*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Declaration of Faith

Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

*CLOSING HYMN

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

141

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

As we leave the old year and enter the new,

go with these assurances: The risen Lord says,

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,

the beginning and the end."

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

POSTLUDE Procession on "Once in Royal David's City" Arr. Alice Jordan *Please stand if you are able.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

All are invited to join us in the fellowship hall to celebrate Ginny and Bill Morrow's 50th wedding anniversary following the 11am service today. Heavy hors d'Oeuvres will be served. Let's gather together to show our love and appreciation for Ginny and Bill, and to congratulate them on reaching this incredible milestone in their journey together. We hope to see you all there!

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 <u>www.fpcknox.org/donate</u> 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. Dr. Meredith Loftis Associate Pastor Dr. Andy Morgan Director of Family Faith Formation

Mark Pace Organist/Choirmaster Mary Wilson Adult Ministry Coordinator Katie Norrell Director of Communications

Jane Holland Director of Finance/Facilities

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

O Come, All Ye Faithful Tune: Adeste Fidelis "Gloria" from Angels We Have Heard on High Tune: Gloria I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day Tune: Waltham Once in Royal David's City Tune: Irby On This Day Earth Shall Ring Tune: Personent Hodie Procession on Once in Royal David's City One License # 1245954

Laura Harmon Church Administrator

Lauren Nunn

Director of Parent's Day Out /

Childcare Coordinator

Sandra Robinson

Administrative Assistant

Victor Lenoir Custodian

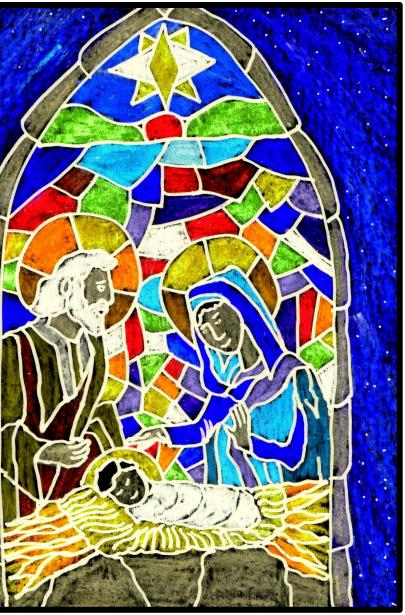
Paul Seguna

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).





By Stushie Art

st Presty Terian Church

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE			us faith to move ahead. Be our companion until Jesus comes again. In Christ's name we pray.				SPECIAL TI
PRELUDE	A New Year Carol	Benjamin Britten	Amen.	(0	n moment for silent confe	ssion)	SECOND SO
	Katrin Smith, Mezzo-Soprano						^₄ But wł
			*Assurance of Pardon				woman,
	ND ANNOUNCEMENTS					under tl	
	e day that the Lord has made;	*MUSICAL RESPONSE "Gloria" from Angels We Have Heard on High 113				because	
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!			Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!				hearts, o child, ar
*CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 90			PASSING OF THE PEACE				
Lord, you	have been our dwelling place in all ge	enerations.					Sermon
Before the mountains were brought forth,			*MUSICAL RESPONSE I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day				
or ever you had formed			I heard the bells on Christmas Day				
the e	arth and the world,	Their old familiar carols play,					
from	everlasting to everlasting you a	And wild and sweet the words repeat				HYMN OF	
Satisfy us	in the morning with your steadfast lo	Of peace on earth, good will to men.					
so th	at we may rejoice and be glad al	l our days.					PRAYERS C
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the			THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD				Our Fa
work of our hands —							kingdo
O prosper the work of our hands! Let us worship God!			FIRST SCRIPTUR	e Lesson	Isaiah 61:10 – 62	:3 Britton Leitch	Give u
			¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my				we for
*OPENING H	IYMN O Come, All Ye Fa	iithful 133	God; for he h	as clothed m	ne with the garments of	salvation, he has	deliver
			covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks				power
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION New Year's Litany			himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.				-
Holy God, grant us your gracious, guiding presence as we prepare to			¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is				RECEPTION
enter the new year. As we join Christians of every time who have			sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and				
awaited Jesus' return, lead us into this new time, confident that your			praise to spring up before all the nations. ¹ For Zion's sake I will not				OFFERTOR
promises	will be fulfilled.	keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication				Far awa	
Hear	us, O God: Your mercy is great	shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ² The				the sky o	
			nations shall s	ee your vinc	lication, and all the king	s your glory; and you	born. Ca
Spirit of Truth, call us to repentance at the beginning of this new year.			shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.				we beho
Forgive us for past unfaithfulness, silence in the face of injustice and			³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal				Son of G
inaction amid suffering. Move us from the desire to hoard our wealth			diadem in the hand of your God.				over you
toward fa	aithful stewardship. Help us to share	your gifts with those		-			angel ch
who cry	out for daily bread.		ANTHEM	Rise Up, SI	hepherd, and Follow	Gordon Thornett	left to d
Hear us, O God: Your mercy is great.			There's a star	in the East of	n Christmas morn;		Suffering
			Rise up, shepherd, and follow.				of man,
Prince of Peace, healer and reconciler, heal the divisions in your			It will lead you to the place where the savior's born;				
Church and among the peoples of the world. As you prayed that we			Rise up shepherd, and follow.				*Doxolo
should all be one, give us new visions to enable that unity. Be with us			Leave your ewes and leave your rams;				Praise
on our journey, and with those sisters and brothers who surround us			Rise up, shepherd, and follow the star to Bethlehem.				creatu
in the great cloud of witnesses.			If you take good heed to the angel's word:				praise
Hear us, O God: Your mercy is great. God of all ages, release us from fear. Lead us forward, even as you have led your Church forward from an empty cross and tomb through 20 centuries. Be our companion as we walk unexplored paths into an			Rise up, shepherd, and follow				-
			You'll forget your flock, forget your herds;				THE SACR
			Rise up, shepherd, and follow				
			Leave your ewes and leave the lambs; Rise up shepherd, and follow				

unknown future. Open us to new possibilities. Renew our hope. Grant

IME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Dr. Andy Morgan

CRIPTURE LESSON Galatians 4:4-7

hen the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a b, born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those who were the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And e you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a nd if a child then also an heir, through God.

Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis

140

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Response

Once in Royal David's City

DF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER Dr. Andy Morgan ather, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy om come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Is this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as rgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but r us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the r, and the glory, forever. Amen.

N OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

AY ANTHEM Christ Our Emmanuel John Rutter by shines a light, leading us, guiding us on through the night; Clear in and brighter than the dawn, pointing our way to where a child is an it be here we will find him? In a simple stable, can it be Messiah old? Softly enter, this is he; worship him, honor him, bow your knee. God, yet child of man, in excelsis gloria! Lullaby, Jesus sleep! Angels a watch will keep. Mary will sing a tender lullaby, joining the song of hoirs on high. Morning will come, he will waken, he will be forsaken, lie along upon the tree. Lullaby, holy child born of Mary undefiled. g, dying, death defying, Christ our Emmanuel! Son of God, yet child in excelsis gloria!

GY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION Old Hundredth God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all ires here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

AMENT OF COMMUNION (8:45am service)