



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us worship God.

CHIMES

PRELUDE.....*Deck Thyself, O Soul, with Gladness*.....Johannes Brahms

INTROIT*Of the Father's Love Begotten*.....DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
The Sanctuary Choir arr. John Erickson

Accompanied by The Jordan Street Ringers and Youth Bell Choir

O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – Gail and Joe McCulloch

Every year we light candles as we prepare for the coming of Christ. More and more candles,
more and more light, as we watch and wait for Jesus, the Light of the World, to come.

But why did he come?

Jesus came into this world so that we may have *joy*.

CANDLE RESPONSE.....*Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*.....Randy Edwards
(After the Youth Choir sings this chorus once, the congregation will join the second time.)

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love!
These are gifts you bring from above,

Jesus, Emmanuel, come to be
Light of your *joy*, reflected in me.

We light this candle to remind us of the *joy* of Christ. Joy that reaches the prisoner, heals the sick, and gives voice to the mute. Joy that is the good news of Jesus Christ.

Let us reflect the light of Joy.

†HYMN, No. 107*Awake! Awake! And Greet the New Morn*.....REJOICE, REJOICE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of joy and renewal, you promise that the wilderness will bloom and that sorrow will turn to song. But we confess that we struggle to believe it. We get caught in cycles of complaint and despair. We grow impatient, and we forget that you are still at work. Forgive us, Lord. Open our eyes to your quiet miracles - your healing, your mercy, your joy taking root around us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and renew in us the strength to share it. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

(Continue your personal prayer of confession in silence.)

RESPONSE, No. 90*Wait for the Lord*.....WAIT FOR THE LORD
(We will sing this twice.)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous! Thanks be to God!

†ACT OF PRAISE, No. 583*Glory to God*.....GLORIA (Taizé)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

Greet one another saying: **"The peace of Christ be with you."**

Respond by saying: **"And also with you."**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

A TIME WITH CHILDRENLynace Veit

Children: God be with you as you stay.

Congregation: God be with you as you go.

Children may exit at this time. Parents of children ages 3 years and younger may take their children to the CE building for Extended Session, Room CE 103. Children 4 years old through first grade may exit for Worship Center on the third floor, Room 322.

RESPONSE, No. 95.....*Prepare the Way of the Lord.....***PREPARE THE WAY**
(We will sing this twice.)

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING.....Isaiah 35:1-10
Pew Bible, page 623 | Large Print, page 811
Bibles are located in the racks beneath the pews.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING.....Matthew 11:2-11
Pew Bible, page 10 | Large Print, page 13
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON.....*Finding Faith in the Shadows.....*Rev. Brent Anderson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

†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.

†HYMN, No. 88.....*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.....***VENI EMMANUEL**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Response: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY.....*The Desert Shall Rejoice*.....STERLING
The Sanctuary Choir

The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:	The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:
It shall blossom abundantly	For the ground will become a pool
And rejoice with praise and singing.	And the dry land springs of water.
The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:	The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:
For the ears of the deaf shall hear	As the ransomed return to God
And the blind their eyes be opened.	And come singing back to Zion.
The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:	The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:
For the tongue of the mute shall sing	Unto Zion we come with joy,
And the lame will dance with gladness.	For our God has come to save us.

†**DOXOLOGY**.....TALLIS' CANON
(Sung to the tune of Hymn No. 675, *All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night*)

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

†**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME

†**HYMN, No. 79**.....*Light Dawns on a Weary World*.....TEMPLE OF PEACE

†**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

†**RESPONSE, No. 88**.....*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.....VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

†**POSTLUDE**.....*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*.....Paul Manz

† *Worshippers standing if able*

Liturgist: Simone Hennessee

Acolytes: Mac Buhler, Higgins Dickson

Worship Center: Melanie Rogers, Brantley Hodges

WORSHIP NOTES

WE WELCOME FRIENDS AND VISITORS. This church is for anyone who wants to be counted as a disciple of Jesus Christ, and who wants to be included in its worship and work. Thank you for signing your name and address on the attendance sheet.

WE WARMLY WELCOME CHILDREN as a vital part of our worshiping community! We understand that every family is different, and we strive to support each one in the way that fits them best. Children are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary during worship, and we offer worship bags and children's Bibles to help engage them in meaningful ways. Worship Center, a Montessori-based approach to worship, is available for 4-year-olds -1st graders following the Time with Children. Childcare is offered in the CE building when needed. In addition, a comfort room is located on the same floor as the sanctuary, equipped with a speaker so you can listen to the service while caring for your child.

PRAYER LIST - FOR HEALING, PEACE, AND COMFORT:

Martha Fitch, Joy Young, Zama Dexter, Jean and Jerry Sayres, Jean Mendenhall,
Leigh Taylor, Erika Asseff, Stephen Roberts, Josh Kilpatrick, Susie Nunnally,
Ken Copeland, Lorna Rodman, Michael Avery, Vernon Chance, Claudia Engi, Jan Melton
Please keep the church staff updated on those who are listed.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING:

Mary Blackman and family, family of Marilyn Gallagher, Mary Anne Selber,
Anne Jenkins and family, Peggy Guilbert and family, Marilyn Madison and family, Glenn Jackson,
family of Jean Carroll, Amy Bowman and family, Susan Lavergne and family, Brian Carberry and family,
Mary Bush and family, Mary Jane Lowder and family, Bob Neff and family, Pam Naifeh and family

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SERVING:

Ryan Markham, U.S. Navy; Jennifer Markham, U.S. Navy; Reed Markham, U.S. Army; Evan Akers,
U.S. Army; Josh Freidel, U.S. Navy; Evan Richey

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP:

Rev. Brent Anderson.....Transitional Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Lynace Pabst Veit.....Pastor for Children and Family Ministries
Dr. Hollice S. Watson.....Organist/Choir Director
Dakota Dunn.....Youth Director
Ginger Garfield.....Church Administrator
Kathy Booth.....Director of First Presbyterian Day School
Susan W. Abney.....Communications Director
Jan Melton.....Church Librarian
Tanna McAteer.....Church Secretary
Lona L. Lockard.....Staff Secretary
Jeff A. McKenzie.....Sexton/Maintenance Coordinator
Sheri Rowell.....Kitchen Coordinator
Jacob Dickson.....Pastoral Care Coordinator

SESSION MINISTRY MODERATORS:

Calvin Head.....Administration
Gene Hodgson.....Church Facilities
Simone Hennessee.....Stewardship
Karen Day.....Congregational Life
Anne Jenkins.....Welcome Ministry
Piper Moritz.....Adult Ministries
Brett McCulloch.....Youth Ministry
April Carberry.....Children's Ministries
Brandy Williams.....Worship Ministry
Amy Bowman.....Outreach Ministry
Robin Jones.....Clerk of Session

DEACON, PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN & STOER MODERATORS:

Mary Bush-Board of Deacons; Ann Morell-Presbyterian Women; Liz LaBorde-Stoer Committee

IN OUR OUTREACH CENTER:

Volunteers for Youth Justice/CASA - Kelli Todd, Director
Youth Outreach Services – Jewell House

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SECURITY OFFICERS:

Corp. Srederick Matthews 230-3628
Ofc. Troy Jackson 453-3908

WEEKLY LINK – WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2025
THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Current Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, December 14

9:15 a.m. – Children's Choir – CE Building

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:45 a.m. – Sunday Worship Service – In-Person - Sanctuary and also Live Streamed on the Website:
<https://www.fpcshreveport.org> and First Presbyterian Facebook Page

4:00 p.m. – Youth Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

4:30 p.m. – Youth Bells – Bell Room

5:00 p.m. – Christmas Pageant – Sanctuary, followed by Potluck Dinner in the Gym

6:00 p.m. – Youth Christmas Party – 4th Floor Youth Area

MONDAY, December 15

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – FPDS

12:00 p.m. – AA

TUESDAY, December 16

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – FPDS

12:10 p.m. – Noonday Noel #3 – Chapel

12:40 p.m. – Noonday Noel Lunch – Gym

5:30 p.m. – PNC Meeting – Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, December 17

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – FPDS

6:00 p.m. – Session Meeting – Session Room

THURSDAY, December 18

6:15 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

FRIDAY, December 19

10:00 a.m. – Tower Art

12:00 p.m. – AA

SUNDAY, December 21

9:15 a.m. – Children's Choir – CE Building

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:45 a.m. – Sunday Worship Service – In-Person – Sanctuary and also Live Streamed on the Website:
<https://www.fpcshreveport.org> and First Presbyterian Facebook Page

5:00 p.m. – Club 345 Christmas Party - Gym

5:00 p.m. – Youth Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

5:30 p.m. – Youth Bells – Bell Room

6:00 p.m. – Youth Group – Fourth Floor Youth Area

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christmas Pageant!
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
5:00PM · SANCTUARY

POTLUCK DINNER AFTER
THE PAGEANT IN THE GYM
BRING YOUR FAVORITE
BREAKFAST ITEM TO SHARE!



CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU NEED A RIDE

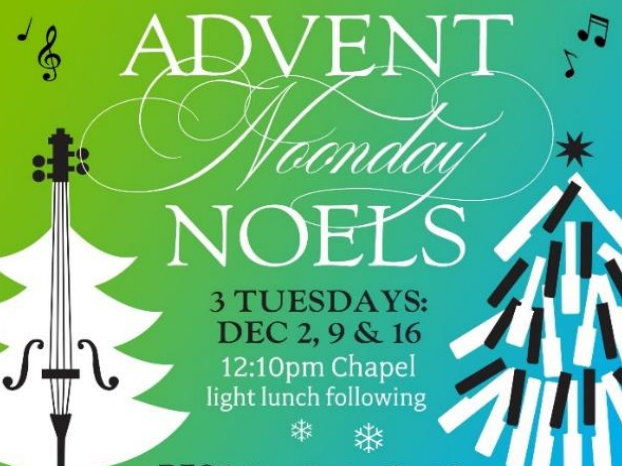
SMALL SEEDS
MOVE MOUNTAINS



SCAN CODE TO
PLEDGE ONLINE

PARABLE OF THE
MUSTARD SEED
Truly I tell you, if you have faith
as small as a mustard seed,
you can say to this mountain, 'Move'
COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS ON
NOVEMBER 16, 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS:



ADVENT
Noonday
NOELS

3 TUESDAYS:
DEC 2, 9 & 16
12:10pm Chapel
light lunch following

DEC 2 * Jennifer Carsillo, violin
and Gay Grosz, piano
DEC 9 * Aaron Wilson, organ | DEC 16 * Megan Koch, soprano

Christmas Eve Gathering

FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS
& YOUNG ADULTS

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE PW SUITE
ON DECEMBER 24TH AT 4:30PM
BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS EVE
WORSHIP SERVICE



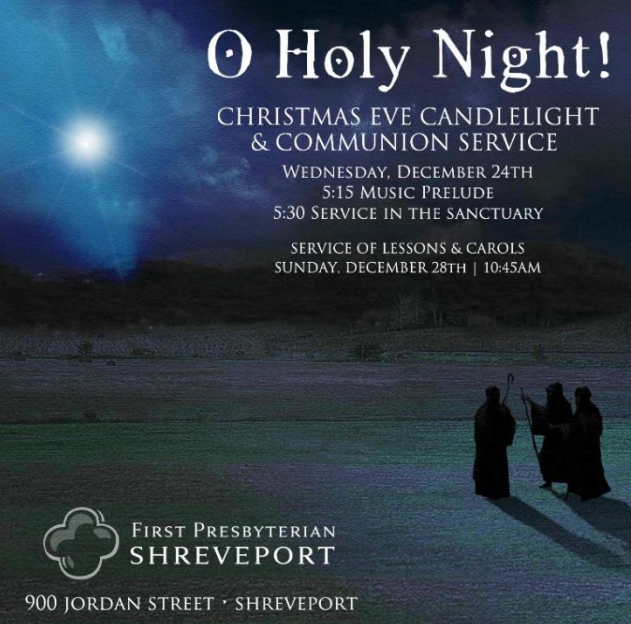
VISIT WITH OLD FRIENDS, HAVE A SNACK, AND WE WILL ALL
REVIEW THE COMMUNION PROCEDURES FOR THE SERVICE

○ Holy Night!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT
& COMMUNION SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
5:15 MUSIC PRELUDE
5:30 SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH | 10:45AM



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
SHREVEPORT

900 JORDAN STREET · SHREVEPORT

