

Hope



First Presbyterian Church
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
- Founded 1792 -

*“For Christ in the Heart of Knoxville,”
the First Presbyterian Church seeks*

- *to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ*
- *to nurture those within its influence*
- *to serve spiritual and human needs*

First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE 

Special Coffee Fellowship 9:15 a.m.

Church School at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service 8:45 a.m and 11:00 a.m.

Telephone (865) 546-2531 • Fax (865) 546-2533

E-mail: church@fpcknox.org

Web Site: www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

A Word of Welcome

To all who are weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are idle and look for service; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whosoever will come; this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of Jesus Christ her Lord.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

11:00 a.m.

December 2, 2018

❖THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE❖

PRELUDE

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Adult Handbell Choir

Arr. Cathy Moglebust

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

†CALL TO WORSHIP

The coming of our Lord is near,
And we wait in joyful expectation.
Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ,
Shed your light on all that is
filled with darkness.

The coming of our Lord is near,
And we wait with hope-filled hearts.
Draw close, God's beloved son,
Teach us the wonder of your
all-embracing love.

The coming of our Lord is near,
And we wait for God's redeeming presence.
Draw close, Savior of all creation,
Our hearts ache for justice,
our minds long for holiness,
our spirits seek for unity.

The coming of our Lord is near,
And we wait for the fulfillment
of God's promises.

Draw close, reconciler and
transformer of all things,
Renew our world, restore your peace,
display your righteousness.

The coming of our Lord is near,
And we wait for God's light to shine
over all the earth.
Draw close, pain bearer,
life-giver, love-sharer,
Shine through us, in us, around us,
shine for the world to see.

The coming of our Lord is near,
And we wait attentive to the signs
of his coming.
Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ,
God beyond imagining, fully God yet
truly human, draw close.
Amen.

†OPENING HYMN 5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

†PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(All)*

Gracious God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness and we live without hope. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We have kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Fill us with Your hope. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. Amen. *(Silent personal confession)*

†MUSICAL RESPONSE *(All)* (To the tune of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*)

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
Christe elesion, Christe elesion, Christe elesion
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

†ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(All)* *Gloria* (To the tune of *Angels We Have Heard on High*)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us, we are free to forgive each other. Therefore the congregation is invited to turn to each other, saying: "The peace of Christ be with you," responding with "And also with you."

✝THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD✝

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16
(Pew Bible, OT Page 738)

Frederick Wagoner

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

(three-year-olds through first graders may leave for Children's Worship.)

Rev. Dr. William C. Pender

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: **HOPE**

When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

ANTHEM

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Nathan Pace, Violin

Hal H. Hopson

Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 21:25-26

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

(Pew Bible, NT Page 85)

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Drawing Near to Hope

Rev. Meredith Loftis

✝THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE✝

†ADVENT CREED *(All)*

(adapted from a poem by Madeline L'Engle)

God did not wait until the world was ready, until nations were at peace.

God came when the Heavens were unsteady and prisoners cried out for release.

God did not wait for the perfect time.

God came when the need was deep and great.

God dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine.

God did not wait till hearts were pure.

**In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt. To a world like ours,
of anguished shame, God came and God's Light would not go out.**

God came to a world which did not mesh; to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

In the mystery of the Word made Flesh, the maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice,
or to share our grief, to touch our pain,

God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

†HYMN OF RESPONSE 3

Comfort, Comfort You My People

Psalm 42

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. William C. Pender

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Meditation
Nathan Pace, Violin

Chaminade/Callahan

†DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION 591

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

†CLOSING HYMN 13

Prepare the Way

Bereden Väg För Herran

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Gigue from Sonata in D Minor

Francesco M. Veracini

†Please stand in body...or in spirit.

NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICES

Worship Note: The Call to Worship was written by Christine Sine on godspace.wordpress.com

The Friendship Book is passed each Sunday for guests and members to sign. Guests' names and addresses are used to acknowledge your presence and welcome you to worship. In expressing what it means to be a *family of faith*, the church appreciates your willingness to share this information with us!

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship. The presence of children is a gift to the church, and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

Officer in Charge: Virginia Stormer

Baker and Taker: Ailsa Schuller

Deacon of the Week: Wendy Williams

and Pam and Dale Teague

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. William C. Pender Senior Pastor

Rev. Meredith Loftis Associate Pastor

Mr. Mark Pace Organist/Choirmaster/Harpist

Dr. Sharon Patton. Children's Worship Leader