

sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN      *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*      159

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE      *Joy to the World*      Arr. Albert Travis  
One License #10-791-14

\*Please stand if you are able.



## WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville. We have been part of the downtown Knoxville community since 1792. We embrace people from all walks of life and seek to share our spiritual journey with our community. We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are delighted that you have joined us in worship today.

To learn more about us, please make a note on the Friendship Pad, sign up for our Thursday newsletter, or connect with us at [fpcknox.org](http://fpcknox.org), via the QR code to the right, or through social media.



Hearing enhancement devices are available for use during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

## OFFERING

You may place your offering in the offering plates when they are passed, or you are invited give securely online at [www.fpcknox.org/donate](http://www.fpcknox.org/donate) or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone.



## STAFF AND LEADERS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Mark R. Curtis  
*Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Meredith Loftis  
*Associate Pastor*

Mark Pace  
*Organist/Choirmaster*

Mary Wilson  
*Adult Ministry Coordinator*

Katie Norrell  
*Director of Communications*

Jane Holland  
*Director of Finance/Facilities*

Laura Harmon  
*Church Administrator*

Lauren Nunn  
*Director of Parent's Day Out /  
Childcare Coordinator*

Sandra Robinson  
*Administrative Assistant*

Victor Lenoir  
*Custodian*

Paul Seguna  
*Sound Engineer*

## FOR OUR YOUNGER WORSHIPPERS

All children are welcome in worship at FPC. Children, Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Children's Area (2nd floor) after Special Time with Young Disciples. Worship Bags are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. A nursery is available for children, in preschool and younger, in the Nursery rooms (2nd floor).



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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**JANUARY 1, 2023**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

**Sunday, January 8 - Officer Installation Sunday**

**Wednesday, January 11 - First Worshipful Wednesday**

**Monday, January 16 - MLK Day—Office Closed**

Connect With Us



[www.fpcknox.org](http://www.fpcknox.org)

620 State Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902

## THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### PRELUDE

*In Dulci Jubilo*

Marcel Dupré

One License #123497

### WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come from the darkness of our night into the light of God's day.

**We come from our yesterdays,  
journeying into God's tomorrow.**

We come in this time to worship the One who  
from everlasting to everlasting is God.

**He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the  
end; a lamp to our pathway and the light of the world.  
Come, let us worship God!**

#### \*OPENING HYMN

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

133

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Gracious God, we come before you as those who have  
been baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, and who  
seek to be raised to new life in Christ. Yet we confess  
our fear of life. We confess that we are afraid to let go  
of what we are for fear we will be changed. We hold on  
to what is familiar; we cling to old patterns; we are  
bound by the past.**

**God of new beginnings, begin again with us. Open our  
hearts to hope and open our eyes to new directions.  
Set before us this day the way of Christ, and set within  
us your Holy Spirit, for we pray in the name of the One  
who makes all things new...**

#### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### \*MUSICAL RESPONSE

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

*Refrain 113*

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

#### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### \*MUSICAL RESPONSE

*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

**I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

### FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:13-23

Britton Leitch

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." <sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." <sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

### ANTHEM

*Before the Marvel of This Night*

Carol Schalk

One License #33341

*Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow, Then tear the sky apart with light, and with your news the world endow. Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease: Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace! Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made. Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed. Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss: Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss! The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light, Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night. Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above: Sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love!*

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Mathilda Helen Cook

Daughter of Andrew and Brianna Cook

### SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be

like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### SERMON

"A New Normal"

Rev. Mark R. Curtis

## THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

#### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

129

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Meredith Loftis

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us  
our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

#### RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

#### OFFERTORY

*Wonderful Peace*

Nordqvist/Davison

One License #99095

*Peace, peace, wonderful peace, Peace to the world is given. Hushed are the angels, so still is the night; Then in the East shone a heavenly light. Join in the chorus His praises sing! Glory to God, to the newborn King. Peace, peace, wonderful peace. Peace to the world is given. Peace, peace, bearer of peace, All of goodwill receive Him. Holiest of nights, O most wondrous of days; Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise.*

#### \*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*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.**

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven  
and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who  
was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin  
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead,  
and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose  
again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and**