

This service is being recorded by video and audio means.

*We invite you to stand as able.



~ The Gathering ~

Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Prelude

Two Variations on O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Manz

Linda Stutzenberger, organ

Call to Worship

In the dark of morning,
the stars still shine.

In the depth of winter,
the birds still climb.

At the start of the year, tender and new,
God is here. God is near.

Do not rest in your fear.

God is here.

So like the stars and the birds,
Let us worship holy God.

*Hymn #423

Jesus Shall Reign

Duke Street

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Ever-loving God, we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy. However, we know that is not how the world works. Even just days after Christmas, we find ourselves face to face with fear once again. So today we pray—forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks. Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your call. Forgive us when fear is louder than love. Show us how to turn our fear into action. Show us how to live like the magi who searched for you in a fearful world. With hope we pray.

(please continue in silent prayer)

*Kyrie eleison

Blest are the people, Lord, who know your name. Walk-ing O Lord, in the light of your claim. Those who re - joice in the sound of your name, and who make your jus - tice their joy - ful ac - claim.

*Declaration of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

Angels' We Have Heard On High

Gloria

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

Bruce Wilson

God of the Stars, like the magi, we come to this place searching for you. So today, just like every day, we ask that you would remove any barricades that keep us from your Spirit. Clear out the distractions. Wipe away the doubt. Open up our hearts, and speak to us through these ancient words. And as you do, we will keep walking. As you do, we will move toward you. With hope we pray, amen.

First Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:3 ~ 14

[Pew Bible pg. 192]

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72: Hymn #205

All Hail to God's Anointed

Rockport

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1 ~ 12, 16 ~ 18

[Pew Bible pg. 2]

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

"Fear Doesn't Stop Us"

Rev. Matt Nieman

~ The Response ~

Affirmation of Faith

We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and *still* we believe. We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people. So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news. We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: *Unto us, love is born.* We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So *still*, we believe. Amen.

The Anthem

Do You Hear What I Hear?

N. Regney/arr. G Shayne

Brian Davison, baritone

Call for the Offering



You can use the QR code to give online or place your offering in the baskets located at the Sanctuary doors. Thank you for your gifts.

~ The Eucharist ~

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



(prayer continues)

Sanctus

Picardy

The musical notation is in treble clef, 2/3 time. The lyrics are:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

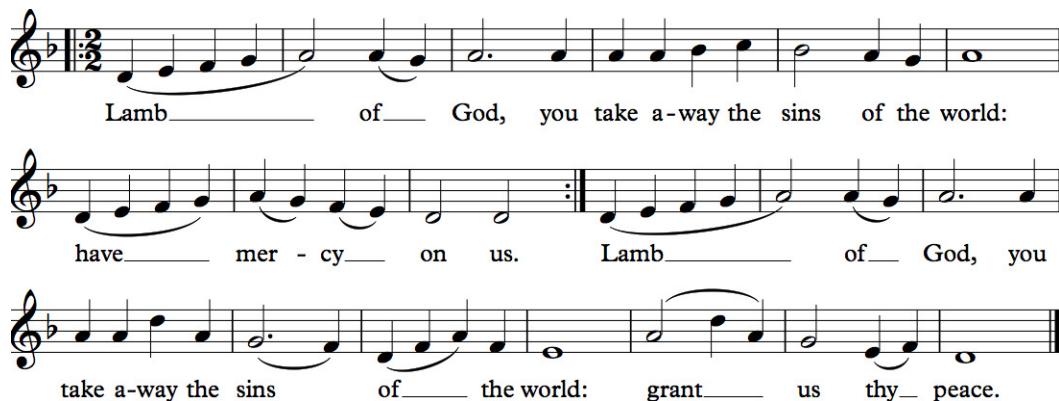
The Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

Agnus Dei

Picardy



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sins of the world: grant us thy peace.

The Communion of the People

The Prayer after Communion

~ The Sending ~

*Hymn #29

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

Go Tell It

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response #66

We Three Kings (refrain)

Three Kings of Orient

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

*Postlude

In Thee Is Gladness

Linda Stutzenberger, organ

Bach

Prayers and liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

A/V Team ~ Ken Ladrach, David Long, and Mason Warren

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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Resuming January 4

Join us Sundays for **KidsQuest** during the 9am Worship Service

Youth Group -Sundays at 5:30pm

January 11

Bridgepoint 345-- grades 3, 4 & 5 meet on the 2nd Sunday of every month for faith and fellowship

Small & Mighty

Once a month we join other youth groups from our Presbytery to form the Small & Mighty Youth Group. Our next gathering is **January 18 4-6:30pm** for Faith & Fellowship Night

Looking Ahead

Easter Egg Hunt on April 5,

Easter Sunday, at 10am (between worship services)



Vacation Bible School (VBS)

This summer we'll travel to the Wild West on the "Faith Frontier," Sundays at 9am beginning June 7



Camp John Knox

Sign up to go to camp with friends or be on staff this summer--see Mason Warren for more details



Montreat (June 13-20)

Montreat Youth Conference is a unique gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation.



ADULTS



SAVE THE DATE

"Lunch and Learn"

We're launching a new time of fellowship and learning on Thursday, January 15.

We're calling it "Lunch and Learn." We'll gather for lunch together at 11:30 at the church (in Room A or the narthex) and follow our meal and fellowship with a short study of some of the giants of our faith. St. Augustine, C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, and so many other famous scholars, pastors, and writers have so much to say about faith and God's place in the world. Matt Nieman and John Sharp will lead these brief discussions on these well-known figures and their ideas that have shaped our faith. We'll limit our time to around an hour to make room for the other activities of our day, but hope you'll be able to join other members of our community in a time of relationship-strengthening and learning. The meal will be catered, and the cost is only \$10 per person at the event.



You can sign up at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/FPCLunchandLearn> or, you can sign up in the narthex on Sunday mornings.

This Week at FPC

Sun, Jan 4

- 9am Casual Worship Service/Sanctuary
- 10am Soul Cafe/Narthex
- Pastor Matt's Class/Library
- KidStart/Room D
- YouthQuest/Youth Rm
- 11am Traditional Worship Service/Sanctuary
- 12pm Nibbles in the Narthex

Mon, Jan 5

- 10am Chair Yoga/Narthex
- 11am Library Reserved
- 1pm Outreach Committee/Library

Tues, Jan 6

- 12:15pm Big Fish Chapel/Sanctuary
- 6:30pm Early-Onset Dementia Caregivers/Parlor
- 7pm BS #444/FH, Room A, Narthex

Wed, Jan 7

- 12pm Parlor Reserved
- 12:15pm Big Fish Chapel/Sanctuary
- 6pm Casual Worship Music Rehearsal/Room A
- 6pm Worship & Music/Library
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir/Room A

Thurs, Jan 8

- 8am Men's Bible Study/Narthex
- 9am Property Committee/Library
- 6:30pm Cub Scouts/FH, Narthex, Rooms A & D

Fri, Jan 9

- 10am Chair Yoga/Narthex
- 7pm Gentle Yoga/Narthex

Sat, Jan 10

- 4pm Fellowship Hall Reserved



A LOOK BACK AT 2025



VMC

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE - THANK YOU

Thank you to all who served at the Volunteer Ministry Center throughout 2025! Pictured are our December volunteers from the Men's Bible Study.
L to R: Scott McKinney, Matt Nieman, Wayne Walls, Thom Haig, Kirk Morris

Sunset Gap

Delivery crew pictured from L to R:

Steve & Jan Darnell, Carol & Greg Kraft, Kathy Emmerson, Kimberly & Earl Platt, MaryAnne Walls, David & Debbie Long, Kelly Schueler

Thank you to all who joined in Presbyterian women's drive for warm hats, mittens, and scarves for the residents in the Sunset Gap community. Your generosity will be appreciated in the gift of warmth this winter.



A big thank you to all who participated in this year's Christmas drive for 40 children in Cocke Co. You have truly made a difference and will bring so much joy to them this year. This congregation's generosity is amazing! Thank you also to all of the volunteers who have helped in the drive, sorting/bagging and delivering to Sunset Gap. The gift of your time is truly appreciated.



Wrapping gifts for Santa Elves are Denise Griffin, Margo Gregory, Sharon Koch, co-founder Sarah Booher, Joanie Scheuer, Jeanie Oakley. A big thank you to our church family who gave contributions to support The Santa Elves gift giving to over 50 children from Holston Children's Home.

