

Welcome to Second Presbyterian Church

Sharing the grace of God with one another and the world around us.



This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.

Please visit our website 2ndpreslou.org to connect with various ministries, or to contact the office for more information about our faith community.

If you are new to us, scan this QR Code to register as a guest and receive information about our life at Second.



Children of God, welcome home!

*Thank you for silencing mobile phones and other devices
to honor the sanctity of our worship.*

For our worshippers with little ones needing a quiet space during the worship service, there is an infant and caregiver room off the Narthex. If you have any questions, please notify an usher.



For our worshippers who use hearing devices, please be reminded that we have the T-Coil system available. If you have the T-coil feature on your hearing device, and most devices do have that feature, you simply need to switch it to that setting. If you would like a unit, please ask an usher to provide one.

** Please stand if you can do so comfortably.*

Bold type *is sung or read in unison.*

+ Texts for reflections can be found in the back of your bulletin.

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering

PRELUDE

And the Glory of the Lord from *Messiah*
Kentucky Brass

G.F. Handel
arr. Jim Stanton

Kyrie from *Midnight Mass* Marc-Antoine Charpentier
The Chamber Orchestra; Samuel Libra, organ

Variations on two French carols J.-J. Beauvarlet-Charpentier
A la venue de Noël & Venez Divin Messie
Samuel Libra, organ

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
The Sanctuary Choir; Thomas Whitt, percussion

VENI EMMANUEL
arr. Parker/Shaw

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES *read responsively*

8:30 a.m. Nathan and Caroline Dicken

11:00 a.m. Craig, Martha, Ellis, and Hal Clark

Days grow shorter and to-do lists lengthen.

Yet we see light in the darkness, flickering against the shadows.

We watch and prepare, waiting in joyful anticipation.

A spark of joy lights the way, for the Lord has done great things for us.

As we light our third Advent candle,

We will rejoice in God's covenant of everlasting love.

*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *read in unison*

Generous God, we confess that we are often only focused on our own lives. We ignore the concerns of others. Opportunities to say “thank you” or to give encouragement pass us by. Anxiety turns us inward, and anger makes us lash out. Forgive us for neglecting the joy to be found at the heart of this Advent season. Turn our hearts back to you, and inspire us with your love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

Time for silent prayer.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *read responsively*

...by the grace of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*RESPONSE HYMN

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Becki Slagle Mayo

11:00 a.m.: Children ages 3 through completed 3rd graders are invited to come forward; they will be dismissed through the side door for activities following the Peace.

ALL: Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord!

Choir: Light one candle, watch and pray, the Child of Joy will come to save.

ALL: Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE *read responsively*

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

MUSICAL CELEBRATION

At the Manger

trad. carols

Austin Memorial Handbells

arr. Michael Helman

The Word: Sing in Exultation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:1–2

Rev. Steve Jester

REFLECTION

⁺*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, excerpt

Rev. Dr. B.K. Lundblad

Patty Dailey

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:10–11

ANTHEM

Gloria from Midnight Mass

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

The Sanctuary Choir & Chamber Orchestra

Soloists: Laura Atkinson, Ricky Case, Jason Steigerwalt, Christina Recktenwald, Molly Melahn*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.**We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,**We give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God,**Havenly King, O God, almighty father.*

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:46b–55

Janet Rittenhouse

REFLECTION

+O Come, O Come Emmanuel, excerpt

Rev. Dr. B.K. Lundblad

Russ Dunlap

ANTHEM

Ecce Novum

Ola Gjeilo

The Sanctuary Choir & Chamber Orchestra

*Behold! A new joy! Behold! A new wonder! A Virgin, who knew not a man, bears a son.**She knew not a man, but as the pear-tree bears the pear, the flourishing papyrus brings**the lily from the soil. See how nature changes her laws: a pure virgin bears the son of God.**anonymous 15th c. Latin*

REFLECTION

+God's Surprise

John Bell

Rev. Andrew Bowman

ANTHEM

Past Three O'Clock

trad. English carol

The Sanctuary Choir & Chamber Orchestra

arr. John Rutter

Refrain:

Past three o'clock;

And a cold frosty morning,

Past three o'clock;

Good morrow, masters all!

Verses:

Born is a Baby,

Gentle as may be,

Son of the eternal

Father supernal.

Seraph quire singeth,

Angel bell ringeth;

Hark how they rime it,

Time it and chime it.

Mid earth rejoices

Hearing such voices

e'ertofores so well

Carolling Nowell.

Hinds o'er the pearly,

Dewy lawn early

Seek the high Stranger

Laid in the manger.

Cheese from the dairy

Bring they for Mary

And, not for money,

Butter and honey.

Light out of star-land

Leadeth from far land

Princes, to meet him,

Worship and greet him.

Myrrh from full coffer,

Incense they offer;

Nor is the golden

Nugget withholden.

Thus they: I pray you,

Up, sirs, nor stay you

Till ye confess him

Likewise and bless him.

George Ratcliffe Woodward

REFLECTION

+O *Emmanuel*
Jim Rittenhouse

Rev. Malcolm Guite

ANTHEM

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN, arr. D. Forrest

The Sanctuary Choir, Austin Memorial Handbells, & Kentucky Brass

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Charles Wesley

**Please stand and join in singing when invited.*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the sun of righteousness!

**Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.**

**Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.**

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”**

The Response

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *read responsively*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *adapted*

As if to shame the mightiest human efforts and achievements...

As the redeemed people of God, please stand as you are able as we confess
what we believe:

The infinite mercy of the almighty God comes to us in the form of a child, his son.

That this child has been born for *us*,
that this son has been given,
that this human child, this son of God, belongs to *me*;
that I know him, have him, love him,
that I am his and he is mine—
my very life now depends entirely on all these things.
A child has our life in his hand. Amen.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You are invited to pass the Friendship Pad found at the end of the pew.

We welcome you to scan this QR code and visit the Giving page on our website.

You can fulfill your pledges and offer your financial support for the ongoing ministries of Second Presbyterian Church. Thank you!



11:00 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Samuel Libra, organ

arr. J.S. Bach

ANTHEM Two Movements from *Christmas Oratorio*, BWV 548c

J.S. Bach

The Sanctuary Choir & Chamber Orchestra

*Meanwhile be joyful that your salvation
has been born here as both God and human;
He who is the Lord and Christ
In David's city, chosen from many.
Christoph Runge; trans. Francis Browne*

*Ruler of heaven, hear our inarticulate speech,
let our faint songs please you,
when your Zion exalts you with psalms!
Hear the exultant praise of our hearts,
as we show our reverence for you
since our welfare is made sure!
Christian Friedrich Henrici (Picander);
trans. Francis Browne*

SHARING GRACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *read in unison*

**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.**

The Sending

*BLESSING

1 Thessalonians 5:16–23

*HYMN 134

Joy to the World
vs. 1, ALL vs. 2, choir
vs. 3 & 4, ALL

ANTIOCH
arr. Julian Wachner

We are called to go out from our worship to share the grace of God with one another and the world.

In Worship Today

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in appreciation for our church's support staff by
Marcy & Ron Suter.

USHERS

8:30 Cheeky Bahe, Scott Carothers, Bill Creason, Nathan Dicken, Caroline Dicken

11:00 Brad Hume, Glen Hume, Patrice Paton, Carol McCarty, Sudie Mosely, Edie Wells

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Steve Jester & Rev. Andrew Bowman, liturgists;

Patty Dailey, Janet Rittenhouse, & Russ Dunlap, readers.

Austin Memorial Handbells: *Bonnie Boram, Terry Cissell, Elizabeth Clay, Lindsay Cook, Kitty deVoogd, Stacie Farris, Steve Farris, Kitty deVoogd, Brandon Flamion, Jean Herp, Diana Jester, Katharine King, Sue Rogers, Carmen Sanders, & Susanne Wright.*

The Sanctuary Choir (Octet*): *Laura Atkinson*, Mary Ayers, Maryann Bell, Ricky Case*, Lamoine Cash, Terry Cissell, Dick Clay, Jane Cleary, Jeanne Curtis, Patty Dailey, Stan deVoogd, Linda Dukes, Russell Dunlap*, Richard Ellis, Chris Ellis, Sara Gilford, Ann Grissom, Jodie Goldberg, Karen Hadley, Krista Heckmann*, Jean Herp, Lindsey Hundley, Carol Hull, Emma James, Clay Kannapell, Molly Melahn*, Bill McDowell, Susan McDowell, Kenneth Oeth*, Harrison Palmer-Ball, Becky Peer, Christina Bouras Recktenwald*, Janet Rittenhouse, Deborah Skaggs, Larry Sloan, Martha Spencer, Jason Steigewalt*, Camille Williams-Neal, & Jesse Wright.*

Chamber Orchestra: *Jayne Drummond & Jennifer Potochnic, Oboes; Alice Culin-Ellison, Heather Thomas, Annie Daigle, & Julia Cash, Violins; Michael Hill & Laura de St. Croix-Vicic, Violas; Cecilia Huerta-Lauf, Violoncello; Sarah Ransom, Double Bass; Sam Riddick & Thomas Whitt, Timpani/Percussion.*

Kentucky Brass: *Jim Recktenwald & Noah Dugan, Trumpets; Jon Gustely, Horn; Nate Siler, Trombone; Stasi Fafalios, Bass Trombone.*

Jim Rittenhouse, Director; Dr. Samuel Libra, Organist

Evan Vivic, Audiovisual Engineer; Elliott Nichols, Technology Coordinator

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O Emmanuel, *from Sounding the Seasons, by Malcolm Guite, © 2012 Canterbury Press,
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We Lift Up in Prayer

LaMar Gaston, Joan Gaston, Page Penna, and their family on the death of LaMar's son,
Mark, 11/24/23.

Sue Rogers and her family on the death of her father, O.D., 11/8/23.

Texts

*O Come, O Come Immanuel**

Rev. Dr. Barbara K. Lundblad

O come, O come Immanuel
And bless each place your people dwell;
Melt every weapon crafted for war,
Bring peace upon the earth forever.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Take heart and do not fear,
God's Chosen One, Immanuel draws near.

O come, green shoot of Jesse, free
Your people from despair and apathy;
Forge justice for the poor and meek,
Grant safety for the young ones and weak.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Take heart and do not fear,
God's Chosen One, Immanuel draws near.

O come, now living water, pour your grace
And bring new life to every withered place'
Speak comfort to each trembling heart,
"Be strong! Fear not, for I will ne'er depart."
Rejoice! Rejoice! Take heart and do not fear,
God's Chosen One, Immanuel draws near.

O come, dear child of Mary, come,
God's word made flesh within our earthly home;
Love stir within the womb of night,
Revenge and hatred put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Take heart and do not fear,
God's Chosen One, Immanuel draws near.

**The first and second stanzas are used in our worship today.*

God's Surprise

John Bell

Who would think that what was needed
To transform and save the earth
Might not be a plan or army,
Proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision,
That a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven,
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,
Monarchs scorn and angels sing;
Such a place as none would reckon
Hosts a holy helpless thing;
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers
Watch a baby laid in hay:
God surprises earth with heaven
Coming here on Christmas Day.

O Emmanuel

Rev. Malcolm Guite

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us
O long-sought With-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

The Ministry Team

Steven P. Jester sjester@2ndpreslou.org	<i>Pastor</i>
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Paula S. Roberts	<i>Organist Emerita</i>



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O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.