

This service is being recorded by video and audio means.

*We invite you to stand as able.



- The Gathering -

Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Prelude

Sheep May Safely Graze

Bach

Lynn Kszos, flute; Tami Newsom, piano

Advent Candle Lighting and Call to Worship

Ella Sweetland

In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence of love?

We see love all around us. We see love when people hold open the door. We see love in a warm embrace, a homemade casserole, a phone call after a long day. We see love in random acts of kindness and intentional acts of empathy. We see love all around us.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, love is all around us. Today we light the candle of love as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, love is here. Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright. We only have to look for it.

(Candle is lit.)

Thanks be to God for a love like that! **Amen.**

*Hymn #31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelsohn

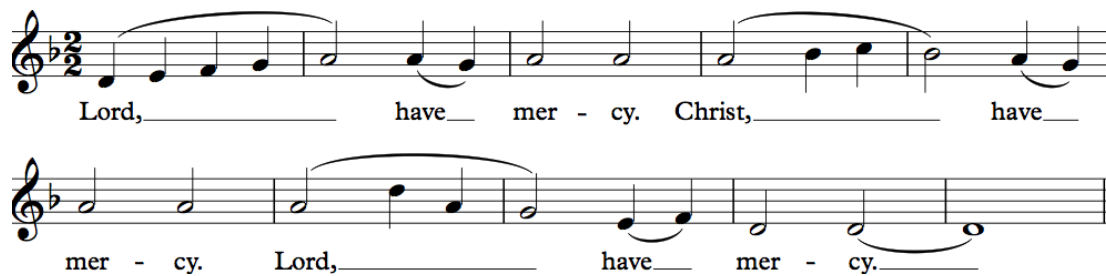
*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding "yes," we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone.

(please continue in silent prayer)

*Kyrie eleison



*Declaration of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.

*The Peace

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

- The Word -

Anthem

Veni Emmanuel

Purifoy

Lynn Kszos, flute; Tami Newsom, piano

Prayer for Illumination

Jeff Gary

Immanuel, we turned off alarm clocks. We poured cups of coffee. We slipped shoes onto our feet and combed back fly-away hairs. We traveled to this room and settled into this space, all in hopes of drawing closer to you. So as we hear your Word read aloud, help us to feel your presence in our midst. For we are reaching out our hands. We are reaching out our hearts. Speak to us now. With hope we pray, amen.

First Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18 ~ 25

[Pew Bible pg. 1]

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

Psalms 80 1-7, 17-19

Dr. Angela Batey, cantor

Guimont



O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help (R)

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R)

May your hand be on the one you have chosen, the
one you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again; give us life
that we may call upon your name. (R)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“When You’re Afraid, Give Me Your Hand”

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

Emmanuel, Expected Jesus

R.E. Schram

Chancel Choir

O come, O come, expected Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that is mourning in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us, let us find ourselves in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear Desire of every nation, hope of every longing heart.

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.

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 #22

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

*Benediction

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

*Postlude

Fum, Fum, Fum!

Tami Newsom, organ

Lind

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

Usher ~ Thom Haig

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.



Members

Bob Alexander, Pat Dail, Marilyn Felts, Dean & Lucy Fleming,
Frank Guess, Beth & Jimmy Loyless, Ann McAnally,
Debby McKinney, Maria Medina, Irma McGuffey,
Tami Newsom, Donna Phillips, Jan Seiler

Join us for a special time of Fellowship after worship.

Coffee, Lemonade, and Nibbles in the Narthex!



Farragut
Presbyterian
Church
LOVE AND LEARN

Pastor.....Rev. Matthew Nieman
Director of Spiritual Formation.....Rev. John Sharp
Director of Family Ministries.....Mason Warren
Director of Music.....Dr. Angela L. Batey
Associate Director of Music.....Tami Newsom
Music Leader for Casual Worship
and Office Administrator.....Sandra Porter Bohlken
Bookkeeper.....Lori Corbett
Treasurer.....John Begovich
Financial Secretary.....Tom Koch
Clerk of Session.....Lisa Gary

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



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

WEEK OF
DECEMBER 21. 2025

Our Advent and Christmas theme this year is provided by



*What do
you fear?*
INSISTING ON HOPE THIS ADVENT

A Sanctified Art

Join us Sundays as we travel through this
season of hope together.

You may also use the Advent devotional link.

Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Photography by
Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL

Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special
e-reader version of this year's Advent devotional, which
you can access on your computer and mobile devices:

online.flippingbook.com/view/361593675/

In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing
this link or posting it on social media.

If you prefer a printed copy, please let the church office
know, and we can print one for you.

Christmas Service of Worship and Remembrance

Christmas is often difficult for people grieving loss this time of year—loss of a loved one, loss of a
relationship, loss of employment, or even loss of good health. Join us for a special, quieter service of
Christmas joy on

Tuesday, December 23, at 4:00pm in Room A.

We will light candles, read scripture, and sing together—all the while seeking God's healing grace and the
assurance that God Incarnate is with us even as we grieve.

All are welcome.

Christmas Eve Services

Candlelight Casual Worship Service with Communion

Special Music beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Worship begins at 3:00 p.m.

Candlelight Traditional Worship Service with Communion

Begins at 7:00 p.m.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

One worship service next Sunday, December 28 at 10:00 a.m.

2025 Year-End Giving Reminders

1. To be counted as a 2025 contribution:

- Checks or cash must be received at FPC or mailed items postmarked by 12/31/25.
- 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. 26th in time for the transaction to post on Wed., Dec. 31, 2025. The donation confirmation page on our website will confirm the date your account is debited for online giving transactions.

2. Don't file your 2025 tax return before receiving your FPC 2025 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.

3. Year-end donation statements will be mailed and emailed by Jan 31st, 2026.

CHILDREN.YOUTH & FAMILIES

We would like to thank everyone who helped make this past Sunday's Advent Gift-Making Workshop such a success. From the families who joined us to the dedicated volunteers who made it all possible, your time and support truly made a difference.

A very special thank you to Cheyanne Feldhausen for her hard work organizing the event, and to Jeanie Oakley for serving as our volunteer coordinator this year. To all of our volunteers, thank you for being part of what has become a wonderful Advent tradition here at FPC. We are deeply grateful!



VMC

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.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

SAVE THE DATE

NEW CLASS IN THE NEW YEAR

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.

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, Dec 21

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, Dec 22

10am Chair Yoga/Narthex

Tues, Dec 23

4pm Christmas Service of
Worship & Remembrance/Room A

Wed, Dec 24

Office Closes at Noon
2:30pm Special Music before Worship/Sanctuary
3pm Casual Christmas Eve Worship/Sanctuary
7pm Traditional Christmas Eve Worship/Sanctuary

Thurs, Dec 25

OFFICE CLOSED

Fri, Dec 26

OFFICE CLOSED