



First Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 22nd, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Magnify by Hannah Garrity

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

Order of Worship

Prelude *Variations on "Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People"* Johann Pachelbel
Bruce Stevens, organ

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Amy Starr Redwine

Introit *In dulci jubilo* arr. Douglas E. Wagner
Chancel Bells

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Brandon, Christa, Berkley, Nan, Lucy, and Bess Santos

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

**All: Let us begin with tenderness. Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve.
Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope. Let us begin with love.**
Yes, let us start with love. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.
May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone.
May the truth in these lights help us begin again.
May it be so! Amen.

*Hymn 82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

*Prayer of Confession Cate Jobe
In the beginning, God, your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at the earth and said, "It is good." At every turn, you have reminded us that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for failing to see the belovedness of our neighbors - and ourselves. O Lord, we believe; help our unbelief.

*Passing the Peace

Baptism Charlotte Anne Wood Rev. Amy Starr Redwine
child of Dana and Connor Wood Rev. Josh Andrzejewski

*Question to the Congregation

One: Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Charlotte by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Jesus and to be a faithful member of Christ's church?

All: We do.

*Children ages 3 years through 5th grade are invited to Children's Chapel.
They may be picked up from the Chapel following worship.*

Hymn 481 "I Believe in God the Father" GENEVAN 42
(The Apostles' Creed)

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

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Josh Andrzejewski

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

NT p. 1

Sermon

“Begin with a Plan”

Anthem

Mary Had A Baby
Chancel Choir; Libby Mullins, soprano

arr. William Dawson

Mary had a baby. My Lord!

Where was he born? Born in a manger.

What did they call him? King Jesus!

*He is called King Jesus, Mighty Counselor, King
Emanuel, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.*

~Negro Spiritual

*Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Amy Starr Redwine

We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope, a God who fills our nights with stars, who follows winter with spring, who dwells with and among us. We believe that this God has dreams for creation, dreams of justice like a mighty stream and swords that will be beaten into plowshares. Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability. We hold onto hope, and we declare: “My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

(Written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC)

Call to Offering

Rev. Josh Andrzejewski

Offertory

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
Chancel Bells

arr. Ron Mallory

*Doxology (Prayer of Thanksgiving)

VENI EMMANUEL

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Amy Starr Redwine

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.

*Hymn 93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

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



Christmas Eve Services

4:00pm: We will sing carols, hear familiar scriptures, and celebrate the wonder of the Incarnation.

8:00pm: We will celebrate with a festival of lessons and carols with communion, our Chancel Choir, and candlelight.

*Childcare will be available during both services for infants to 3 year olds.

We have some great **J-Term** class offerings this year – there is sure to be something for everyone! Visit

timyurl.com/jterm2025 to see a full list of courses.



Visit fpcrichmond.org/give or scan the QR code to make your 2025 pledge. Thank you for all the ways you give.



This week's usher team includes: Jim Purser, Madelyn Chewning, Becca Ott, Richard Ott, Stephanie Purser
If interested in serving as an usher, contact Ken Horton (ksmmfour@aol.com)

Elders at the doors: Eone Beck, Christina Luxon, Vicki Warren

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in honor and loving memory of our family members, on earth and in heaven, who could not be with us today by the Gullquist, Wood, Hartman and Dotter families.

The flowers in the Memorial Corridor are given in memory of Jesse and Virginia Humphrey by Ann and Bob Latstetter.

The flowers in the Sanctuary were arranged by Terry White. The flowers in the Memorial Corridor were arranged by Lauren Neal.

Please keep in your prayers those with special concerns:

- Angela Annas (*Christina Luxon's mother*), recovering from hip replacement surgery
- Michael Bland, recovering from knee replacement surgery
- Julia Bonham (*Sheila Smith's mother*), in hospice care
- Ashtyn Bratt, recovering from broken ankle
- Vernon Glenn, health concerns
- Pat Lintner (*Christa Santos' father*), health concerns
- John Miller, in treatment for brain cancer
- Barbara Mitchell (*Judy Noble's mother*), in hospice care
- Jane Neer, health concerns
- Byrd Newton (*Emily Laux's father*), health concerns
- Sue Parrish (*Kathy Nelson's mother*), health concerns
- Betty Proffitt (*Jenny Morris' mother*), health concerns
- Sandra Putbrese (*Cortland Putbrese's mother*), health concerns
- Yvonne Robertson (*Michelle Call's mother*), health concerns
- Sharon Spencer, health concerns
- Percy Wootton, health concerns

Those Grieving:

- Bev Olsen on the death of her husband, Rick Olsen, on November 7.

How can we pray for you? You can submit concerns and celebrations at fpcrichmond.org/prayer or let one of our pastors know.