



Farragut Presbyterian Church

LIVE STREAM WORSHIP SERVICE

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020 ~ 9:00 a.m.

~The Gathering~

Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Prelude

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Dr. Linda Stutzenberger, harp

Burton

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness
Dr. Angela Batey, solo

Christ, Be Our Light

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

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Leader: During Advent we celebrate that God comes to his people.
Jesus is the One-who-comes; Jesus is the One-who-rules;
Jesus is the One-who-was-promised.

People: Jesus is God-with-us. We worship him!

Leader: Jesus shines as God-with-us.

People: Let the light shine!

Call to Worship

An angel spoke to Mary: "Do not be afraid!"
**The child she carries will be God's son,
and the world will never be the same.**

An angel spoke to Mary: "Do not be afraid!"
**God was with her, and God is with us,
drawing us into worship and praise.**

Hymn #9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Linda Stutzenberger, harp

Gaudet

Text: Latin, c. 12th century, trans. John Neale, 1851; alt. 1854, Henry Coffin, 1916. Music: Adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1854; Accomp. John Weaver, 1988
The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. Public domain.

Prayer of Confession

An angel spoke to Mary: “Do not be afraid!” And yet, O Lord, we find ourselves paralyzed by fear of what we do not know. Forgive us of our sins, O Lord, and give us the faith of Mary to respond to your grace with lives of grateful praise. Let us hear the good news that she first heard: Light is breaking. Love is coming. The world is about to turn!

(please continue in silent prayer)

Declaration of Forgiveness

The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

~The Word~

Prayer for Illumination

Holy and gracious God, may your Holy Spirit give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know the hope to which Christ has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance among us, and the enormity of his love for all. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Romans 16:25-27

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn

The Magnificat
Dr. Angela Batey, cantor

John McCann

***Refrain:* The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior;
he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed; *Refrain*

the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.
He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation. *Refrain*

He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly. *Refrain*

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy.
The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever. *Refrain*

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“Greetings”

Rev. Matt Nieman

~The Response~

Affirmation of Faith – Adapted from the *Confession of 1967*

God expressed love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve him in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with judgment and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God’s purpose would be realized.

Anthem

What Child Is This
Linda Stutzenberger, harp

Milligan

Call for the Offering

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer

**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.**

~The Sending~

Hymn #31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840. Arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855.
The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. Public domain.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Variation on the Sussex Carol
Tami Newsom, organ

Schulz-Widmar

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If you would like the church office to record your attendance today, you can:

- scan this QR Code and click on the generated google doc link or
- go to <https://forms.gle/4frMSP5wWS33g7Td6> or
- email the office at office@fpctn.org



Christmas Joy Special Offering:

God is with us! God saw the great needs of the world and offered the perfect gift; a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God’s perfect gift to us – Jesus Christ! One of the names given to Jesus according to Matthew’s Gospel is *Emmanuel*, “God is with us.”

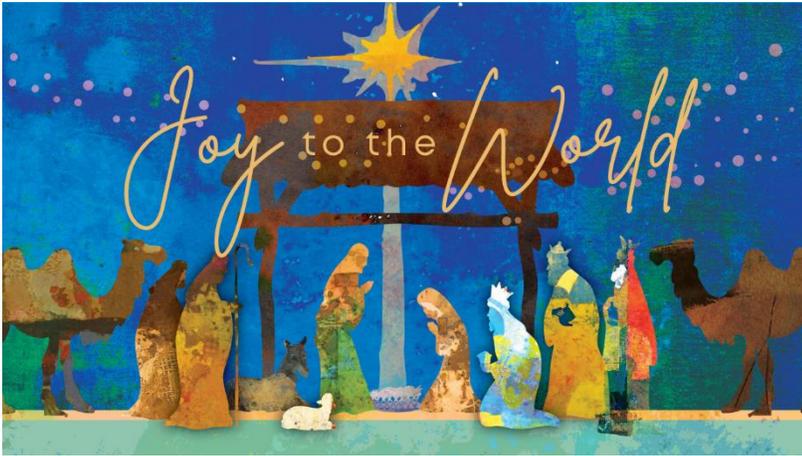
The final Special Offering for 2020 is the annual **Christmas Joy Offering which will be collected TODAY, December 20**. This offering assists current and retired church workers and their families and provides education assistance at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Specially designated envelopes will be available in our pews and on the welcome desk in the connector.

Persons who are not in attendance in person can make a contribution by sending a check to the church indicating the purpose to support the Christmas Joy offering. You may also give by going to www.fpctn.org and click on the e-giving section of our website.

The area Presbyterian Churches in partnership with Edward Jones will be constructing a **Habitat for Humanity** home in Knoxville beginning on March 20, 2021. Habitat of Knoxville needs volunteers from the area churches to help in the construction of this home along with volunteers from Edward Jones. Work will be done on Saturdays beginning March 20, 2021. You can work whatever number of days or time your schedule allows. There will be a pre-construction Zoom meeting on January 14 from 2:00-3:00 pm for anyone interested. If you are interested in volunteering your time in this worthwhile project, you are asked to contact either Buck Jones (buck@utk.edu) or Wayne Walls (wwalls97@aol.com) so we can turn in your name to Habitat and pass on the link to the January 14th Zoom meeting.



Our annual **Service of Lessons and Carols** was posted on our FPC YouTube Channel and our website, www.fpctn.org last Sunday. The Service of Lessons and Carols is a traditional seasonal service of scripture and music. It is a very special and intimate service celebrating the true meaning of the season and features *Knoxtet*, an area professional ensemble, as well as members of our own congregation. If you haven’t already, we hope you have a chance to enjoy this very special service!!



We invite you
to join us on
*Christmas
Eve*

Outdoor Worship at 5:00 p.m. (bring a chair)
Indoor Worship at 7:30 p.m. (bring a mask)

The 7:30 service will be live streamed,
recorded and available to watch anytime on our website:
www.fpctn.org.

To make sure we can safely social distance in the sanctuary, we ask that you let us know in advance that you plan to attend the 7:30 service. You may pre-register at <https://tinyurl.com/y2hcxd66> or use your phone to scan the adjacent QR code and click on the generated link.

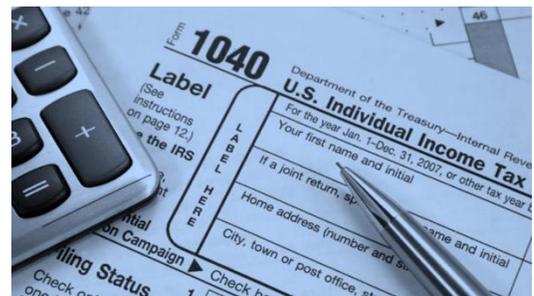


2020 Year-End Giving Reminders

To be counted as a 2020 contribution:

- Checks or cash must be received at FPC or mailed items postmarked **by 12/31/20**.
- Donations by credit card are deductible in the year the donor makes the charge (transaction posting date).
- ACH, EFT, stock transfers or other online donations are deductible in the year the bank transfers the stock or funds to FPC. Please make sure your online giving is initiated by Monday, Dec. 28th in time for the transaction to post on Thurs, Dec. 31, 2020. The donation confirmation page on our website will confirm the date your account is debited for online giving transactions.

Don't file your 2020 tax return before receiving your FPC 2020 year-end giving statement, so that you have IRS-compliant documentation of any gifts of cash or checks to FPC that are \$250 or more. Year-end donations statements will be mailed by Jan 30th, 2021. Also, the IRS reminds taxpayers who **don't** itemize deductions, you may take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made in 2020 to qualifying organizations. The law changed in this area due to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.



This Week at FPC!

Sun, Dec 20	9:00 (indoor) and 11:00 a.m. (outdoor) Sunday Worship		
Mon, Dec 21	1:00	p.m.	Boy Scout Flag Retirement/Parking Lot
	6:00	p.m.	Youth Group/Fellowship Hall
	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Zoom
	11:00	a.m.	Lectio Divina/Zoom
Thurs, Dec 24	5:00	p.m.	Christmas Eve Service /Outside
Fri, Dec 25	7:30	p.m.	Christmas Eve Service /Sanctuary
	****	****	Christmas Day /Church Office Closed



Sunday School at 10:05 a.m.

Class	Room	Topic
Youth and Pastor Matt's Class	Zoom/and Library	Join Mason Warren, Director of Family Ministries, for this unique Advent journey into the story of <i>The Nutcracker</i> . We will be exploring the book <i>The Gift of the Nutcracker</i> through the lens of faith and how the iconic tale can help us understand God's greatest gift of the Christ child and the kingdom Christ came to build.
Adult Bible Study Class	Room A	We use <i>The Present Word</i> . Our winter lesson book looks at God's call throughout the New Testament as a way to explore our own calls. The three units focus on Jesus' heritage (Matthew), Jesus' call (other Gospels), and faithful women (a mix of Gospels and Epistles). Within the overall theme, each lesson stands alone, and we'd love to have you join us any week you're able.
Monday Connection	Fellowship Hall	This class is studying <i>A New Reformation</i> , by author Rob Fuquay. This book will introduce you to the life of Martin Luther and two important themes of the Reformation he sparked: the centrality of Scripture and the power of God's grace.

