

# Our Mission

**To Know Christ and To Make Him Known**

**Welcome** to today's worship service. We are delighted that you are here. If you are visiting, we invite you to join by profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, by reaffirmation of faith, or by transfer. Please speak to the pastor after the service.

## SERVING TODAY

Pastor	Joyce Perez
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	Ray Beale
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Brenna Takata
Greeter	Gail Jones
Side door/Offering	Brenna Takata

## BUDGET UPDATE

	October 1 - 31	YTD
Contributions	\$12,535.38	\$316,266.87
Expenditures	\$31,914.26	\$462,960.56
Difference	(-\$19,378.88)	(-\$146,693.69)

### List of Session members

**Class of 2024:** Kathy Dolianitis, Brenna Takata\*, Barbara Wilkins\*, David Swann

**Class of 2025:** David Clark, Sam Meadema\*, Eddie Blount\*, Jackie Rochford\*

**Class of 2026:** Barry Cutright, Gail Jones\*, Kim Wimer

\*Denotes Steering Committee Members

# First Presbyterian Church

December 8, 2024

11 a.m.



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[www.fpcdanville.com](http://www.fpcdanville.com)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

# A Service for the Worship of God

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

*2nd Sunday of Advent ~ December 8, 2024*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Veni, Veni, Emmanuel" by Eugene Englert

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Luke 1:76-79)

Leader: Zechariah sang to his newborn son:

**People: "You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way**

Leader: You will tell his people how to be saved through the forgiveness of their sins.

**People: Because of our God's deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us,**

Leader: to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death,

**People: to guide us on the path of peace."**

INVOCATION

**Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day, for we need you. We cannot save ourselves. Though we may be frantic with activity, our efforts do not yield peace, peace as you can give. Today we would be quiet enough to hear your voice. Today we would be still enough to feel your touch. Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give, wait as well as act, and listen as well as speak. Our whole world needs your peace. Let us come before you and learn your ways, laying down our weapons and feeding the hungry. Come to us now, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

HYMN# 149

All Hail to God's Anointed (Psalm 72)

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

December 10th	Handbells 5:00pm Ladies Dinner 6:00pm
December 11th	Youth Group 6:00pm
December 12th	Bible Study 10:30am Choir 4:30pm
December 14th	Saturday Lunch Ministry 11:30am Angel Tree Party 1:00pm

The congregation can choose Angels from the Angel tree. All gifts should be returned by December 8th. The Angel Tree Party will be Saturday Dec. 14th at 1:00pm.

Great News!! The treasured church Christmas Breakfast sponsored by the Outlook Class returns this year on December 15 at 9:15 AM in Overbey Hall! There will be delicious homemade breakfast casseroles, ham biscuits, sausage biscuits, fruit, donuts, coffee cakes, juices, and coffee for everyone to enjoy. If you are able to help, speak to a class member. Plan to come with your family to celebrate the coming of the Christ!

The JOY Offering is a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. These funds are distributed to two recipients, the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping future Christian leaders of color. Gifts of over one million dollars in 2023 were distributed to support needy retired Presbyterian church workers or their spouses for assisted living, in-home care, or long-term care. Your offering will bring JOY to both older Presbyterians and students who are in need of help. Joy envelopes are in the window sills and the back tables.

Andrew Peterson's Behold the Lamb of God is a concert that we will host Saturday December 21st at 2pm. Mercy Seat, Unity, Holbrook, Williamson will also be invited! Invite your friends to this wonderful event, which traces the Advent of Christ from the Exodus to the birth of Jesus. We'll have snacks to watch the concert.

“Come to the Manger, Emmanuel”

Based on ‘Away in a Manger’

Additional text and music by Patrick M. Liebergen (1949-2020)

Come to the manger, Emmanuel, come to the manger on earth to dwell,  
shepherds and wisemen await Your birth, now bring us Your peace to all the earth,  
come to the manger as child and king, O Lord, to You we sing.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus shall lay down His head.

The stars in the sky shall look down where He lay,

the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near us Lord Jesus, we praise Your name,

stay by us forever, Your name we proclaim;

a song from our hearts we sing on high,

the angels announce that Your birth is nigh.

Give glory to God with joyful voice, all gather together to sing and rejoice;  
prepare for the Savior so meek and mild, and follow the star to the holy child.

Come to the manger Emmanuel, come to the manger on earth to dwell;

Glory to God who reigns above, O holy child come in peace and love.

#### **About the Anthem:**

Dr. Patrick Liebergen, originally from Green Bay, Wisconsin, was a renowned choir director, arranger, and composer, as well as a music editor and Professor of Music at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He described his greatest accomplishment as conducting his own compositions at Carnegie Hall. He also performed his own works at St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican and at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. One of his compositions was also chosen for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir’s annual Christmas special. As I read about Dr. Liebergen’s life, I was struck by his appreciation for nature and his truly deep enjoyment of life. His sons remembered their father’s love for canoeing, boating, and photography. He spent as much time in nature as possible, and this undoubtedly influenced his hundreds of musical works.

As we contemplate the peace of Christ on this second Sunday of Advent, perhaps we can each make time for a few moments in nature. It can be difficult to spend time outdoors during the cold days of December. Even looking out of a window or smelling a Christmas tree can remind us of our connection with God’s creation. A wonderful devotional resource I use to feel God’s peace on earth is Tim Janis’s YouTube channel with nature videos set to carols and hymns. May the peace of Christ go with us as we enter another week of preparation for the coming of Christ.

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, baptism promises the washing away of our sin and the start of our new life in Christ. But we confess that we are still in love with our old ways. We sin against you and one another, in what we do and in what we fail to do. We excuse ourselves, and take comfort in what is familiar and pleases us rather than what serves you. Forgive us when we mistake such comfort for the peace you offer us in Christ Jesus, and prepare our hearts to embrace new ways of following him.

#### **SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news! Christ is our peace.

Through him we have forgiveness and new hope.

**He comes to break the power of sin and set us free again. Alleluia! Amen.**

#### **THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

**Leader:** Let us, the children of God, stand and greet those around us with a handshake, hug, or reconciling words, sharing God’s blessings and then remain standing for the “Gloria Patri”.

#### **RESPONSE**

*“Gloria Patri”*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.*

#### **CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

With gratitude for all God has given us, let us return our offerings to God, passing the plates along the aisle as we remember that it takes all of us together to make this church strong.

*The flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of James McCorkle Turner, Jr. (Jimbo) and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Edgar Turner, Jr. by Anne T. Geyer and James M. Turner and daughters Elizabeth, Jane Scott, and Peyton and their families.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we thank you for all our blessings, and offer these gifts back to your service, that this church might continue to shine your light into the world. Amen.

**OFFERTORY:** "There's a Song in the Air" K.P. Harrington  
arr. C. Berry

## DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;  
praise him above ye heavenly host. praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

### HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

**ANTHEM** "Come to the Manger, Emmanuel" by P.M. Leiberger  
Charlotte Garrett, flute

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jesus Christ, Word of God, dwell in us as we turn to these pages, holy ancient stories that proclaim your truth. In the Spirit, give us ears to hear and hearts to believe. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** (676/713) Malachi 3:1-4  
(830/872) Philippians 1:3-11  
(726/763) Luke 3:1-6

**SERMON** "Nothing Missing, Nothing Broken" Pastor Joyce Perez

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**HYMN#87** Comfort, Comfort Now My People

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## COMMUNION OF GOD'S CHILDREN

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## POSTLUDE

"People Look East"

Basque carol/J.W. Krug

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION