

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 visit our website and learn 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.*

Service for the Lord's Day

*And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"
And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the
Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the
Son of God. - Luke 1:34-35*

The Gathering

11:00 a.m. TOLLING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT

*Virga Jesse floruit:
Virgo Deum et hominem genuit:
pacem Deus reddidit, in se reconcilians
imo summis. Alleluja.*

Virga Jesse
The Octet

Anton Bruckner
The branch from Jesse blooms:
a Virgin brings forth God and man:
God restores peace, reconciling in himself
the lowest with the highest. Alleluia. - *from Isaiah 11*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *read responsively*

8:30 a.m. Bonnie and Larry Boram

11:00 a.m. Whitney, Aaron, Frazier and Anna Watt

The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us,
a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation.

"For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner
and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and
refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the
LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

**In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose
to live with a passion for God's peace, that we might be refined
and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.**

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately
pursue the work of making peace.

**Peace in our hearts, peace in our families, peace in our communities,
and peace throughout the earth.**

*HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *read in unison*

Merciful God, overwhelmed and distracted by the responsibilities of each day, we so often miss your faithful presence. We fail to see the wonder and beauty you have created in these winter days. We do not hear your glad tidings of joy over the din of our division and conflict. We grow so comfortable with the way things are that we do not expect the new life you offer again and again. Forgive us, we pray. Awaken our hearts in these Advent days. Help us to carry the Good News of Jesus Christ, full of grace and truth, within us and share it with others. Cast out our sin and enter in—be born in us today.

Time for silent prayer.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

... and peace he brings as we tell the Good News...

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free. Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE HYMN 103 *Come Now, O Prince of Peace, st. 1*

O-So-So

*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.*

Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all people.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE *read responsively*

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Malachi 3:1-4

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

MEDITATION

But Who May Abide from *MESSIAH*

G.F. Handel

Jason Steigerwalt, baritone; Guy Younce, organ

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:26-38

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

SERMON

Welcoming the Unexpected: Mary

Rev. Andrew Bowman

The Response

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *congregation remains seated*

O Emmanuel

Samuel Libra

The Sanctuary Choir; Bonnie Boram, Elizabeth Clay, and Susanne Wright, handbells

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. - *Malcolm Guite*

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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!



HYMN 99 *seated* *My Soul Gives Glory to My God* MORNING SONG
stanza 1: Soloist; stanza 2 - 4: Congregation

*DOXOLOGY 99 *standing* *My Soul Gives Glory to My God, st. 5* MORNING SONG
**Praise God whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

*HYMN 105 *People Look East* BESANÇON
stanzas 1-4

*BLESSING

*RESPONSE *People Look East, st. 5* BESANÇON

**Angels announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming,
People look east and sing today, Love the Lord is on the way.**

The congregation is encouraged to remain for the called congregational meeting after 11 a.m. service.

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 CHAPEL ADVENT CANDLE STAND

The Advent candle stand found in the Chapel is constructed of cherry and maple wood, stained red cherry and finished with lacquer and polished with paste wax. The lathed candle holders are etched with 3 rings representing God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Attached at the bottom of the main pole is an acorn symbolizing God's abundant forgiveness, love, and grace. The stand was constructed by Dr. Larry Boram and the wood was donated by Dr. Lynn Ogden.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in loving memory of Eleanore Nickerson on the occasion of her birthday by her daughter and son in law, Valerie and Ernie Dreher

USHERS

8:30 Chip Snyder, Susan Snyder

11:00 John Hubbard, Nancy Hubbard, Justin Powers (Confirmation Mentor), Paul Erickson (Confirmant), Jim Carneal, Penny Carneal

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Andrew Bowman, preacher; Rev. Dr. Kim Clayton, liturgist

The Octet (8:30) The Sanctuary Choir (11); Austin Handbell Members: Bonnie Boram, Elizabeth Clay, & Susanne Wright Jim Rittenhouse, Director; Guy Younce, guest organist
Evan Vicic, Audiovisual Engineer; William Vicic, camera (11)

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FEATURED ART (Bulletin Cover)

“The Annunciation”

Artist: Henry Ossawa Tanner (African-American, 1858-1937). Public Domain.

The Annunciation is an 1898 painting by the African-American painter Henry Ossawa Tanner. It depicts the biblical scene of the Annunciation, where the archangel Gabriel visits Mary to announce that she will give birth to Jesus. The painting is held by the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Perhaps influenced by the fundamentalist teachings of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Tanner uses a column of light to depict Gabriel and paints Mary in peasant clothing with no halo or other discernible holy attributes.

OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“O Emmanuel” - poem by Malcolm Guite; music of Samuel Libra (used by permission).

Our former Organist, Sam Libra, composed this setting of the Anglican poet/priest/songwriter, Malcolm Guite in honor of The Sanctuary Choir and Director Jim Rittenhouse. The poem is the final ‘O’ antiphon rendering in his book, “Waiting on the Word,” published in 2015 by Canterbury Press. The antiphons have been sung on the final days of Advent in many Christian churches since the 6th century. We often sing them from the hymn setting “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

We Lift Up in Prayer

Tanner, Mandy, Kate, and McClain Watkins on the death of Tanner's grandmother, Jean Hensley, 11/26/24.

Karla Wright (Weekday School Director) and family on the death of her brother, Jay Dunn, 11/20/24.

Jack, Susan, Elliott, Wesley and Rhodes Moss and family on the death of Jack's mother, Betty Gibbs, 11/18/24.

Brian and Lisa Houghlin & Sam, Brooks, and Lucy Owen on the death of Brian's mother, Donna, 11/14/24.

Evelyn Hwang and family on the death of her brother, Dr. Peter T. K. Wu, 11/10/24.

The family of Jim Appleberry on his death, 10/21/24.

Glenda Bumpas and her family on the death of her brother-in-law, Jim Cunagin, 10/20/24.

Charles Ratliff, Liz & Jonathan Evans and family on the death of his wife and her mother, Melissa, 10/16/24.

Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87

1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing,
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

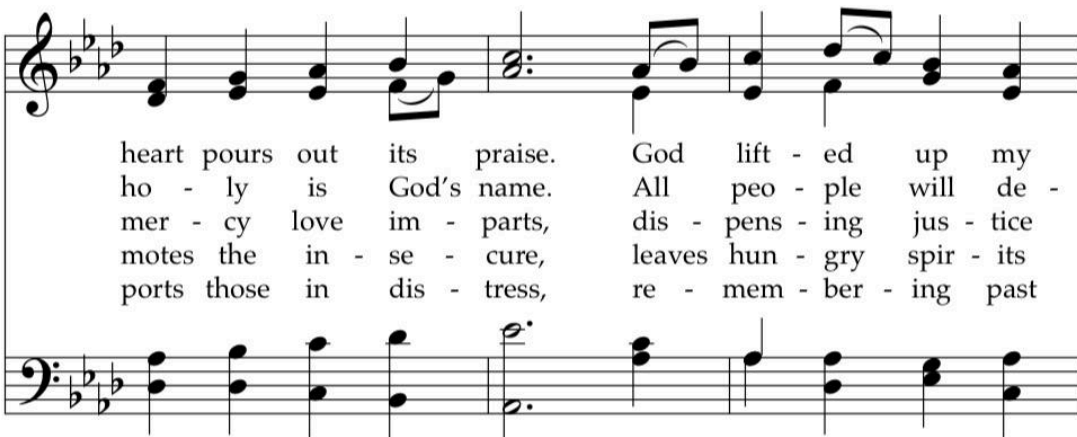
This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

My Soul Gives Glory to My God 99

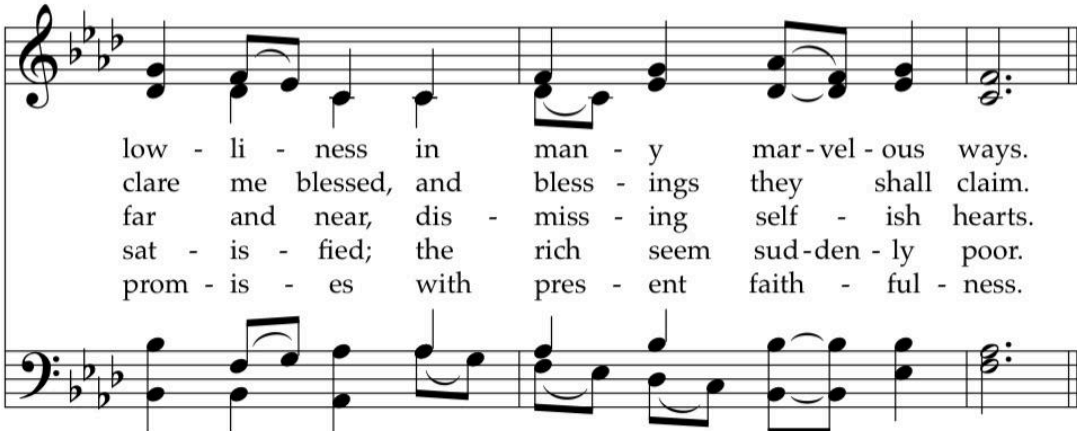
Song of Mary



1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God; my
 2 My God has done great things for me: yes,
 3 From age to age to all who fear, such
 4 Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -
 5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -



heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
 ho - ly is God's name. All peo - ple will de -
 mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice
 motes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spir - its
 ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past



low - li - ness in man - y mar - vel - ous ways.
 clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
 far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
 sat - is - fied; the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
 prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

This 20th-century paraphrase is based on the Song of Mary (Luke 1:46–55), commonly known by its opening Latin word, *Magnificat*. This song of praise offers clear reminders that God's purposes often lead to the reversal of human values, exalting the poor and dethroning the mighty.

105

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look

a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

east and sing to - day:



Peo - ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
Love, the Bird, is on the way.
Love, the Star, is on the way.
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east:

(Love is on the way.)



Ruling Elders

Class of 2024

Laura Cromer
Kit Davis
Patrick Farnan
Bill McDowell
Rosemay Palmer-Ball
Eddie Wells
Johnny Burrice *youth*
Trevor Gilford *youth*

Class of 2025

Michael Beasley
Paul Costel
Elaine Duncan
Holly Gathright
Bob Horton
John Hubbard
Elizabeth Scinta
Linda Watson

Class of 2026

Miriam Ballert
Marilyn Duke
Liz Ratliff Evans
Lindsey Hundley
Lucy Kosse
Deb Vetter
Whitney Watt

Clerk of Session Sharon Clark

Deacons

Class of 2024

Beth Blythe
Scott Carothers
Priss Hovious
Larry Jones
Tim Martin, *Clerk of Deacons*
Justin Powers
Christie Wilson

Class of 2025

Sandy Bailey
Prentice Brown
Cathy Flowers
Jane Roth
Martha Spencer
Lowell Stevens

Class of 2026

Nathan Dicken
Glen Hume
Sissy Judy
Susan McDowell
Paige Reinstine
Kristi Smith

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Paula S. Roberts	<i>Organist Emerita</i>	



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