WORSHIP

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of RICHARDSON

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | NOVEMBER 29, 2026

Responding to God's love and grace, we WORSHIP with joy, NURTURE with faith, and SERVE others with love.

At First Presbyterian Church of Richardson, we believe that God's love is for everyone—without exception. We welcome all people to worship, serve, and grow with us, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, marital status, or economic circumstance. We affirm the worth and dignity of every person as a beloved child of God, created in God's image. As a church rooted in God's grace, we seek to live with open hearts and open minds. We commit to being a safe and affirming space for all, especially those who have been hurt or excluded by the church in the past. In our worship, our leadership, our fellowship, and our service—we welcome you. We see you. We honor your full humanity. You are welcome here. You are not alone. You are loved.



© 2026 ILLUSTRATED MINISTRY. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. ILLUSTRATEDMINISTRY.COM

We Gather Around the Word

WELCOME — Rev. Alice Hernandez

OPENING VOLUNTARY — "Light in Darkness"
Kerensa Briggs
Terry Metzger, Organ

*CALL TO WORSHIP | *Responsively* — Mike Haun, Liturgist

Come, listen.
A thrill of hope is calling.
Come, rejoice.
A weary world is healing.
Come, watch.
A bright star is shining.
Come, worship.
The Messiah is coming.

*OPENING HYMN | #82 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING | *Responsively* — Randy and Barbara Phillips

In the midst of busyness, bustling, and buzzing, we pause to breathe and release our burdens.
We surround ourselves with candles, lights, greenery, and beauty.
May these sights and sounds remind us that we are people of faith,
guided by the light of the world.
Listen for words of hope on this First Sunday of Advent.

Brief pause for silence.

It is difficult to gather in this place without acknowledging the hurt all around us.
There are unjust systems and harmful powers in place that diminish life.
What can we do? Where is our hope?
Be alert. Pay attention. There are whispers of hope all around you:
in a meal delivered, a hand extended, forgiveness granted.
As we live between the already and the not yet,
we remember salvation doesn't happen when all is right in the world.
The Messiah draws near now,
breaking into the present through moments of compassion and flourishing.
In this season of holy waiting and wholly longing, we light the candle of hope.
Saying goodbye to the powers that harm and welcoming the coming of Christ.
May the hope of God-with-us thrill and inspire.

SUNG RESPONSE | *Unison*

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION | *Responsively*

Our hearts cry out for restoration.
Our spirits plead for illumination.
Let us come before God in confession and in trust.
Our salvation is near.
Before God and one another,

We confess our love for power and control
that separates us from one another and from you, O God.
We cling tightly to wealth because we fear vulnerability.
We insist on our own way because we fear change.
We reject love and salvation when they come to us from outside our comfort zone.
We follow our own paths instead of your own faithful leading.
Forgive us through your endless grace and guide us into your truth.
Lead us by the mercy of Jesus, who is our way and our life. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS | *Responsively*

From the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven,
so great is God's mercy for us.
You are forgiven,
and you are held by a love that will never pass away.
Receive this good news in the name of Christ.

Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI | #113 "Gloria in Excelsis Deo!"

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

TIME FOR TINY THEOLOGIANS — Pastor Sarah

Children of all ages are welcome to join us up front for a brief children's lesson. Children between the ages of 0-kindergarten are then welcome to go to the nursery following the lesson, or return to their seats.

ANTHEM — "For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth/
The People That Walked in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light"
Messiah, G.F. Handel
Max Bitner, Bass
Terry Metzger, Organ

We Proclaim the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING — Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 — NRSV OT Pg. 540-541
Mark 13:24-37 — NRSV NT Pg. 50-51

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word
Thanks be to God.

SERMON — Rev. Alice Hernandez

We Respond to the Word

*HYMN OF RESPONSE | #129 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

*AFFIRMATION OF HOPE | *Unison*

Clinging to God’s promises, let us affirm the hope that is in our hearts:
We believe in God who creates:
We believe God shows up in clouds, stars, and budding trees.
We believe God has named all things good.
We believe God’s grace appears in the wonders of nature—
life, growth, diversity, dependence, and decay.
We believe God is still creative and active among us and in our world.
We believe in a God who sustains:
We believe in the promise of Christ, for whom we wait.
We believe that good will prevail over evil.
We believe all will be healed and restored.
We believe in a future with hope.
We believe Christ is transforming the world, here and now.
We believe in a God of surprises:
We believe the Spirit is moving.
We believe we will witness the inbreaking of mercy and justice.
We believe in unexpected grace.
We believe we are called to keep awake.
We believe the Spirit works through us to renew the world.
In this season and always, we live with faith.
The thrill of hope persists.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *and* THE LORD’S PRAYER | *Unison*

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.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Advent Meditation"

Michael Larkin

The Sanctuary Choir, Amanda Hollis, Director

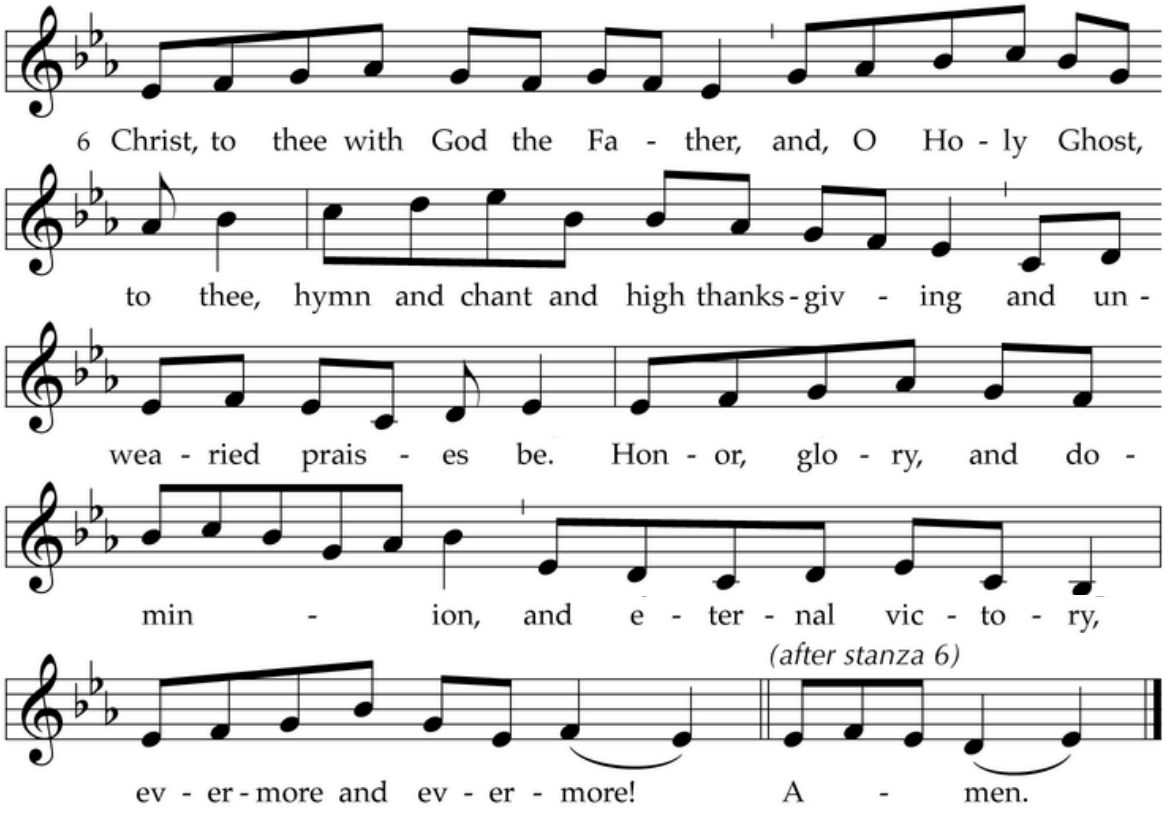
Terry Metzger, Organ

Come, o come, Emannuel
Ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emannuel shall come to thee, O Israel

Savior of the nations come
(come, thou Dayspring from on high)
Virgin's Son make here your home
(cheer us by thy drawing nigh)
Marvel now, O heaven and earth
that the Lord chose such a birth
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emannuel shall come to thee, O Israel

Wondrous birth! O wondrous child
(Come O come, Emmanuel)
of the virgin undefiled
(ransom captive Israel)
Mighty God and Mary's Son
eagar now his race to run
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emannuel shall come to thee, O Israel

*DOXOLOGY | #108 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" *(vs. 6)*



We Are Sent Out to Bear the Word in the World

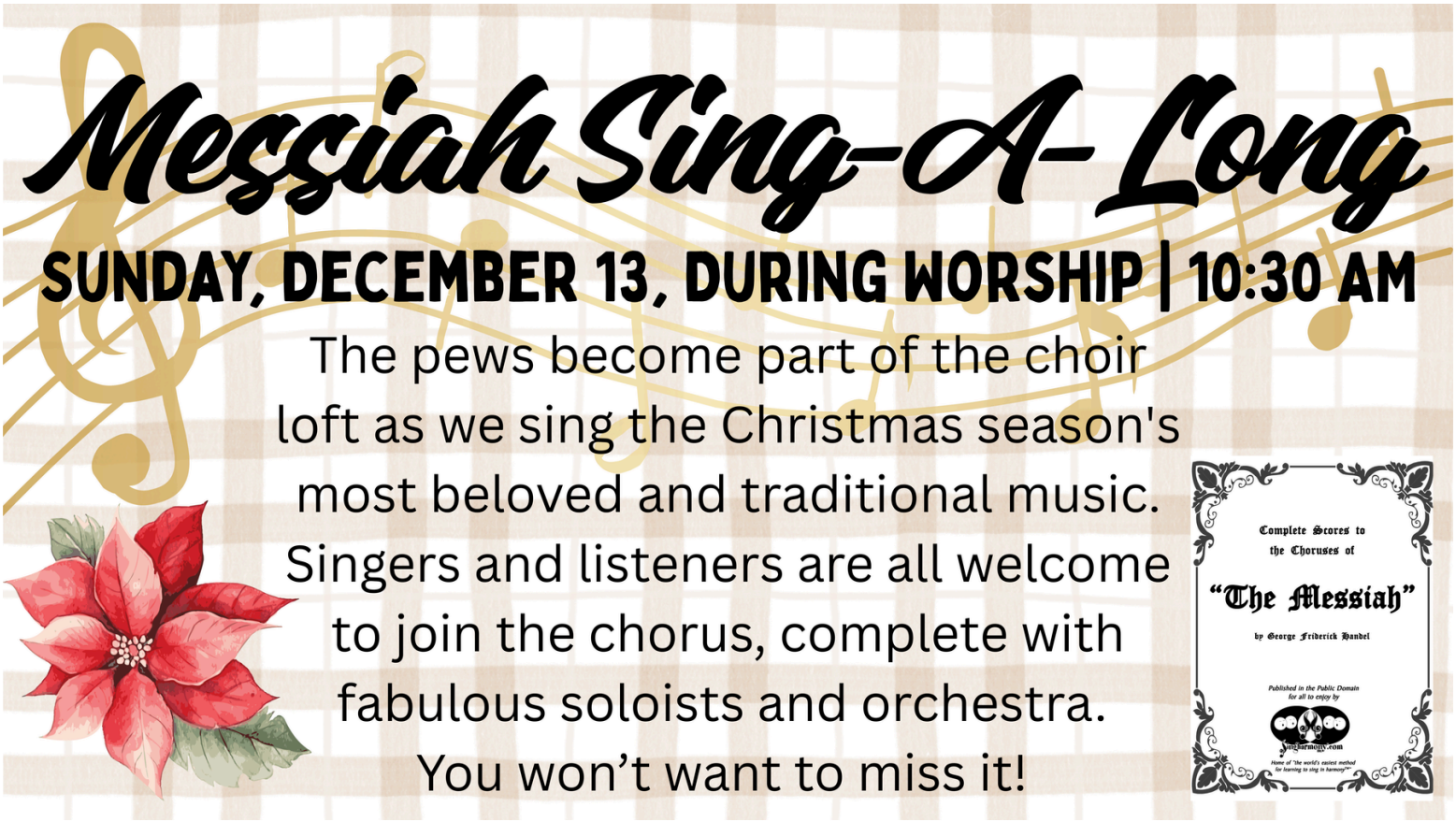
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING HYMN | #93 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “O Hail This Brightest Day of Days”
J.S. Bach
Terry Metzger, Organ

Today’s Liturgy is from Illustrated Ministry.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of RICHARDSON
established 1870

271 N. Walton St.
Richardson, TX 75081
972.235.2316
www.fpcrichardson.org

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Sunday, November 29
Coffee Class: 9 am, A111
Children's Sunday School: 9-10:15 am, CE Building
Elementary Sunday School: 9-10:15 am, Library
Nursery: 9-11:30 am, CE Building
Worship: 10:30 am, In-Person & Online

Monday, November 30
Book Discussion Group: 2-3 pm, Library

Tuesday, December 1
Prayer Group: 8 am, Phone
Tuesday Morning Bible Study: 10 am, Library
Pastor's Bible Study: 4 pm, Google Meet

Wednesday, December 2
Sometimers: 8-11 am
Women's Circle: 9:30 am-12 pm, Chapel
Women's Circle Christmas Luncheon: 12 pm, Fellowship Hall
Handbell Rehearsal: 5:45-7:15 pm
Choir Rehearsal: 7:30-9 pm

Thursday, December 3
Art Therapy: 10 am-12 pm, A110
Homebound Gift Bag Assembly: 1:30-3:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 5
Taiwanese Ministry Bible Study: 2-4 pm, Library

Sunday, December 6
Coffee Class: 9 am, A111
Children's Sunday School: 9-10:15 am, CE Building
Elementary Sunday School: 9-10:15 am, Library
Nursery: 9-11:30 am, CE Building
Worship: 10:30 am, In-Person & Online
Hannah Kim Piano Concert: 12:30 pm, Sanctuary

For the full events calendar that includes our Community Partners, please scan the QR code.

