

# WORSHIP



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH of  
RICHARDSON

## DECEMBER 28, 2025 | LESSONS & CAROLS

*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.*



*"Stay With Me" by T. Denise Anderson | Inspired by Matthew 2:13-15; 19-23*

# *We Gather Around the Word*

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

“Lullaby”

*E.A. Hovdesven*

Terry Metzger, Organ

*The melody for this carol is at least 700 years old!*

*The Latin text, 'Resonet in laudibus' is a celebration of the birth of Christ.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP | *Responsively*

Rick Rickman, Liturgist

**God is in our joy.**

God is in this room.

**We have reason to celebrate.**

We have a reason to sing.

**Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.**

\*OPENING HYMN | #110 “Love Has Come”

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

**God of Joy and God of New Beginnings,**

**We enter this turning of the year with hearts that hold many stories.**

**We welcome the joy You give, yet we confess that we often chase lesser joys—  
the comforts that fade, the worries we rehearse, the habits that narrow our vision.**

**You offer joy that restores our courage,**

**yet we sometimes choose fear, distraction, or hurry.**

**Create in us a renewed spirit.**

**Guide us into the year ahead with open hearts, steady hope,  
and a willingness to follow Your way of grace.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS | *Responsively*

The light shines, and the darkness does not overcome it.

The year ahead opens with grace, because God’s mercy opens every day.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI | #113 “Angels We have Heard on High” (*Refrain*)

*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

*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.*

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*



# *We Proclaim the Word*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LESSON ONE | Isaiah 41:5-10

NRSV OT Pg. 669

RESPONSE | #123 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

LESSON TWO | Psalm 148

NRSV OT Pgs. 582-583

RESPONSE | #143 “Angels From the Realms of Glory”

LESSON THREE | Hebrews 2:10-18

NRSV NT Pg. 219

RESPONSE | “God Rest Ye Merry People”

*God rest ye merry people, let nothing you dismay,  
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day  
to save us all from sin and death when we were gone astray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came  
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;  
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place,  
and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;  
this holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

LESSON FOUR | Matthew 2:13-23

NRSV NT Pg. 2

RESPONSE | “Let the Fires of Justice Grow” (*see back of bulletin*)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Alice Hernandez

# *We Respond to the Word*

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Mary's Little Boy Child”

*by Jester Hairston*

Peter Tiggelaar, Tenor

Terry Metzger, Piano

\*DOXOLOGY | #128 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!*

# *We Are Sent Out to Bear the Word in the World*

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

\*SENDING HYMN | #136 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

\*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Good King Wenceslas”

*James Pethel*

Terry Metzger, Organ



# WEEK AT A GLANCE:

**Sunday, December 28**

Coffee Class: 9 am, A111

Present Word: 9 am, A109

**Lessons & Carols: 10:30 am, In-Person & Online**

**Monday, December 29 (Office Closed)**

Book Discussion Group: 2 pm, Library

**Tuesday, December 30 (Office Closed)**

Prayer Group: 6:30 am, Phone

**Saturday, January 3**

Taiwanese Ministry Bible Study: 2-4 pm, Library

**Sunday, January 4 - Epiphany**

Coffee Class: 9 am, A111

Present Word: 9 am, A109

Children's Sunday School: 9-10:15 am, CE Building

Nursery: 9-11:30 am, CE Building

Worship: 10:30 am, In-Person & Online

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



# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*from the Staff of FPCR!*

**The church office will be CLOSED**  
**Wednesday, December 24 - Sunday, January 4**



# Discover FPCR Class

Meet with Pastor Alice and  
members of our Belonging Ministry  
Team and learn more about  
becoming a member of First  
Presbyterian Church of Richardson!

**Sunday, January 11**  
**9 AM / Library**

# Church Clean Up Day!

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31**  
**MORE DETAILS TO COME**

# BRUNCH

AND ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

*Save the Date!*

SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 1  
10:30 AM  
FELLOWSHIP  
HALL



# Let the Fires of Justice Grow

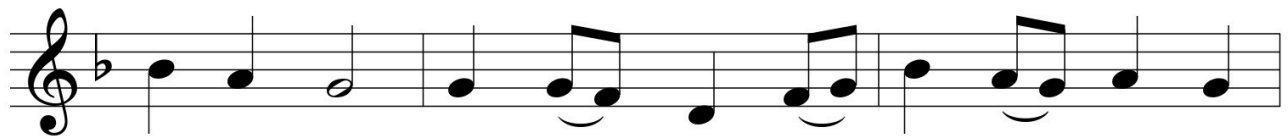
JEFFERSON 8.7.8.7 D

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Music from Tennessee Harmony, 1818



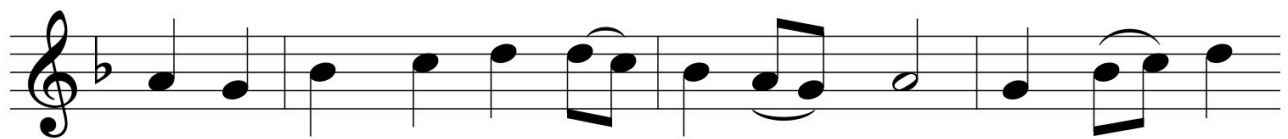
Fear is grow-ing all a - round us, plant - ed there by  
Bind the chaff and light the mat-ches, let the fires of  
A - ny - where God's chil-dren suf - fer, a - ny - where they



hu - man power Chok - ing out our li - ber - a - tion  
jus - tice grow Watch the flames con - sume our bon - dage,  
live in fear A - ny - where op - pres - sion deep - ens,



as King He - rod o'er us towers Yet the force of hu - man  
trans - form - ing our fear to hope May the fire that we ig -  
a - ny - where they sow in tears Let us shine the light of



em-pires can't take root in kin - dom ground We'll up - root  
ni - ted fuel us for the work a - head Free the cap -  
jus - tice, fueled by fear that had us bound Hand in hand,



the fear they plan - ted, li - ber - ate those whom they bound  
tive, heal the bro - ken, fol - low - ing where Christ has led  
pro - claim God's kin - dom 'til we top - ple ev - ery crown





First Sunday after Christmas | What do you fear?  
LET FEAR FUEL A FIRE FOR JUSTICE



## Stay With Me

by T. Denise Anderson

Inspired by Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

18"x24" Acrylic on canvas board

I used to think my mother was cheap. When we'd go on road trips, she'd spend the night before preparing food for the trip. I thought it was because she didn't want to spend money on fast food. She didn't. But her reasons had nothing to do with a drive-thru.

My mother was a Black child in the U.S. in the 1950s and 60s. When they went on road trips, they had to leave in the dead of night with everything they'd need for the trip. For Black folks, there was no casual stopping along the way. If you stopped at the "wrong" place, you might not make it home. Her elders taught her what they had to learn themselves, often the hard way. My mom grew up in the Steel Belt, but the family had moved there after leaving the Jim Crow South during the Great Migration for greener (and ostensibly safer) pastures. Her preparations were

vestiges of a circumspect upbringing designed to keep her safe.

I was well into adulthood when I realized my family had been refugees in their own country.

The story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt takes new significance as I consider not only the experiences of dear ones around the world, but also my own ancestors. My piece focuses on a parent's desperate grip of their child's hand as they escape a despot's fiery wrath, possibly in the dead of night. The colors subtly recall the Pan-African, Palestinian, and Sudanese flags. I remember those left behind, and the lower part of the composition depicts the anguish of mothers whose children were not spared. Rachel still weeps (Matthew 2:18).

Our fears aren't unfounded. Salvation may have arrived, but the world still isn't safe. How will we remember Rachel's children as we resist and rebuild? —REV. T. DENISE ANDERSON