



***Christ Among the Doctors (also called Jesus in the Temple)***  
**by Italian Renaissance painter, Paolo Veronese (1528-1588)**

*First Presbyterian Church*   
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

*Founded in 1792*

*First Presbyterian Church seeks*



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

*Church School at 9:45 a.m.*

*Sunday Worship Service 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.*

*Coffee Fellowship 9:30 a.m. & 10:40 a.m.*

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*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 AFTER CHRISTMAS

11:00 a.m.

December 30, 2018

## ✠THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE✠

*...the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him!*

Habakkuk 2:20

Worship begins with the Prelude. As we reverently enter the pews, please use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1), may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our devotion to Him who is the author and finisher of our faith.

PRELUDE

*Sweet Little Jesus Boy*  
Frederick Wagoner, Baritone

Robert MacGimsey

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We waited.

Many: **And imagined a savior.**

One: We imagined power.

Many: **One like the world but stronger and on our side.**

One: We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

Many: **We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.**

One: We imagined the work done for us through the destruction of our enemies.

Many: **We receive a baby who will teach us our calling  
to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.**

One: Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

Many: **Praise to the wisdom of love! Let us worship God!**

†OPENING HYMN 40

*Joy to the World*

Antioch

†PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(All)*

*New Year's Litany*

(see insert)

†MUSICAL RESPONSE *(All)* )

(To the tune of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*)

**Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison** [Two measures: rest]

**Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison**

**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

Psalm 148  
(Pew Bible, OT Page 582)

Ailsa Schuller

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Meredith Loftis

The Adult Choir will be singing selections from the new Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory to God* during this time.  
(*three-year-olds through first graders may leave for Children's Worship.*)

ANTHEM

*A Maiden Most Gentle*

Andrew Carter

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing, of Mary the mother of Jesus our King  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. How blest is the birth of her heavenly child, who came to redeem us in Mary so mild,  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call, the Lord of creation and Savior of all,  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare, and marveled in awe at the babe in her care,  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray, sing praise to the Savior sing endlessly,  
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Ave, Ave, Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:41-52

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

(Pew Bible, NT Page 59)

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Meredith Loftis

## ❖THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE❖

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*All*)

*Christmas Affirmation*

By Nathan Nettleton

**We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us. We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child. We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living. We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ. Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection. And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.**

†HYMN OF RESPONSE 49

*Once in Royal David's City*

Irby

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Loose Offering for Family Promise

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Gesu Bambino*  
Connie Blair, Soprano

Pietro Yon

†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 56

*The First Nowell (Verses 1-4)*

The First Nowell

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*The First Noel*

Arr. Larry Wolz

†Please stand in body...or in spirit.

# NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICES

**Worship Note:** The Call to Worship was written by Tim Graves at [liturgybits.wordpress.com](http://liturgybits.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.

**Worship Note:** Please no photography or videoing during the service (welcome before and afterwards). Worship is a participatory event, claiming our complete attention to God's Spirit. Photography and videoing divert attention from our worship focus.

## THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

**Officer in Charge:** Brandon Spurlock

**Deacon of the Week:** Melanie Payne

## 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

