



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FRANKLIN

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOLY COMMUNION
DECEMBER 7, 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

HYMN INTONATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wetzel Family

Advent is a season of longing – a place to belong and a place where we can find peace. Last week, we remembered those searching and hoping for a home. Today, we hear John the Baptist calling from the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make (God’s) paths straight.” Repentance is our way to make room for Christ. Repentance is the way we come home and realize we belong to God.

We wait for the One who makes our hearts His home.

Matthew tells us John proclaimed, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Repentance is not rejection; it is return. Even in our wilderness places, God, through the Prince of Peace, is preparing a way home.

We turn our hearts toward God, who always turns toward us.

We light this second candle remembering that not all have peace, and we remember all who long for it — for the weary, the wandering, and all who seek God’s path that leads to shalom. We light it as a reminder that God’s light shines in every darkness.

(As the second 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, prepare our hearts for the Prince of Peace. Clear what clutters our lives, and as we prepare our homes, help us make room within us for Christ, our true home and our true peace. Draw us closer to your light as we draw closer to Christmas. In the name of Jesus Christ, let us worship God.

***HYMN 96**

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

OLD 100th

(VERSES One, Two, and Four will be sung to the tune of the Doxology.)

CALL TO CONFESSION/PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, in many ways you send us the message of your salvation, yet we often are too busy to hear. Even through Christ, you tried to show us your Love, but we would not see. You would have us share your peace with others that you might bless the world through us, but we hold fast to our own agendas and concerns, refusing to share it with others. Forgive us, Lord.

SILENT CONFESSION/CHORAL SENTENCE

Chancel Choir

“What can I give...give my heart.”

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe in the Good News.

In the name of 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 strains. Glo – ria, praise the One who comes. Glo – ria, Hosanna in the highest.

***SUMMARY OF THE LAW**

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

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

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 SENTENCE

Chancel Choir

“Make me to know Thy ways...lead me in Thy truth.”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12(Pew Bible, page 784)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

A Message From the Edge

Eddie Bellis

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

***HYMN 95**

Prepare the Way of the Lord

PREPARE THE WAY

(We will sing John’s prophetic text as found in this hymn THREE times.)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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

"Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free..."

***DOXOLOGY**

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.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader continues the prayer... who forever sings your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader continues the prayer... Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader continues the prayer... now and forever. Amen.

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

SHARING OF THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE CUP OF SALVATION

All bread is gluten-free. The wine is non-alcoholic grape juice.

COMMUNION MUSICAL MEDITATION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 546

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
(VERSES One and Three)

SICILLAIN
MARINERS

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

*RINGING OF THE CARILLON

Five Bell Peal

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Eddie Bellis, Interim Pastor
Anne Keener, Commissioned Pastor
Michael Snoddy, Director of Music and Organist / Chancel Choir
Francelia Downey, Liturgist
Nora Downey, Acolyte

PRAYER LIST

New:

Carolyn Hayes
Caleb Lillard
Missy Kitchings' friend, Hannah Edwards and family
Leah Stein's friend, Kayla Haun
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

Deaths:

Connie Jefferson's sister, Zeneith Cole, December 1, 2025

Members:

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

In Memory:

Tom Kemp December 9, 2019

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Manger: All gifts must be returned to the Manger Tree by noon TODAY.

Gifts for Poplar Grove Families: Return unwrapped gifts to FPC by TODAY in the laundry baskets outside of room 209.

Chili Cook-Off and Live Nativity, TODAY, starting at 5 PM in Wilson Hall. Come enjoy some delicious chili and remember, your donation is your vote! The evening will also feature a special presentation of the Live Nativity Story by our youth.

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 about Breast Cancer Recovery In Action (BRA) from Namaste Anderson.

Adults 55+: 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!

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

Lessons & Carols: **Next Sunday, December 14** at 10:15 AM. Join us for this annual tradition of interspersing short “lessons” with carols featuring the Chancel Choir and musical guests Peter Simon, concert pianist, Elizabeth Smith, organ, and John Johns, guitar.

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.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion: December 24 at 4:00 & 6:00 PM. Come, *EMBRACE THE CHRIST!* Nursery and livestream are available at 4:00 PM only.

Christmas Eve Choir - 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.

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.

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.

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!

