



## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### CHIMES

**PRELUDE**.....*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*.....Paul Manz

**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, ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts, his praises sing.  
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore!

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – Barbara and Kim Mitchell

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 *love*.

**CANDLE RESPONSE**.....*Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*.....Randy Edwards  
(After the Children's and Youth Choirs sing 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 *love*, reflected in me.

We light this candle to remind us of the *love* of Christ. Love that was foretold by the prophets and conceived by the Virgin Mary. Love that is Immanuel, God with us.

**Let us reflect the light of Love.**

†HYMN, No. 100.....*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*.....STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of steadfast love, you promise to be with us, but we often live as if you are far away. You ask for our trust, but we cling to fear. You call us to love others, but we hold back – afraid of being hurt or inconvenienced. Forgive us, Lord. Soften our hearts and open our hands. Let your love take root in us so that it may grow and bear fruit in our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus, your perfect gift of love. 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 CHILDREN.....Lynace 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 7:10-16  
Pew Bible, page 598 | Large Print, page 779  
*Bibles are located in the racks beneath the pews.*

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**.....Matthew 1:18-25  
Pew Bible, page 1 | Large Print, page 1  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**.....*Receiving the God Who Comes*.....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.**

<b>†HYMN, No. 88</b> ..... <i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> ..... <b>VENI EMMANUEL</b>	
<b>O come, O come, Emmanuel,</b>	<b>O come, thou Key of David, come,</b>
<b>And ransom captive Israel,</b>	<b>And open wide our heavenly home;</b>
<b>That mourns in lonely exile here</b>	<b>Make safe the way that leads on high,</b>
<b>Until the Son of God appear.</b>	<b>And close the path to misery.</b>
<b>Rejoice! Rejoice!</b>	<b>Rejoice! Rejoice!</b>
<b>Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</b>	<b>Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.</b>

**MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP**

Moment for Mission.....Kelly Hodgson

## 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**.....*Unexpected and Mysterious*.....Calvin Hampton  
The Sanctuary Choir

Unexpected and mysterious	Then she learned of God's compassion,
Is the gentle word of grace.	Of Elizabeth's great joy,
Ever-loving and sustaining	And she ran to greet the woman
Is the peace of God's embrace.	Who would recognize her boy.
If we falter in our courage	We are called to ponder mystery
And we doubt what we have known,	And await the coming Christ,
God is faithful to console us	To embody God's compassion
As a mother tends her own.	For each fragile human life.
In a momentary meeting	God is with us in our longing
Of eternity and time,	To bring healing to the earth,
Mary learned that she would carry	While we watch with joy and wonder
Both the mortal and divine.	For the promised Savior's birth.

†**DOXOLOGY, No. 606**.....OLD HUNDREDTH

**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. Amen.**

†**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME

†**HYMN, No. 110**.....*Love Has Come*.....BRING A TORCH

†**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

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

†**POSTLUDE**.....*Tell Out, My Soul*.....Paul Manz

† *Worshipers standing if able*

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Liturgist: Owen Buhler

Acolytes: Caroline and David Guy

Worship Center: Lynace Veit, Barbara Meyers

## **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 -1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**WE EXPRESS SINCERE SYMPATHY** to Brian and April Carberry in the death of his father, James A. Carberry, who died on Friday, December 12, 2025 and we rejoice with him in the assurance of resurrection.

### **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 21, 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 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 – Choir Room

5:30 p.m. – Youth Bells – Bell Room

6:00 p.m. – Youth Group – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Youth Area

**MONDAY, December 22**

12:00 p.m. – AA

**TUESDAY, December 23**

9:30 a.m. – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

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

**WEDNESDAY, December 24**

4:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Gathering for College and Young Adults – PW Suite

5:15 p.m. – Musical Prelude

5:30 p.m. – Candlelight and Communion Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary

**THURSDAY, December 25**

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**FRIDAY, December 26**

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**SUNDAY, December 28**

**No Sunday School**

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

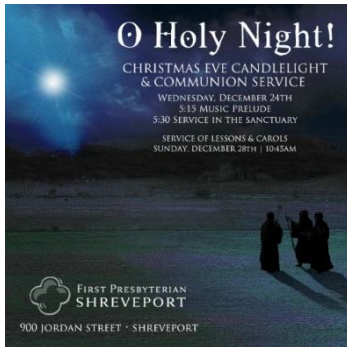


## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS



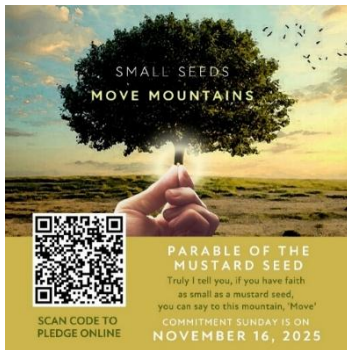
### *Christmas Eve Gathering* For our College Students & Young Adults

Please join us in the PW Suite on  
**December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm**  
before the Christmas Eve worship service.



### *O Holy Night!* Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
5:15pm Music Prelude  
5:30pm Service in the Sanctuary



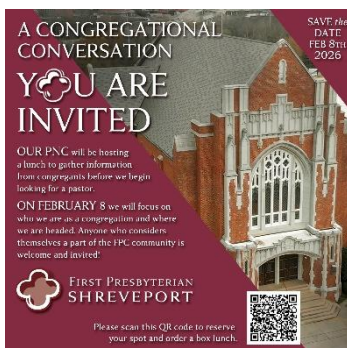
### *Small Seeds* *Move Mountains* It's not too late to turn in your pledge for 2026.

Scan the QR code to the left or visit our website at  
[www.fpcshreveport.com](http://www.fpcshreveport.com).



### *Legacy Luncheon* Please Save the Date

**Sunday, February 1, 2026**  
after worship in the Gymnasium



### *A Congregational Conversation* A PNC hosted lunch and conversation

**Sunday, February 8, 2026**  
after worship for everyone who considers themselves  
a part of the FPC Community