



First Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 14th, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent



King Tingz by Nicolette Faison

The ABC's of Advent
A Christmas Pageant

Order of Worship

Prelude *Introduction & Variations on an Ancient Polish Noël:* Alexandre Guilmant
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"
Bruce Stevens, organ

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Josh Andrzejewski

Opening Prayer

*Hymn 133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES

Reader: Bailey Henry

A is for Angel. The angel Gabriel began the story by telling Mary,

"Greetings Mary! You are filled with God's light and God's love - inside and out! God be with you... Mary, you have nothing to fear. The day is coming when you will have a baby! You will give birth to a son and call him Jesus." (Luke 1:28-33)

Reader: Marlo Woodfin

B is for Bethlehem, where our story takes place. People traveled from far and wide to get to Bethlehem, which was not a very big village.

Reader: Eliza Henry

C is for Census, which means an official counting of all the people. This was the reason so many people traveled to Bethlehem.

Reader: Miller Wiltshire

D is for Donkey. A donkey carried the family on their long journey. Mary and Joseph had to travel 107 miles along the Jordan River to get from Nazareth to Bethlehem. That's a pretty long journey.

Reader: Emmett Sisler

E is for Emmanuel, which means "God with us." During this season, we remember that God is with us through Jesus. Even when we make mistakes, nothing can separate us from God's love. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins together using the words in the bulletin.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, you sent Jesus to be our light, but sometimes we choose our own way. We are unkind, we fail to listen, and we rush past those who need help. Forgive us, God. Make room in our hearts for you and encourage us to love, to share, and to bring your goodness into the world.

***Please rise in body or in spirit.**

Reader: Funbi, Morayo, and Setemi Taiwo

F is for Family. Jesus calls us into his family. Baptism reminds us we are always part of his family. Mary and Joseph and their new baby Jesus created a new family, one that would bless the whole world.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:6-8)

*Passing the Peace

Rev. Derek Starr Redwine

*Hymn 132 (vv. 2 & 3)

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

Reader: Rev. Josh Andrzejewski

G is for Grace. Baptism is God’s gift of grace.

Baptism

Rev. Josh Andrzejewski, Rev. Derek Starr Redwine, Rev. Elizabeth Cahoon

Phoebe Catherine Babcock, child of Ellie and Jack Babcock
Mary Mason Mountcastle, child of Sydney and Bailey Mountcastle

*Question to the Congregation

One: Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Phoebe and May by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Jesus and to be faithful members of Christ’s church?

All: We do.

*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 at 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 121 (vv. 1 & 4)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

Reader: Santiago Paris and Smith Santos

H is for Hope. Now we light the Advent candle of Hope. Hope is knowing good news is coming, even when we can’t see it. Jesus is the source of our hope.

Reader: Wilson and Palmer Litman

I is for Isaiah. The Prophet Isaiah shared God’s promise that a Savior was on the way. He said: “*A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.*” (Isaiah 9:6)

Reader: Carolina Scott

J is for Joy. Now we light the Advent candle of Joy. The birth of Jesus gives us joy. Joy comes from God. No one can take it away from us, and we can share it with everyone.

Reader: Jamie Scott

K is for King. Though Jesus would be King, he was not the kind of King people were used to. Most kings are born in palaces, surrounded by servants. Jesus was born in a stable, surrounded by smelly animals. Most kings rule with power and fear. Jesus rules with mercy and love.

Reader: Jamie Scott and Olivia Sieber

L is for Love. Next week we light the Advent candle of Love. Jesus’s whole life was about sharing God’s love. Love is patient, kind, and strong. Jesus came to give this love to the whole world!

Hymn 134 (vv. 1 & 4)

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

Reader: Charlie Scott

M is for Manger. A manger usually holds food for animals, but this time it held the baby because he had no crib.

Reader: Norah Andrzejewski

N is for Noël. Noël is another word for Christmas. It means new birth. That’s what happens in baptism. That’s what happens every year at Christmas. Every time we decide to follow Jesus, he is born again in us.

Reader: Waylon and Wyatt Ball

O is for Offering. The Wise Ones followed the star and gave gifts to the baby. We can offer our gifts every day. We give our time, talents, and treasures to God. Then we pray that, as a church, we take good care of everything God gives us. So we share our gifts now.

Offertory

This Is The Christ
Carly Buxton and Mike Sisler
CCLI Song # 7138181

Luther, arr. McCracken

Prayer of Thanksgiving and of the People

Rev. Stephanie Hamilton

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.

Reader: Augusta Rudd

P is for Peace. Now we light the Advent candle of Peace. Peace is hard work. It means more than “not fighting.” It means making a table big enough so that everyone has a seat. Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Reader: Riv Wiltshire

Q is for Quiet. We begin a time of prayer in quiet, listening for God to speak to us.

Reader: Witt Bryan

R is for Rejoice. We rejoice because Jesus brings hope, peace, joy, and love!

Reader: Pratt and Red Patton, and Stella Ball

S is for Star. One special star guided the Wise Ones to come to see the baby. They were mysterious, and they lived far away, but they brought gifts to Jesus because they knew that he would grow up to be a king.

Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time! They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:9-11)

Hymn 151

“We Three Kings”

KINGS OF ORIENT

Reader: Caitlin Call

T is for Table. As a carpenter, Jesus built many tables. Throughout his life, he shared meals with many people: poor and rich, old and young, enemies and friends. Jesus told us God’s kingdom is like a great feast to which we are all invited.

Reader: Micheal Call

U is for Unity. Jesus came to help us see we are all one family in God. Each person here is connected to you, and you are connected to them. Every person here, and everyone out there, and everyone you’ll ever meet, is precious in God’s sight.

Reader: Eleanor Parsons

V is for Voice. God’s voice spoke long ago promising a savior. God’s voice still speaks today - in Scripture, in worship, and in our hearts. When we listen, we can hear God’s voice calling us to lives of love and peace.

Reader: Caroline Santos

W is for Witness. The shepherds became witnesses, telling everyone what they had seen. We can be witnesses too, sharing the good news of Jesus’ birth.

Reader: Lucy Santos

X is for Christ. X is the Greek letter Chi, the first letter in the word “Christ.” The X is one of the most ancient symbols of Christianity. People have been using the letter X to stand for Christ for centuries.

Reader: Carter Born

Y is for You. You are loved, just as you are. This good news is for you!

Reader: Maxwell Scott

Z is for Zeal. Zeal means we shine with Christ’s light in us. Zeal means joy in sharing God’s love. Zeal means energy to serve others and care for God’s world.

Song

“The Twelve Days of Christmas Praise”

On the first day of Christmas,
we gather now to sing
and praise you Christ the King!

On the second day of Christmas,
we gather now to sing
Emmanuel, we praise you Christ the King!

On the third day of Christmas,
we gather now to sing
God with us, Emmanuel, we praise you Christ the King!

On the fourth day of Christmas,
we gather now to sing
Bright Morning Star, God with us, Emmanuel,
we praise you Christ the King!

On the fifth day of Christmas,
we gather now to sing
Prince of Peace!
Bright Morning Star, God with us, Emmanuel,
we praise you Christ the King!

On the sixth day of Christmas,
we gather now to sing
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Bright Morning Star, God with us, Emmanuel,
we praise you Christ the King!

On the seventh day of Christmas,
we gather now to sing
Almighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Bright Morning Star, God with us, Emmanuel,
we praise you Christ the King!

On the eighth day of Christmas,
we gather now to sing
Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Bright Morning Star, God with us, Emmanuel,
we praise you Christ the King!

On the ninth day of Christmas,
we gather now to sing
Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace!
Bright Morning Star, God with us, Emmanuel,
we praise you Christ the King!

On the tenth day of Christmas,
we gather now to sing
Lord of Lords,
Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace!
Bright Morning Star, God with us, Emmanuel,
we praise you Christ the King!

On the eleventh day of Christmas,
we gather now to sing
King of Kings, Lord of Lords,
Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace!
Bright Morning Star, God with us, Emmanuel,
we praise you Christ the King!

On the twelfth day of Christmas,
we gather now to sing
Alpha and Omega, King of Kings, Lord of Lords,
Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace!
Bright Morning Star, God with us, Emmanuel,
we praise you Christ the King!

Blessing and Benediction

Cate Jobe

Postlude

Chorale Fantasia on “In dulci jubilo,” BWV 729

J. S. Bach

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This week's usher team includes: Jon Morris, Ashby Horner, Judy Price, Mary Lu Stephens

Elders at the doors: Foster Jennings, LaMont Noble, Susan Quinn

The flowers in the Sanctuary were arranged by Lauren Neal and the flowers in the Memorial Corridor were arranged by Kathy Watson.

The Advent banners in the chancel were designed and created by Angela Annas, David Annas, Kathy Harris, Christina Luxon, Susan Mountcastle, and Merrill White.

Please keep in your prayers those with special concerns:

- Susan Anthony (*Jane Neer's sister*), recovering from surgery
- Bev Berwick (*Jim Berwick's mother*), health concerns
- Lee Brown, health concerns
- Sarah Campbell (*Kit and Pat Campbell's daughter*), health concerns
- Rebecca Darling (*Ashley Raggi's sister*), health concerns
- Annabel Edge, health concerns
- Brian Finlay (*Neely Barnhardt's brother-in-law*), health concerns
- Marty Godsey, recovering from hip surgery and rehab
- Cynthia Hintze, health concerns
- Barbara Mitchell (*Judy Noble's mother*), in hospice care
- Jane Neer, permanently in health care
- Sue Parrish (*Kathy Nelson's mother*), health concerns
- Oliver Perry (*Nancy and Sam Perry's grandson*), health concerns
- Betty Proffitt (*Jenny Morris' mother*), health concerns
- Karen Rohr, continued recovery from fall
- Sam Spencer (*Sharon Spencer's brother*), health concerns
- Sharon Spencer, health concerns
- Amy Starr Redwine, health concerns

We pray for members and family serving in the military:

Tripp Bowles, Jenny Sigel Burkett, Joshua Garber, Zach Kirk, Mason Louthan, Nathan Thomas Meade, Peyton Spivey, Pierce Tarry, and Will Watkins.

How can we pray for you?

You can submit concerns and celebrations at fpcrichmond.org/prayer or let one of our pastors know.



Visit fpcrichmond.org/give or scan the QR code to make your 2026 pledge.

Thank you for all the ways you give.

LGBTQ+
SUPPORT GROUP
 Where ALL are welcome

SUNDAY
11:45AM

For information contact
 Pastor Derek



HANDEL's
Messiah
 PART I

Sunday, December 21
10:30AM
 Prelude starts at 10:20AM

Sanctuary

CHANCEL CHOIR • GUEST SOLOISTS •
 18-PIECE ORCHESTRA



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RICHMOND

Christmas Eve

4PM	Child Friendly Service <i>Prelude begins at 7:45pm</i>
8PM	Candlelight Lessons and Carols with Communion



J-TERM
2026



2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN PLEDGE TRACKER

GOAL= \$1,750,000.00



Total Pledged:
1,626,583

% of Goal Reached:
93%

Giving units:
288 of 636 | 46%



Scan the QR code for more information on 2026 J-Term class offerings.



Curious about the bulletin image cover? Scan the QR code to read a statement from the artist.