heads, for your King has come; sing for the light o - ver-whelms the dark.



God most high in a man - ger laid! Lift your voic - es and now pro-claim:
O what wis - dom to save us all; shep-herds sa - ges, be - fore him fall.
Glo - ry shin - ing for all to see; hope a - live, let the gos - pel ring.



Great and glo - ri-ous! Love has come to us! Join now with the host of hea - ven.____
Grace and ma - je-sty! what hu - mi - li - ty! Come on bend-ed knee, a - dore him.____
God has made a way, he will have the praise! Tell the world his name is Je - sus.____



Glo - - - ri - a! Glo - - - ri - a!

Sermon

A Priestly King—Conquering and Reigning
Selected Passages from Hebrews

Pastor Andy Aikens

Sermon Notes:

Song of Response – Joy to the World



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re - ceive her King. Let
2. Joy to the earth! the sa - vior reigns: let men their songs em - ploy; while
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground; he
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove the



e - v'ry heart_ pre - pare him room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
comes to_ make_ his bless - ings flow_ far as the curse is_ found, far
glor - ries of_ his righ - teous - ness_ and won - ders of his love, and



heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and heav'n_ and na - ture sing.
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat, re - peat_ the sound - ing joy.
as the curse is_ found, far_ as_ far as_ the curse is found.
won - ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

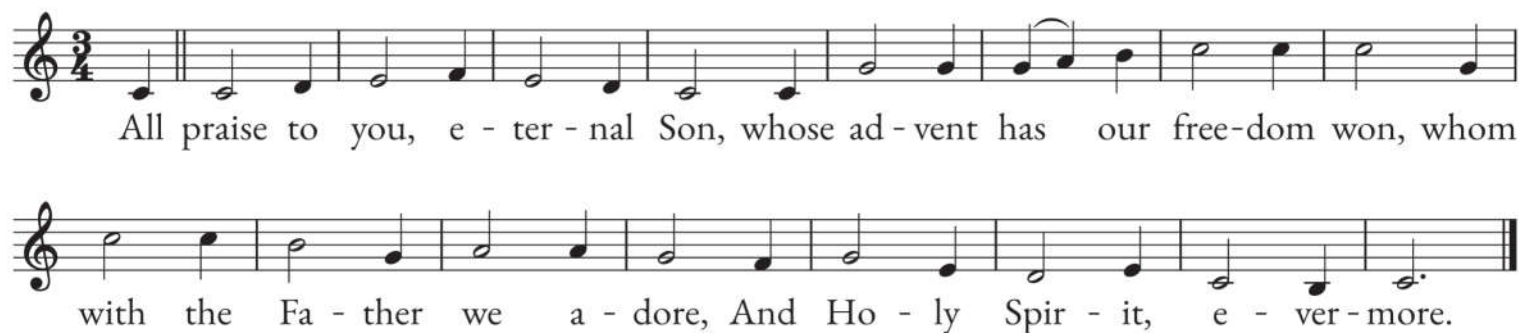
Serving of the Lord's Supper

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.

We will honor Sherry Hewitt this afternoon with a visitation at 2 p.m. and a memorial service at 2:30 p.m.

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

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 16 - December 21

What is meant by lack of conformity?

Not being or doing what God requires.

What is meant by transgression?

Doing what God forbids.

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	\$ 22,775
Giving YTD	\$ 550,582
YTD Budget	\$ 474,529

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	Orville Ennis
Next Week	Aubrey Lewis

Ministry Support

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

Greeters

Today	Mike & Nancy Tuuk
Next Week	John & Jill deGrassie

Nursery

Today	Hope Aikens Jenae Larson
Next Week	Breanna Sears Eden Tuuk