

Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ. As you have given yourself to us, now we offer ourselves to you, to your glory and for the work of your Kingdom. Amen.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *Away in a Manger* Arr. Mark Hayes
Tracy Pace, Alto

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
SHINING THE LIGHT**

You are invited to light your candles and join the Light shining in the darkness as we sing Silent Night. Following the benediction, please extinguish your candle. May you carry the light of Christ in your heart now and always.

***HYMN** *Silent Night, Holy Night* 122

*Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born."*

*Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star lend thy light
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born.
Christ the Savior is born.*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* A.L. Travis
**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, via the QR code to the right, or through social media.



Hearing enhancement devices and large print hymnals 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 to give securely online at 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 | Laura Harmon
Church Administrator |
| The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis
Associate Pastor | Lauren Nunn
Director of Parent's Day Out /
Childcare Coordinator |
| Dr. Andy Morgan
Director of Family Faith Formation | Sandra Robinson
Administrative Assistant |
| Mark Pace
Organist/Choirmaster | Victor Lenoir
Custodian |
| Mary Wilson
Adult Ministry Coordinator | Paul Seguna
Sound Engineer |
| Katie Norrell
Director of Communications | |
| Jane Holland
Director of Finance/Facilities | |

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

- | | |
|--|---|
| <i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>
Tune: Adeste Fideles | Tune: Kings of Orient |
| <i>Away in a Manger</i>
Tune: Cradle Song | <i>Joy to the World</i>
Tune: Antioch |
| <i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>
Tune: Mendelssohn | <i>Away in a Manger</i>
Tune: Stille Nacht |
| <i>We Three Kings of Orient Are</i> | One License: 245674 |

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).



By **Stushie Art**



CHRISTMAS EVE 2023

5 P.M. FAMILY SERVICE

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *In the Bleak Midwinter* Arr. Garrett Breeze
Rachel McCord, Violin

CHRISTMAS GREETING Rev. Mark R. Curtis

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Veilleux Family

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,
and set lights in the sky — sun and moon and stars.
By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys.
By these stars, they knew God was with them.
In the beginning was the Word.
And the Word has come down from heaven to earth.
By the Word made flesh, Christ our Savior,
we know that God is with us.

**Tonight we light five candles to bring the fire of the stars
down from heaven to earth,
to dwell among the people of God.**

We name this candle Hope.

We name this candle Peace.

We name this candle Joy.

We name this candle Love.

We name this candle Christ.

Our lives are a journey, and we do not always know the way.

But we chart our path by the star of Christ.

Even when faith burns low

**and its promises seem too good to be true,
we set our face steadily towards the light.**

Listen to ancient words come true anew this night:

“The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,

a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:2, 6).

**Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of Christ's presence
this night and this week,
help us to become the signs of Christ's presence
that others are searching for.**

As these candles are but a glimpse of the light

of the heavens,

help us to be a glimpse of heaven on earth.

Help us to shine like stars in the world. Amen.

***HYMN** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (v. 1) 133
*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
Come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the king of angels
O come let us adore him, o come let us adore him
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

THE ANNOUNCEMENT

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-38 Savannah Leitch

HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (v. 3) 133
*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest
O come let us adore him, o come let us adore him
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

SPECIAL TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Dr. Andy Morgan

THE ARRIVAL

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-7 Will & Lane Spurlock

Hymn *Away in a Manger* (vv.1&2) 115
*Away in a manger no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head,
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes
I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

THE ANGELS AND THE SHEPHERDS

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-20 MacKenna Cook

Hymn *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (vv. 1&3) 119
*Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,

*Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!*

MEDITATION Rev. Mark R. Curtis

THE MAGI

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12 Paul Becker

BRINGING OUR GIFTS - Christmas Joy Offering

OFFERTORY *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (vv. 1,2,&5) 151
*We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign.*

*O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!*

*Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.*

*O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis

***HYMN** *Joy to the World* (vv.1&4) 134
*Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and heaven and nature sing.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter
our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of**