

# 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	Sam Meadema
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Becky Meadema
Greeter	Barry Cutright
Side door/Offering	C. B. Strange

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

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

**Class of 2027: Barbara Wilkins, Joan Reynolds, Pat Pinckney, Kent Shelton**

**\*Denotes Steering Committee Members**

**Trustees: Bob Newnam(27), Ray Beale(26), Gary Wimer(25)**

# First Presbyterian Church

January 5, 2025

11 a.m.



937 Main Street

Danville VA 24541

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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 Christmas ~ January 5, 2025*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE                      “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”                      J. S. Bach

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Jeremiah 31)

Leader: For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

**People: Proclaim, give praise, and say ‘Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.’**

Leader: See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

**People: Among them the blind, and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together.**

Leader: A great company, they shall return here

**People: With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back.**

INVOCATION

To You, O God, we lift up our souls. To You we offer our praise and prayer, our worship and thanksgiving, even our very lives. Make Your ways known to us.

Show us the path on which we should walk. Lead us in Your truth and teach us.

For You alone are the God who saves, the God in whom we trust; and the One on whom we wait. **Amen.**

HYMN#141

**On This Day Earth Shall Ring**

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Monday January 6th                      Day Circle meets 12:30pm

Wednesday January 8th                      Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00pm

Thursday January 2nd                      Bible Study 10:30am

Choir 4:30pm

Saturday January 4th                      Saturday Lunch Ministry 11:30am

Saturday January 11th                      Session Training 10:00am –12:00 with Session meeting immediately following lunch

Saturday Lunch Ministry 11:30am

Looking ahead, Session will have a training seminar Saturday January 11th starting at 10am. Dave Baker will be leading the session. January 19 we will have an installation service for our new officers.

CE Committee Monday January 13th at 4:00pm.

“See the Glowing Star!” (Song of the Wise Men)  
Traditional Puerto Rican carol | Arranged by Helen Kemp

On our camels, through the desert, these are gifts we bring—  
Gold and frankincense and myrrh to place before the King.

From a far-off land, three Wise Men come a-seeking,  
Guided by a star, a star so brightly beaming!  
Refrain: See the glowing star! It fills our hearts with gladness,  
What a wondrous light! It takes away all sadness.  
Gloria, hosanna! Lead us to the Christ Child!  
Gloria, hosanna! Lead us to God’s Son!

We have traveled far on camels, trudging slowly,  
Following the star to find the Baby holy.  
(Refrain repeats)

Let us kneel before him, bow in adoration—  
He will be the King of Love in ev’ry nation.  
See the glowing star! It fills our hearts with gladness.  
What a wondrous light! It takes away all sadness.  
Gloria, hosanna! We have found the Christ Child!  
Gloria, hosanna! We have found God’s Son!

On our camels, through the desert, we have found God’s Son.  
Thank you, God, for this Great Gift to each and ev’ry one!

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

Part of the second stanza of this carol had not been translated into English.  
I translated it below:

O brilliant star that announces the dawn,  
May we never overlook your beneficent light.  
Glory in the highest to the Son of God,  
Glory in the highest and love on earth.

I first learned this carol in Spanish and the Ladino dialect while teaching it to my elementary choir students seven years ago. I discovered this Puerto Rican version in our library; it perfectly captures the brilliance of the star that the Three Kings followed on their long journey to meet Jesus Christ. It also points to Christ as the Light of the World, the Dawn of Hope for all people. The journey of the Magi on their camels was much longer than the twelve days we have enjoyed since Christmas – some historians estimate fifteen months or close to two years! I wish each of you light and love on Epiphany and throughout this new year. May the light of the candles in the sanctuary always remind us of the Light of Christ shining into the darkness of a weary world.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-16)

**Redeem your world, O Lord. We lament the destruction caused by worldly rulers extending their power through force. We lament the ways that the tendrils of oppression have taken hold among your people, your creation. Redeem your people, O Lord. Too often, we fail to act in ways that reflect your love. Too often, we fail to speak your truth. When it is easier for us to do nothing, help us act. When it is easier for us to say nothing, give us words to speak. Turn us away from sin, liberate us from the grasp of oppression, and lead us towards new life in Christ. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (John 1:16)

The Gospel of John reminds us that “from Christ’s fullness, we have all received grace upon grace.” Hear this good news with joy: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and, in Him, all things are being made new. **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** (Ephesians 1:3-4)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.” We respond to the gifts that God has given us with gratitude and by using our gifts in service to God and neighbor. Giving thanks to God, let us collect our tithes and offerings.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We thank you for all of the spiritual and material gifts that you have given us, O Lord. We dedicate these gifts to you in gratitude and in hope for the day where all will be fed, all will be sheltered, and all will be safe. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**OFFERTORY:** "Camel Kneel Softly" D.N.Davenport/S. Hunt Paterson

## 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** "See the Glowing Star!" (*Song of the Wise Men*)  
Puerto Rican carol, arr. Helen Kemp

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (John 1:1-5)

In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things came into being through Him. As we read and reflect on your Scriptures, O Lord, we pray that your Spirit will move among us so that we might hear your Word, your light shining in the darkness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** (528/557) Isaiah 60:1-6  
(828/870) Ephesians 3:1-12  
(681/717) Matthew 2:1-12

**SERMON** "Shining Forth" Joyce Perez

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**HYMN#151** We Three Kings of Orient Are

## 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

"Let All Things Now Living"

Welsh melody,  
arr. C. Berry

## BENEDICTION