



This service is being recorded by video and audio means.

*We invite you to stand as able.

First Sunday After Christmas

~The Gathering~

PRELUDE

From Heaven Above
Tami Newsom, organ

Held

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GREETING

Rev. Matt Nieman

CALL TO WORSHIP

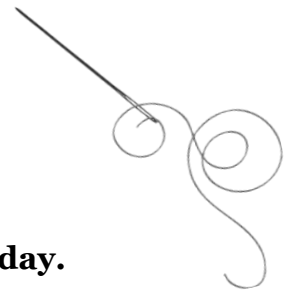
We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear—
God is in our joy.

God is in this room.

We have reason to celebrate.

We have a reason to sing.

Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.



*HYMN #28

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In dulci jubilo

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Joyful God, you told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must be like children.

Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy? Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight?

In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit, **this often seems easier said than done.**

Forgive us, patient God, for the moments when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.

Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy.

We know that even now you are sowing delight in our lives.

Open our hearts up to it. With gratitude we pray.

(please continue in silent prayer)

*KYRIE ELEISON

Conditor alme siderum



Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Your peo - ple's
ev - er - last - ing light, O Christ, Re - deem - er of
us all, We pray You hear us when we call.

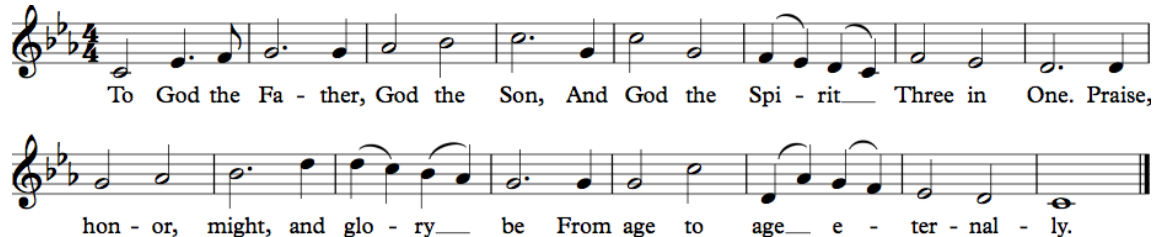
*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.

*GLORIA PATRI

Truro



To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the Spi - rit Three in One. Praise,
hon - or, might, and glo - ry be From age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

~The Word~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Cheyenne Feldhausen

God of angel choruses and contagious laughter, we know that you speak to us in the quiet. We know that when we bow our heads and fall to our knees, you are there, hovering close, calling our names. However, we also trust that when we throw our heads back in laughter, when we dance and clap with joy, when we skip and sing with gratitude, that even there, you are speaking. So, on this Sunday morning we pray: open our ears and hearts to hear what it is that you are saying. Meet us in this joy. Meet us in this delight. Meet us in the hope of this Christmas season and reveal the wisdom we need to hear today. With hearts full of gratitude we pray. We laugh. We listen. We pray. Amen.

LESSON ONE:

Listen for Joy: Luke 2:10 and Isaiah 9:2-3
*Sing with Joy: Hymn #31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
*Practice Joy: Passing of the Peace

LESSON TWO:

Listen for Joy: Matthew 2:9-10 and Psalm 148
*Sing with Joy: Hymn #23 *Angels We Have Heard on High*
Practice Joy: Laughter

LESSON THREE:

Listen for Joy: Psalm 126:1-3, Isaiah 55:12-13
*Sing with Joy: Special Music by Jacob and Joey Nieman
Practice Joy: Giving and Prayer

~The Sending~

*HYMN #29 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* Go Tell It

*BENEDICTION

*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!**

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Reader ~ Cheyanne Feldhausen

Audio ~ Ken Ladrach & Kat Wilson

Video ~ David Long, Mason Warren, Turner Neely, & Kat Wilson

Please use one of the methods below to record your attendance with us today:



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, or
- Sign the pew attendance pad.

SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS

If you can help in any of the submitted categories: usher, scripture reader, or communion server, please go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/FPCvolunteerSignUp> and sign up in the appropriate available time slot. If you have any questions, please contact Mikie Lancaster, Ken Ladrach, or the church office (865/966-9547).



2024 YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS:

To be counted as a 2024 contribution:

- Checks or cash must be received at FPC or mailed items postmarked by 12/31/24.
- 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 Friday, Dec. 27th in time for the transaction to post on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024. The donation confirmation page on our website will confirm the date your account is debited for online giving transactions.
- Don't file your 2024 tax return before receiving your FPC 2024 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, 2025.

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Kathy Emmerson, Marilyn Felts, Chuck Foriska, Frank Guess, Dixie Heflin,
Beth and Jimmy Loyless, Ann McAnally, Irma McGuffey, Maria Medina,
Tami Newsom, Irene Rice, Linda Scothorn, Les Shear



The theme for Advent this year has been **“WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING.”**

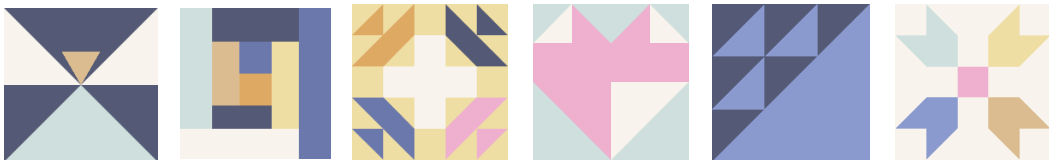
An Advent devotional on this theme (from *Sanctified Art*) can still be viewed at online.flippingbook.com/view/811735764/.

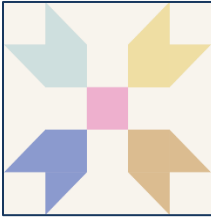
If you prefer a printed copy, please let the church office know, we still have a few copies available.

Holy & Unhindered

I am sure it is important to close your eyes, to pray on your knees, to fling yourself into deep reverence and even deeper humility. I am sure the Spirit is close when we dress up, when we sing the descant line, when we murmur the words with a sincere and hopeful heart. And I am sure that when you moonwalk through your living room in soft wool socks, when you cackle loudly enough for the whole restaurant to hear, when you squeal into the phone and make pancakes for dinner, when you plunge your hands into the dirt and talk to the sparrows, when you make a mess of Communion breadcrumbs all around the Table, or when you allow yourself an undone, unhindered, unpolished sort of joy—that the Spirit loves that just as well. The angel said, Do not be afraid; I am bringing you joy. We humans have spent a lot of time focusing on the fear. Don't forget: God is also in the joy.

Poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed





DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH

Don't Forget to Laugh

From a center point, tulip-like flowers stretch and bloom, referencing the Ralph Waldo Emerson quote, "The Earth laughs in flowers."

Let All Creation Dance

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 2:10, Matthew 2:10,
Isaiah 9:2-3, Psalm 148, Isaiah 55:12-13

This quilt square collage shows the ripple effect of joy dancing throughout all creation. In the nativity story, the birth of Christ is meant to bring universal joy and good news to all people, especially those like the shepherds who might be estranged, undervalued, or marginalized (Luke 2:10). Joy greets the Magi during their long and arduous journey; when the star stops, they know they are close (Matthew 2:10).

In addition to the Christmas story, this piece is also inspired by the rich poetry of praise found throughout many Hebrew scriptures. For those enduring exile, God brings exaltation that multiplies (Isaiah 9:2-3). The psalmist sings praise for the God of the mountains and hills as well as the highest heavens and starry skies (Psalm 148).

The prophet Isaiah casts a new vision of people returning home as the trees clap their hands and the mountains and hills sing shouts of praise (Isaiah 55:12-13).

For the focal point of this design, I chose an eight-pointed star, which is symbolic in many cultures and religious traditions. In Judeo-Christian traditions, the number eight symbolizes new beginnings, as seven is the number of completion. The eight points can also represent the four cardinal directions combined with the four elements: fire, air, water, and earth. For many, an eight-pointed star means harmony and balance. In this image, I wanted the landscape to feel refracted, perhaps like a prism, or even a broken mirror. The land rejoices despite forces that try to break it. The horizon expands into all directions. There is no east or west, north or south—the arms of creation reach into the cosmos. In between stars and moons, fruit trees bear their harvest and clap their hands.

In many ways, this piece is a song of praise as well as a song of resistance. Creation cannot be quieted. If praise is not on your lips this day, do not fear, for we can trust that all of creation is dancing on our behalf.

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

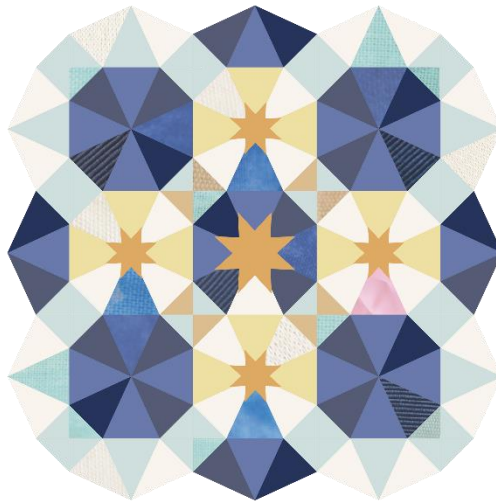


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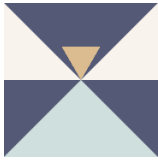
We, the staff of Farragut Presbyterian Church, would like to extend our sincerest thanks to our church family for your generosity towards our holiday bonuses this year. We, along with our families, truly appreciate you.

*Rev. Matt Nieman, Tami Newsom, Dr. Angela Batey, Mason Warren,
Dawn Zilles, Collin Greaser, Lori Corbett and Sandra Bohlken*

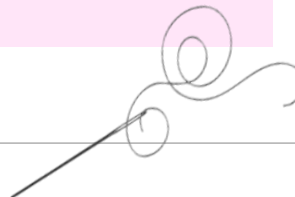


This Week at FPC

Sun Dec 29	10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service		
Tues, Dec 31	*****	*****	OFFICE CLOSSES at noon
Wed, Jan 01	*****	*****	OFFICE CLOSED/Happy New Year!
Thur, Jan 02	9:00	a.m.	Office open during normal operating hours



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!



Farragut Presbyterian Church

209 Jamestowne Blvd. ~ Farragut, TN 37934
865/966-9547 ~ www.fpctn.org



*"To praise God, welcome all, serve others, grow in faith,
be disciples of Jesus Christ and share the Good News."*

<http://tinyurl.com/FPCe-giving>