



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN

**1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

Welcome to worship. The asterisk () invites all to rise in body or spirit.
The people's responses are in **bold type**. Please silence cell phones.*

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S WORD

BELL PEAL / POURING OF THE WATER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The England Family

Advent begins with a watchful heartbeat—a season of waiting, of holy expectation, of leaning forward into the promise of God. We gather to keep watch, not with fear but with hope, not with anxiety but with longing love.

We wait for the One who is already near.

The God we meet in Jesus is a God of compassion, of righteousness, and of a radical love like no other. The God who created the heavens and the earth becomes flesh and dwells among us, and the Bethlehem baby is God with us.

Advent is about waiting. Waiting is hard, especially when we wait for Christmas.

Just four weeks from now, we will celebrate the astounding mystery of God's love made flesh—love that took on skin and bone, love that cried in a manger, love that came not in splendor but in vulnerability. Advent reminds us that God's love chooses unlikely places and unexpected people.

We wait for our Hope to be born in us again.

Today, we light the first candle of Advent – the Candle of Hope. We light it in gratitude for God's perfect love made visible in Christ, and in humility for our imperfect, sometimes clumsy attempts to share that love. We light it as a sign that even now, in our waiting with hope, God's light shines in the darkness. The darkness did not overcome it, and the dark never will.

(As the first candle is lit, sing Verse One of O Come, O Come 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 you, O Israel.**

God of Advent, we confess that we are impatient people: quick to move, fast to worry, and slow to wait. Teach us to keep watch for signs of your love and hope breaking in. As we keep watch, prepare our hearts for Christ's return. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us worship God.

***HYMN 82 - Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of promise and patience, you call us to keep awake, to watch for signs of your kingdom, and to live in readiness for your coming. But we confess that we grow weary of waiting. We are distracted by our routines, lulled by comfort, and preoccupied with our own plans. We lose sight of your promises and settle for what we can see and control.

Forgive us, Lord. Stir our hearts again with hope until you make all things new. Teach us to watch and wait with faith and hope, so we may be found ready and rejoicing.

SILENT CONFESSION / CHORAL VERSE

"What can I give Him...give my heart."

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe in the Good News.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please greet those around you with the peace of Christ.)

*HYMN OF PRAISE

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strain. Glo – ria, praise the One who comes. Glo – ria, Hosanna in the highest.

* THE READING OF THE LAW

Let us now remember the standard by which God calls us to live.

"God spoke all these words, saying, I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's home; you shall not covet your neighbor's spouse, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Blessed are they whose delight is in the law of the Lord. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Anne Keener

Children of all ages are invited to come forward. Nursery (0-3) and Children's Worship (ages 4 to K) information is on the back of the bulletin.

We want to continue to offer Children's Worship for our families with Young Children, but we need your help!

If you're willing to volunteer and lead one or two Sundays this semester for this 20-minute lesson time, contact sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org.

CHORAL VERSE

"Make me to know thy ways...lead me in thy truth."

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 24:36-44 (Pew Bible, p. 806)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Keep Watch

Anne Keener

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN 384 - *Soon and Very Soon

SOON AND VERY SOON

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

In life and in death, we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

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.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND LIVES

Fold and place your completed "Connection Card" in the plate offering.

To give online, scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Chancel Choir

"Yonder come day, day is a-breakin' in my soul"

***DOXOLOGY 606**

OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures, here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

HYMN 97 - *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

(VERSES One and Three)

This hymn will be sung to the tune associated with Come, Ye Thankful People Come.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE / HYMN REFLECTION**

***RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

Five Bell Peal

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor
Sam Belcher, Director of Youth Ministries
Michael Snoddy, Director of Music & Organist / Chancel Choir
Susan Burns, Liturgist
Isla England, Acolyte
Eric, Katie, Isla, and Lark England, Wreath Lighting

PRAYER LIST

New:

Judi Arnold
Jeff Doering
Connie Jefferson's sister, Zeneith Cole
Gloria Blount's friend, Mert Sloan
Rachael Stanfill's niece, Lauren Fagan
Dale and Barb Roos' friends, Kokal family
Marlene and Gary Cole's friend, Margaret Simpkins
Mike Anderson's friend, Bruce Force
Namaste Anderson's friend, Stacy McAloon
Vanderbilt LifeFlight

Members:

Ted Bechtel
Ann Brown
Barbara Crunk
Vickie Ellis
Ruthie Moulton
Anne Osborne
Marissa Walters
Tom Wilson

In Memory:

Harriett Erwin	December 1, 1995
John Latreille	December 2, 2012
Phil Woodall	December 5, 2004
Raleigh Lanier	December 5, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music in Worship:

Advent Lessons & Carol Service (Sunday, December 14 – 10:15 AM) - Music for congregation, choir, soloists, instrumentalists, and organ.

Christmas Eve Choir (Wednesday, December 24) – You are invited to join the choir on Christmas Eve for the 6:00 PM Candlelight Service of Holy Communion. Please see Michael in the Music Office for more information.

Wednesday Night Live (WNL): 6 PM- Dinner; 6:45-7:30 PM- Adult, Youth, and Children programs. Sign up on the FPC website or the Connection Card. This week we'll hear from Kevin Riggs as he shares about the Williamson County Homeless Alliance and Prison Ministry.

Advent Poinsettias: Help beautify the sanctuary this Advent season by dedicating a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. Please note your dedication on the connection card. The cost is \$20. Checks may be made payable to First Presbyterian Church (Flower Fund) or you may give online.

Adults 55+: On **Thursday, December 4** at 11 AM in Barr Conference Room join us for Diane and Roger Fender who will speak on their quest to visit all US National Parks. Box lunch for \$10. Then join us for the annual Christmas Potluck Lunch including musical guest Laurie Evans Ross on **Saturday, December 13**, at 11:00 AM in Wilson Hall. Please sign up online or on the bulletin board!

The Manger Tree: You still have **one week** to shop for the perfect gifts(s) to put under the Manger Tree in Wilson Hall. **All gifts must be returned to the Manger Tree by noon next Sunday, December 7.**

Gifts for Poplar Grove Families: All families have been adopted! Return unwrapped gifts to FPC by **Sunday, December 7** under the mission bulletin board. Contact Christine Grisham at cmgrisham@comcast.net with any questions.

Chili Cook-Off and Live Nativity, Sunday, December 7, from 5-7 PM in Wilson Hall. Sign up online to enter your chili in the competition, and remember, your donation is your vote! The evening will also feature a special presentation of the Live Nativity Story by our youth.

Inquirer Gathering: Interested in learning more about FPC? Join us at 9 AM **Sunday, December 14** in Barr Conference Room.

Service of Light: Join us **Sunday, December 21** at 5:30 PM in a peaceful candlelit sanctuary for a service with space for silence, scripture, and prayer. We will make space for the wide array of emotions that come with this season and reflect on how God's light fills our lives. You will have the opportunity to write the names of people or situations in your life or the world for which you are in prayer and then place those prayers under a lit candle as a visible sign of lifting them into God's light. Please make plans to join us. All are welcome. The service will be livestreamed.

NaCoMe Summer Camps 2026: Sign up today for summer camp. FPC students receive \$150 discount. More info on the FPC website.

Worship Flowers: Thank you to everyone who donated worship flowers in 2025, and thank you in advance to those who will donate in 2026. These flowers beautify our worship, remind us of God's creation, and are later shared with members as a sign of God's love and our church family's care. Signups for 2026 are now open on a first-come, first-served basis, with many dates still available.

Use the QR code to visit the Upcoming Events/Registrations page.



Responding to God's grace through worship, study, and service.

Our purpose is to joyfully follow Christ and respond to God's grace as an inclusive, multigenerational faith community by:

- Deepening discipleship through relevant worship and life-long learning
- Creating and nurturing congregational relationships
- Transforming lives and connecting with others through service

Welcome! We extend a warm welcome to all who are here today. Whether you are from our community or visiting, we are glad to have you among us.

We strive to be inclusive and offer assistance for those with disabilities.

T-Coil hearing devices are available from members of the Hospitality Team. We have pew cutouts for accessibility and offer sensory nurturing items for children. If anyone has other needs or disabilities that require assistance or accommodation for any church activity, please don't hesitate to contact the church office at 615-794-5114.

Our Nursery is available for infants and children through 3 years old downstairs in Room 111. Children of all ages are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary.

Children's Worship is available for children 4 years old through kindergarten in Room 101 following the Time with the Young Church. Those attending will be returned to the sanctuary before the end of the service. For accommodations and more information, please get in touch with the Director of Youth Ministries, Sam Belcher (sbelcher@fpcfranklin.org).

Prayer requests to convey concerns or celebrations may be shared with Anne Keener (akeener@fpcfranklin.org).

THE SESSION

Class of 2025

Jason Coleman
Marti Downey
Christine Grisham
Jim Mahurin
Verna Rydlund

Class of 2026

Leanne Hoeffler
John Korab
Tammy Love
Starr Nolan
Phillip Otts

Class of 2027

Martha Johnson
Jim Petersen
Dan Crunk
Greg Bennorth
Sarah Fox

THE CHURCH STAFF

Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor
Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor
Michael Snoddy, Dir. of Music/Organist
Sam Belcher, Dir. of Youth Ministries
Catherine Olson, Dir. of Operations

Marie Hayman, Accountant
Kate Lasseter, Nursery Coordinator
Kelly Oldham, Nursery Coordinator
Linda Cairatti, Nursery Staff

First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a member of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, the Synod of Living Waters, and the General Assembly of the PC(USA).

615.794.5114 | fpcfranklin.org

Church Office Hours M-Th 9 AM-4 PM

Scan the QR code to the right to make an online donation.

Thank you for your generosity!

