



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us worship God.

CHIMES

PRELUDE.....*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*.....Egil Hovland

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

By his Word was all created; he commanded; it was done:

Heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one,

All that sees the moon's soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun,

Evermore and evermore!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – The Kacos Family

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 *peace*.

CANDLE RESPONSE.....*Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*.....Randy Edwards

(After the Children's 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 *peace*, reflected in me.

We light this candle to remind us of the *peace* of Christ. Peace that brings the wolf and the lamb together, the leopard to lie down with the goat. Peace that stems from the stump of Jesse and bears the fruit of wisdom and understanding.

Let us reflect the light of Peace.

†HYMN, No. 87*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*.....GENEVAN 42

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of peace and promise, you call us to prepare the way for your coming, but we confess that we make little room in our hearts. We are quick to speak and slow to listen. We let anger divide us, and pride keeps us from seeking reconciliation. Forgive us, Lord. Calm the storms within us, and plant again the seeds of your peace. Help us to live as people shaped by your Spirit—gentle, patient, and full of compassion. We pray in the name of the One who is our peace, Jesus Christ. 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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

William Jefferson Cain, son of Emmie and Adam Cain
Child of the Church: Elizabeth Kacos
Elder: April Carberry
Presentation

†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.

Prayer
Baptism
Welcome

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. 547*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*AR HYD Y NOS
Accompanied by The Jordan Street Ringers

**"Go, my children, with my blessing,
Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
You are my own.**

**In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing,
You are my own."**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READINGIsaiah 11:1-10

Pew Bible, page 603 | Large Print, page 784
Bibles are located in the racks beneath the pews.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READINGMatthew 3:1-12

Pew Bible, page 2 | Large Print, page 3
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON*Turning Toward the Light*Rev. Brent Anderson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

†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, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY.....*Dance and Sing, for the Lord Will Be With Us*.....

Ancient Hebrew folk melody

The Sanctuary and Youth Choirs

arr. Hal H. Hopson

Dance and sing, for the Lord will be with us.
Glory, hallelujah.
Peace and justice soon will be with us.
Glory, hallelujah.
Clap your hands and sing: glory, hallelujah.
Joyful voices ring. Glory, hallelujah.
Soon a Son will come through Jesse.
His delight shall be the Lord.
He shall reign with truth and justice.

Come, O Savior, come.
Wolf and lamb shall rest together;
Calf and lion shall join as friends.
Peace shall come to all the nations.
Come, O Savior, come.
Dance and sing, for the Lord will be with us.
Glory, hallelujah.
Peace and justice soon will be with us.
Glory, hallelujah.

†DOXOLOGY, No. 608.....PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

... we join our voices with all creation, saying:

Man. I

Man. II

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are

full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is

he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,

Christ will come a - gain.

...all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

*A - men, a -

men, a - men.

The Lord's 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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME

†HYMN, No. 82.....*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*.....HYFRYDOL

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

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

†POSTLUDE.....*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.....John Leavitt

The session has called for a **Congregational Meeting immediately following worship for the purpose of electing church officers. The slate of officers is listed below.

† *Worshippers standing if able*

Liturgist: Mary Teekell

Worship Center: Kristen Ogden, Melanie Rogers

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 worshipping 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.

THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR CLASS OF 2028

Ruling Elders: Deb Baragona, Casey Cipoletti, Brantley Hodges, George Fritze, Kim Mitchell, Mark Williamson, Hannah Lawrence, Paul Martin, James Moritz – Youth Elder;

Deacons: Peggy Guilbert, Alan Ogden, Peter Watson, Michael Williams, Theresa Dyer, Madge Davis, Kristi Shacklette, Craig Shacklette;

Trustees: Sarah Kirkpatrick, Brian Carberry, Rick Laborde

WEEKLY LINK – WEEK OF DECEMBER 7, 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 7

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. – Youth Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

5:30 p.m. – Youth Bells – Bell Room

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

MONDAY, December 8

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – FPDS

10:30 a.m. – Circle 7 – PW Suite

12:00 p.m. – AA

12:00 p.m. – Circle 5 – PW Suite

5:15 p.m. – Worship Ministry – Conference Room

TUESDAY, December 9

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – FPDS

12:10 p.m. – Noonday Noel #2 – Chapel

12:40 p.m. – Noonday Noel Lunch – Gym

1:15 p.m. – Welcome Ministry – Conference Room

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

WEDNESDAY, December 10

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – FPDS

1:00 p.m. – Caregivers Meeting – PW Suite

THURSDAY, December 11

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – FPDS

5:15 p.m. – Highland Blessing Dinner

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

FRIDAY, December 12

10:00 a.m. – Tower Art

12:00 p.m. – AA

6:00 p.m. – Pathfinders Christmas Party – Claudia and David Oliver's Home

SATURDAY, December 13

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Highland Christmas Shoppe – Highland Center

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

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS



**DEC 13TH
9AM-NOON**

HIGHLAND

CHRISTMAS SHOPPE

A CHRISTMAS OUTREACH MINISTRY IN THE HIGHLAND NEIGHBORHOOD

SIGN UP as a VOLUNTEER!
SHIFTS AVAILABLE BEFORE & ON DEC 13TH
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0845A5AF2FA64-60115429-copy/77383993#/>

**SHOP for DONATIONS on the
AMAZON WISH LIST!**
GIFTS SHOULD BE NEW, \$25 OR LESS & UNWRAPPED
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/lz/JFTUsVWMEVWo?ref_=wl_share



SMALL SEEDS
MOVE MOUNTAINS

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

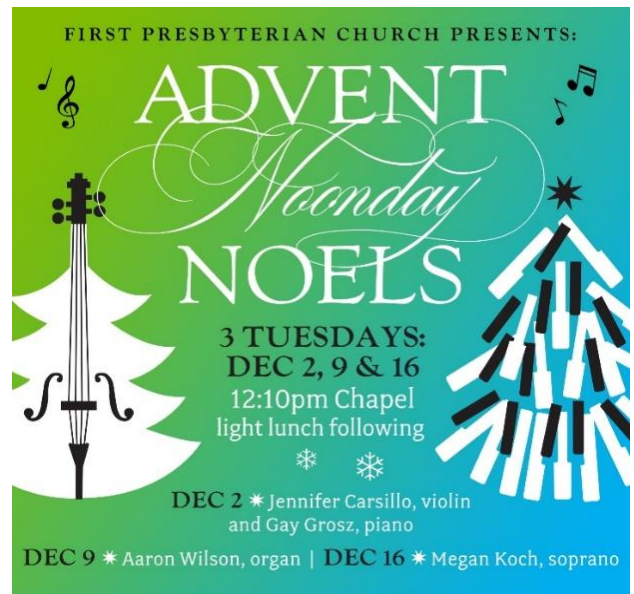
SCAN CODE TO
PLEDGE ONLINE



Advent Poinsettias

Congregants can purchase poinsettia plants
in honor of, or in memory of a loved one.
The cost of each plant is **\$13.00** and all orders must
be placed by **December 7th**. Make checks payable to
Presbyterian Women. Return payment and form to
FPC or mail to 900 Jordan Street, Shreveport 71101.
For a downloadable form, go to our website and
click on the Poinsettia image on the homepage.

fpcshreveport.org



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS:

ADVENT Nocturnal 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



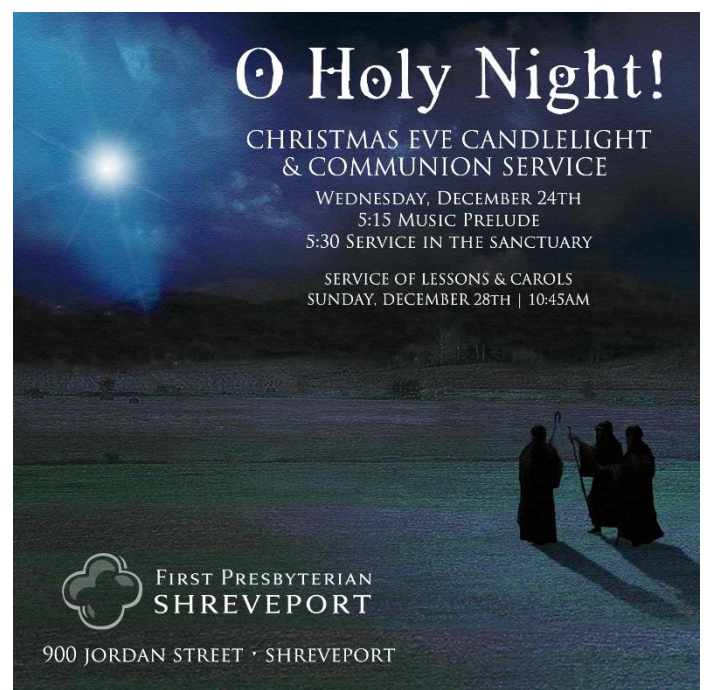
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



O 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