

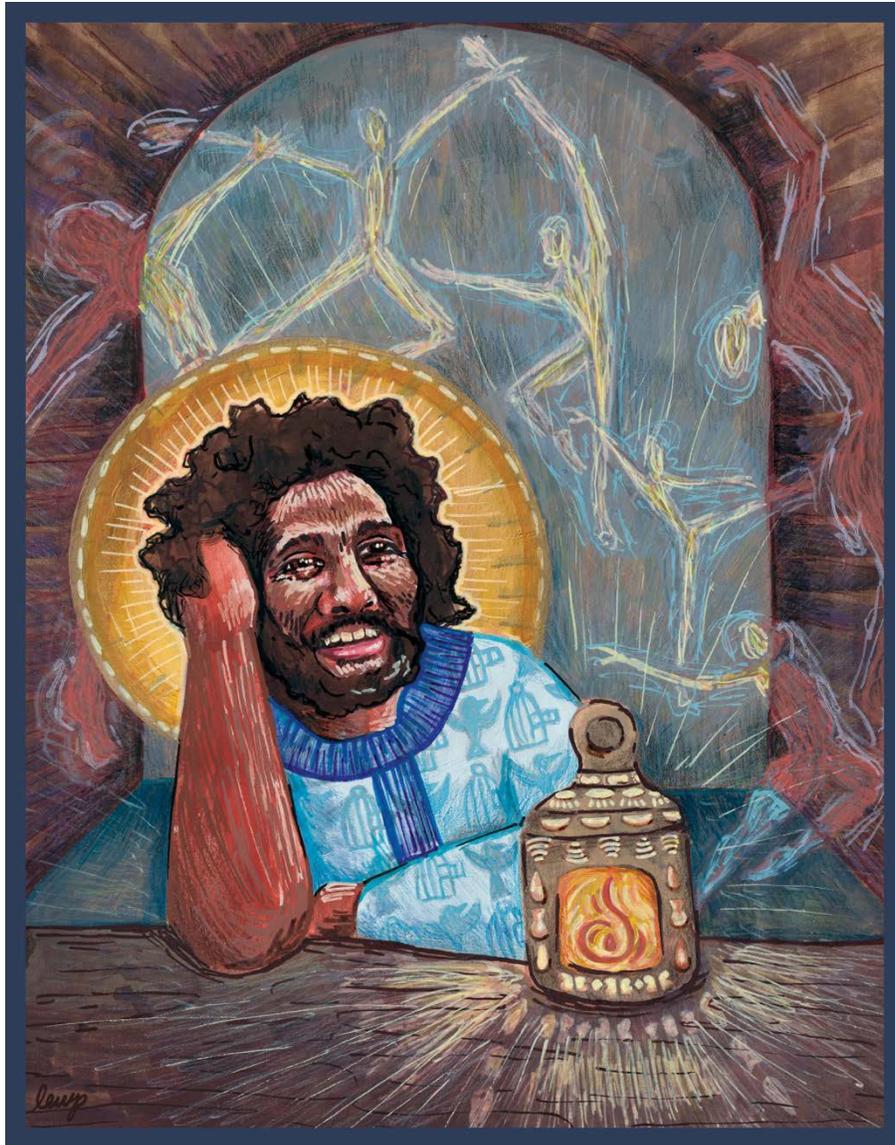


First Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 21st, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Hope Like a Dancer by Lauren Wright Pittman

4602 Cary Street Road
Richmond, VA 23226
fprichmond.org | (804) 358-2383

Order of Worship

Prelude

Overture

Recitative | Comfort ye my people

Leon Browne, tenor

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

~ Isaiah 40: 1-3

Welcome and Prayer for Illumination

Jason N. Brown

Air | Every valley shall be exalted

Fredrick Newhouse, tenor

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low; the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

~ Isaiah 40:4

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Gail Lippitt and Anne, Tim, Thomas,
William, Helen, and Caroline Doherty

One: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, in the days to come

the wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

**All: the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together,
and a little child shall lead them.**

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

and rejoice with joy and singing.

The Lord will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child.

She shall bear a son,

and name him Emmanuel: "God is with us."

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Amen.

*Hymn 119

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

Chorus | And the glory of the Lord

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

~ Isaiah 40: 5

Recitative | Thus saith the Lord

William Koehler, baritone

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts: Yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come. The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the Covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

~ Malachi 3: 1; Haggai 2: 6-7

Air | But who may abide the day of his coming?

William Koehler, baritone

But who may abide the day of his coming, and who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire.

~ Malachi 3: 2

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Stephanie Hamilton

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

Chorus | And he shall purify

And he shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

~ Malachi 3: 3

Recitative | Behold, a virgin shall conceive

Hope Koehler, mezzo-soprano

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us.

~ Isaiah 7: 14; Matthew 1: 23

Air and Chorus | O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion

Chancel Choir; Hope Koehler, mezzo-soprano

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God! Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

~ Isaiah 60: 1; 40: 9

Recitative | For behold, darkness shall cover the earth

William Koehler, baritone

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

~ Isaiah 60: 2-3

Air | The people that walked in darkness

William Koehler, baritone

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

~ Isaiah 9: 2

Chorus | For unto us a child is born

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

~ Isaiah 9: 6

Homily

“Ready?”

Rev. Josh Andrzejewski

Pifa ('Pastoral Symphony')

Recitative | There were shepherds abiding in the field

Keely Borland, soprano

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying:

~ Luke 2:8-11,13

Chorus | Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will toward men.

~ Luke 2:14

*Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Josh Andrzejewski

In life and in death, we belong to God. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (From *A Brief Statement of Faith*, Presbyterian Church (USA))

Call to Offering

Air | Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion

Keely Borland, soprano

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King com' th unto thee. He is the righteous Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.

~ Zechariah 9:9-10

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

Recitative | Then shall the eyes of the blind

Hope Koehler, mezzo-soprano

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

~ Isaiah 35:5-6

Duet | He shall feed his flock

Hope Koehler, mezzo-soprano; Keely Borland, soprano

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

~ Isaiah 40: 11; Matthew 11:28-29

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

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.

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Josh Andrzejewski

*Benediction Response

“Hallelujah!”

G. F. Handel

Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah!

~ Revelation 19:6; 11:15; 19:16

Orchestra

Violin I

Elizabeth Kilpatrick*

Susan Bedell

Susan Spafford

Viola

Stephen Schmidt

Zsuzanna Emodi

Johanna Beaver

Bass

Bruce Swartz

Oboe I

Leslie Long

Bassoon

Pinghua Ren

Harpsichord

Ben Miller

Violin II

Emily Ilyes*

Kyrie Beiler

Audrey Pride

Cello

Schuyler Slack*

Paul Bedell

Oboe II

Jane Kaiser

Organ

Bruce Stevens

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Liza Hall, *Assistant Director*

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This week's usher team includes: Ken Horton, Caley Cantrell, Bill Collier, Tara Modisett

Elders at the doors: Jim Irby, Foster Jennings, Vicki Warren

The flowers in the Sanctuary and Memorial Corridor were arranged by Sara Crump

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
- Marie Ryan (*Ray Ryan's niece*), health concerns
- 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.



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

 **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RICHMOND**

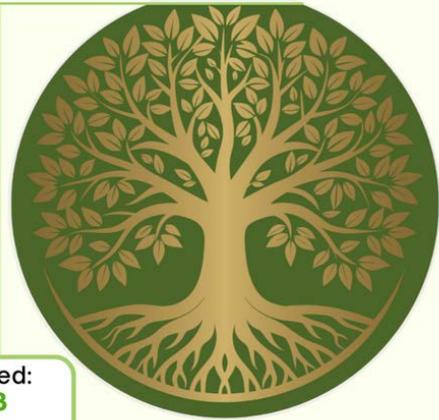
Christmas Eve

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



2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN PLEDGE TRACKER

GOAL= \$1,750,000.00



Total Pledged: **1,648,453**
 % of Goal Reached: **95%**
 Giving units: **297 of 636 | 47%**

Wonderful WEDNESDAYS

FEB 11-MAR 18
5-6PM

Wonderful Wednesdays are a time for children aged 4 through 5th grade to read scripture, participate in arts and crafts, and rehearse a musical selection to be sung during 10:30AM worship. Together, we'll learn how to be grounded, growing, and generous disciples of Jesus Christ!



CLUB 3-5

SUNDAYS
Feb 22 | Mar 22 | Apr 26
3:45PM | Youth Suite

CLUB 3-5 IS AN EVENT FOR 3RD, 4TH, AND 5TH GRADERS TO GATHER FOR A TIME OF FAITH FORMATION. WE WILL PLAY GAMES, READ SCRIPTURE, AND HOST EXCITING GUESTS, BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND LEARNING HOW TO FOLLOW JESUS IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES.

Save the date for Vacation Bible School! July 6-9, 2026

J-TERM 2026

Heart Health
Sundays
JAN 4, 11, & 18
9:15AM | Chapel



Roads for Dummies
Sundays
JAN 11, & 18
9:15AM | Rec Room



Revelation On Tap
Tuesdays
JAN 6, 13 & 20
7PM



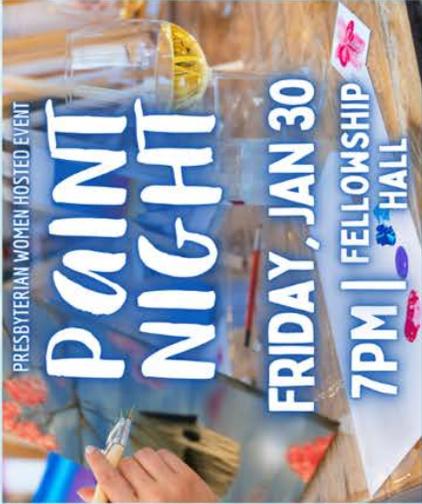
PREACHING 101
Sundays
JAN 11 & 18
6:15PM | Library



Valentine Museum Tour
Saturday, January 17
10:00-11:30AM



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HOSTED EVENT
PAINT NIGHT
FRIDAY, JAN 30
7PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL



Learn more and register at: fpcrichmond.org/jterm

