



~The Gathering~



Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Prelude

*From Heaven Above*  
Tami Newsom, organ

Held

Call to Worship

Listen! The Word of God resounds throughout the earth.

**O come, let us adore him!**

Regard the reflection of God's glory.

**O come, let us adore him!**

Behold the exact imprint of God's very being.

**O come, let us adore him!**

See the firstborn of creation and heir of all things.

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Come, let us worship our Lord.

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

Text: Medieval Latin, Trans. and para. John Mason Neale, 1853; alt. Music: German folk tune, 14<sup>th</sup> century. Harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953.  
The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press.

### Prayer of Confession

**God of wonder, your Word becomes flesh to share our life,  
yet we do not proclaim the marvel of your presence with us.  
We wield words of criticism and complaint  
and withhold words of truth or healing.  
Pardon our failure to be messengers of good news and peace.  
Give us words to point toward your Word  
that we might be witnesses to your good news  
and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

*(please continue in silent prayer)*

### Kyrie Eleison

### Lord, Have Mercy

### Picardy

Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have\_\_ mer - cy. Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ have\_\_  
mer - cy. Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have\_\_ mer - cy. \_\_\_\_\_

### Declaration of Forgiveness

### The Response #23

### Glory Be to God the Father

### Gloria

**Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to Christ the Son,  
Glory to the Holy Spirit, Ever Three and Ever One.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

### The Peace

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

## ~The Word~

Prayer for Illumination

**Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh—good news of great joy for all—so we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20  
The Word of the Lord.

Mikie Lancaster

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148, Tune: Regent Square (#22)

Michael Morgan

**Praise God in the highest heaven, sun and moon and stars in space;  
Sing, O angels, of God's goodness; tell, you ordered skies, God's grace.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Who but God your course can trace?**

**All the earth will shout God's praises, mountain peaks and ocean floor;  
Wind and fire and beast and forest, hill and desert, vale and shore.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Honor God whom you adore.**

**Rise, O child of God, in wonder at creation's majesty;  
Young and old, God's glory claiming, praise the Lord in unity.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Now and for eternity.**

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Second Scripture Reading: Luke 2:41-52  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

“Prodigy”

Rev. Matt Nieman

## ~The Response~

Affirmation of Faith – from the “Book of Common Worship”

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

Some children see Him lily white, the baby Jesus born that night.  
Some children see Him lily white, with tresses soft and fair.

Some children see him bronzed and brown, the Lord of Heaven to earth come down.  
Some children see Him bronzed and brown, with dark and heavy hair.

Some children see Him almond-eyed, this Savior whom we kneel beside.  
Some children see Him almond-eyed, with skin of yellow hue.

Some children see Him dark as they, sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray.  
Some children see Him dark as they, and, ah! they love Him, too!

The children in each different place will see the baby Jesus' face  
like theirs but bright with heavenly grace, and filled with holy light.

O lay aside each earthly thing and with thy heart as offering,  
come worship now the infant King. 'Twas love was born that night!

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 #29

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Go Tell It

**Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth. Refrain**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain**

Text: Stanzas, John W. Work II (1872-1925). Music: African-American spiritual, Arr. John W. Work III, 1940, Harm. and adapt. Melva Wilson Costen © 1989.  
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Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response #29

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

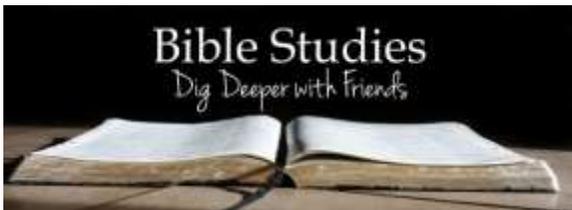
Go Tell It

**Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**



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://tinyurl.com/record-FPC-attendance> or
- email the office at [office@fpctn.org](mailto:office@fpctn.org)



On January 6, the **Thursday Evening Bible Study** will begin exploring the book of Esther. This well-loved story from just after the end of the Exile describes the origin of Purim, a Jewish holiday similar to Mardi Gras. One of the commentators described it as being “narrated with a ready eye for

farce, and appetite for slapstick, and a pervasive sense of the ridiculous.” We meet from 7-8pm via Zoom and welcome new participants. If you would like to join us, please contact Elizabeth Wilson or the church office.

## 2021 Year-End Giving Reminders

### **To be counted as a 2021 contribution:**

- Checks or cash must be received at FPC or mailed items postmarked **by 12/31/21**.
- 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 Tuesday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> in time for the transaction to post on Friday, Dec. 31, 2021. The donation confirmation page on our website will confirm the date your account is debited for online giving transactions.
- Don't file your 2021 tax return before receiving your FPC 2021 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 31st, 2022.



Also, the IRS reminds taxpayers who don't itemize deductions, they may take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made in 2021 to qualifying organizations (the maximum deduction is increased to \$600 for married individuals filing joint returns due to *The Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020*).



## PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

**(John 1:5)**

As night fell on December 10, a horrific line of powerful tornadoes ripped across several states, ending the lives of more than 100 people and wreaking devastation across many communities by the time morning had broken. One of these tornadoes was on the ground for a terrifying and unprecedented 250 miles, more than 200 of those miles in Kentucky alone, where the town of Mayfield saw the catastrophic destruction of much of the downtown area, including the Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist churches.

It is the season of Advent — a time of watchful expectation that begins with a warning of impending judgment, the end of days, and continues with a prayerful journeying toward the birth of the Christ Child at Christmas, an ordinary babe dependent on the love and care of others for his survival.

In the wake of these terrible and catastrophic storms, it is the role of ordinary people of faith like us to shine as light in this bleakest of winters. We are called to be the hands and feet of God as we reach out to shelter, feed, care for and help rebuild the lives of those who have lost loved ones, homes, work and a sense of safety as a result of the tornadoes. We are invited to stand with them — and to stand together — bearing witness by our gifts and prayers that God is indeed incarnate among us, no matter what.

**The needs for the response will be great. God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.**

### **GIVE. ACT. PRAY.**

**GIVE:** Gifts can be made online at [pcusa.org/DT21](http://pcusa.org/DT21) or [www.fpctn.org](http://www.fpctn.org) by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check sent to the church with tornado disaster relief written in the memo line. You can also text PDA to 41444 to donate.

### **ACT:**

- **Gift of the Heart Kits** are a hands-on way to help others this Advent season.
- To register your interest in future rebuilding efforts, email [PDA.CallCenter@pcusa.org](mailto:PDA.CallCenter@pcusa.org). You will be notified when volunteer opportunities are available.

Stay informed and like us on Facebook ([facebook.com/PDAcares](https://facebook.com/PDAcares)),

**PRAY:** As we awake to news of devastation and death from another natural disaster, we pray.

For those experiencing loss, confusion, and despair, may they feel comfort only your Holy Spirit can bring.

For the community leaders and emergency personnel, we pray for wisdom and strength as they work to restore and repair their communities.

May we heed your call, oh God, to be co-creators with you in the caring of creation, our communities, and your beloved children in their time of need. May the hope, peace and love of the Christ child comfort and keep us all.

## This Week at

|               |   |              |   |
|---------------|---|--------------|---|
| Sun, Dec 26   | 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship          |              |   |
| Mon, Dec 27   | 9:00<br>*****                               | a.m.<br>**** | KidZone/Room 1<br><b>Church Office Closed</b> |
| Thurs, Dec 30 | 12:00<br>*****                              | p.m.<br>**** | <b>Office closes at 12 Noon</b>               |
| Fri, Dec 31   | <b>Church Office Closed/Happy New Year!</b> |              |   |

### Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

| Class               | Room              | Topic  |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| Adult Bible Study   | Outside or Parlor | This class has changed to Lectionary-based lessons, so each week we look at the texts that the sermon and worship service are developed from. In good weather join us outside under the trees in the parking lot. In bad weather we will meet in the parlor.   |
| Monday Connection   | Zoom/and Room A   | This class is studying <i>In a Boat on the Middle of a Lake – Trusting the God Who Meets Us in Our Storm</i> by Patrick & Ruth Schwenk. The authors weave together lessons from their own experience to remind us that one of the greatest ways God transforms us is through trials.   |
| Pastor Matt's Class | Zoom/library      | Please join Pastor Matt's Bible study in the library on Sunday mornings at 10:00. Consult Pastor Matt's Saturday morning email for the Zoom credentials.   |
| Youth               | Room 1            | Join the Youth Sunday School as they DIVE IN to the Old Testament utilizing videos and discussion to explore a different book of the Old Testament each Sunday throughout the school year! For more information, contact Mason Warren, Dir. of Family Ministries, <a href="mailto:masonwarren@fpctn.org">masonwarren@fpctn.org</a> |



If you made a donation for **poinsettias**, be sure to contact the church about picking them up.



The **church office will be closed** on Monday, December 27 for Christmas holiday and at noon on Thursday, December 30 and all day Friday, December 31 for New Years.

Wishing you good health and happiness in the **NEW YEAR!**



## Farragut Presbyterian Church

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Phone: 865-966-9547 • Fax: 865-671-3910  
Website: [www.fpctn.org](http://www.fpctn.org)

### Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm; Friday 9am-1pm

*"Praising God, Serving Others, Growing in Faith"*