

Peaceful, Silent Night — By Ruth Elaine Schram (b. 1956)
Quoting “Silent Night” by Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)
and Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin Mother and child!
Holy infant so tender and mild, go to sleep in heavenly, heavenly
peace;
sleep in heavenly peace.

High in the silent sky, millions of stars go by,
shining down their silver light, making all world seem bright.
Far below the stars, in a stable there lies a child;
Promise of peace on earth in a baby so meek and mild.
Close your eyes now and rest, peaceful and sweet; sleep in peace.

Peaceful and sweet, sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly
peace.

About the Anthem:

Austrian priest and musician, Josephus Franciscus Mohr, was born to a single mother, embroiderer Anna Schoiberin and Franz Mohr, a mercenary soldier. During his childhood, Joseph Mohr attended Salzburg Cathedral, where the vicar Johann Hiernle enabled the boy’s music education. Joseph Mohr went on to serve as a singer and violinist at University Church and the Benedictine monastery church of St. Peter. He became a student at the Benedictine monastery of Kremsmunster, the Lyceum school, and then on to Catholic seminary. He penned the words to “Silent Night” in 1816 during a prolonged illness. Two years later, on Christmas Eve 1818, he walked from Salzburg to Arnsdorf to visit his friend, Franz Xaver Gruber, and shared with him the poem he had written. He needed a carol for Christmas Eve midnight Mass, and he hoped his friend Franz, a schoolteacher, choir director, and organist, could set his poem to music. Gruber composed the melody to Mohr’s “Stille Nacht” within a few hours. The song is considered a national treasure in Austria, and it may not be played there publicly before Christmas Eve.

Ruth Elaine Schram is an accomplished prolific composer with over two thousand published works. Over seventeen million copies of her songs have been sold, and her works appear on thirty albums (four of which have been Dove Award finalists). This beautiful arrangement sets “Silent Night” in 4/4 meter, rather than the traditional 3/4 meter. This gives the melody a more relaxed feeling. Her original melody (sung today as a solo) is low in range and very lyrical; it serves as a counter melody during the third section of the anthem. Schram’s work is very programmatic, intended to evoke an image of a quiet night, many stars, the Christ child in the manger, and a mood of total peace and tranquility. She accomplished that intention beautifully. I hope you all enjoy this arrangement as much as the choir has enjoyed singing it. We wish a very merry Christmas to everyone on this fourth day of Christmastide!

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad
Saturday January 3 Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

The Presbyterian Women’s Day Circle will meet on January 5th at 12:30 p.m. In the Westminster Room. We will continue our Series on First Peter “Sojourners and Exiles” by Sinclair B. Ferguson. All are welcome.
The Evening Circle will meet at the home of Kathleen Harris, January 5th at 7pm. All women are invited to attend for the bible study with Joyce Perez and fellowship with other members. For more information you may call Bernadine Hayes at 434-799-5662.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be closed December 29th—January 1st. The staff of First wishes the entire congregation of First a Happy New Year.

SERVING TODAY	
Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	David Clark
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Bernadine Hayes
Greeter	Gail Jones
Side door/Offering	Ava Barrett

List of Session members
Class of 2026: Ava Barrett, Barry Cutright, Gail Jones, Kim Wimer
Class of 2027: Harriet Beale, Pat Pinckney, Joan Reynolds
Class of 2028: Eddie Blount, Jr., Sam Meadema, Jackie Rockford, Alex Walthall
Trustees: Bob Newnam, Ray Beale, Gary Wimer

BUDGET UPDATE		
November	1-31	FY 2025
Contributions	\$24,218.23	\$385,178.72
Expenditures	\$24,272.72	\$382,959.03
Difference	(-\$54.49)	\$ 2,219.69

If you enter the hospital, your church will have no way of knowing unless you notify us. Please let us know of your hospital stay so that we may respond with pastoral care.

A Warm Welcome
We would love to have you join our church family. If you are moved to do so by the Lord, please talk to one of the elders or our pastor.

THE COLUMNS
OF THE
First Presbyterian Church
Danville, Virginia
December 28, 2025
1st Sunday after Christmas



Welcome
This church opens wide its doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Celebrating 198 Years of Knowing Christ
and Making Him Known

First Presbyterian Church
937 Main Street, Danville, VA 24541-1809—434-792-7822
E-Mail: admin@fpcdanville.com
Website: http://www.fpcdanville.com

A Service for the Worship of God

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad to them.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Mary, Did You Know?" Mark Lowry and Buddy Green |
Greg and Ashley Robey, soloists

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,
“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we
observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him
homage.”

**People: On this first Sunday of Christmas, we, too, have
come to worship Jesus the Messiah: the son of David, the son
of Abraham.**

Leader: When the wise men saw the child with Mary his
mother, they knelt down, paid him homage, and offered him
gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**People: On this first Sunday of Christmas, we offer ourselves
as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you, O God.**

Leader: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation
to all.

People: Glory to God in the highest heaven!

***HYMN#143** "Angel, from the Realms of Glory"

INVOCATION

Lord, we come to You today asking for strength and courage. As we
face the challenges of this life, we know that we cannot do it alone.
Please equip us with the strength to endure and the courage to stand
firm in our faith. May Your power be made perfect in our weakness.
Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Christmas, we would never have thought to find your Savior
in an innocent baby. We confess we would have expected a warrior
with a great army. We would not have thought to find your kingdom
to be one of service, obedience and humility. We confess we would
have expected, maybe even wanted, a kingdom that reflected our
own values and self-interests. Lord, forgive us when we quickly
leave Christmas behind and neglect to live lives worthy of our call-
ing as followers of our Lord, the Prince of Peace. By your Holy
Spirit, help us turn to you and live according to the values of your
kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The angel said to Joseph, “She will bear a son, and you are to name him
Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Indeed, he did and
still does. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are
forgiven.

SIGNS OF RECONCILIATION

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

Leader: Let us the children of God, having confessed our sins and been
reconciled to God, having been assured of God's graciousness and
mercy, stand and offer that same peace and reconciliation to our
brothers and sisters in Christ, forgiving each other and offering grace
and peace.

Please 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 (Hebrews 13:15-16)

The letter to the Hebrews calls us to a life of gratitude and generosity
with these words: “Through Jesus let us continually offer a sacrifice of
praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess his name. Do not
neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are
pleasing to God.” Let us present our tithes and offerings with glad and
generous hearts.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious and loving God, in this season of giving and receiving gifts,
we thank you for your indescribable gift of your only Son, our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ. With gratitude and joy, we bring our tithes and
offerings today. With your blessing, may they be multiplied and used
to share the good news and love of Jesus Christ. Thank you, God, for
your many blessings and your claim on our lives to share them with
others. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY "What Child Is This?" Traditional English carol,
arr. Vince Guaraldi | Greg Robey, string bass and Jack Garrett, drums

*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

ANTHEM "Peaceful, Silent Night" by Ruth Elaine Schram/
Quoting "Silent Night" by Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber |
Mack Williams, soloist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, the gospel writer John tells us, “In the beginning was
the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And
the Word became flesh and lived among us.” As we hear your Word
read and proclaimed today, may we hear and see the glory of Jesus
Christ and receive grace upon grace. Amen.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES:

(530/559) Isaiah 63:7-9
(846/889) Hebrews 2:10-18
(682/718) Matthew 2:13-23

SERMON “The God Who Goes With His People”
Jackson Weller

***HYMN#132** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

***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 "Go, Tell it on the Mountain" African American
spiritual/Mark Hayes, arr. Marvin Gaspard

*BENEDICTION

***Please stand if able.**

**Hymn lyrics projected on the screen can be found in the “Glory to
God” hymnal in the pew.*