

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!

Bold type *is sung or read in unison.*

⁺ *Texts for musical pieces, anthems, or reflections can be found in the back of your bulletin.*

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering

PRELUDE	<i>And the Glory of the Lord</i> from <i>Messiah</i> Kentucky Brass	G.F. Handel arr. Jim Stanton
	⁺ <i>Chorale Prelude on 'Den die Hirten lobten sebre'</i> Guy Younce, organ	Helmut Walcha
	<i>God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen</i> The Chamber Orchestra; Guy Younce, organ	arr. David Willcocks

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

8:30	MEDITATION	⁺ <i>Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr</i>	Johann Gottfried Walther
11	INTROIT	⁺ <i>There's a New Song in the Air</i> The Chapel Choir & Worship Arts	Joseph M. Martin & Jeff Reeves

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES *read responsively*

8:30 a.m. Remy, Gilbert, Sutton, and Gill Lamphere
11:00 a.m. Alison, Charlie, Cal, and William Crawford

No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kin-dom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming.

We choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another.

We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world.

and we will not stop rejoicing in God ...

We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

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*

Ever-present God, we know perfect joy can only be found in you, yet too often we seek it elsewhere. Longing for comfort, we indulge our desires. Searching for love, we hide from our faults. Seeking approval, we live beyond our means. Forgive us, O God, when we look for satisfaction in all the wrong places. Help us turn again to you, our true source of joy, and guide us to rediscover what is just, honorable, and pleasing in your sight.

Time for silent prayer.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *read responsively*

Dear friends, hear and believe this Good News:

By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

*RESPONSE HYMN

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

ADESTE FIDELES

*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.*

O come, let us adore him! O come, let us adore him!

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE *read responsively*

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

MUSICAL CELEBRATION *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

arr. Arnold B. Sherman

Austin Memorial Handbells

The Word: Surprised by Joy

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:7-18 (excerpted)

Rev. Dr. Kim Clayton

RESPONSIVE HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Please read and sing where indicated in bold.

O Emmanuel, our Desire and our Hope:

Come and save us, O Lord, our God.*Choir: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, who mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*O Wisdom, who came forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from end to end, and ordering all things in power and compassion:**Come and teach us the way of prudence.***Men of the Choir: O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice ...*O Root of Jesse, who stands as an ensign for the people, before whom earthly rulers
keep silence and to whom the people make their supplication;**Come and deliver us, and tarry not.*****All Singing: O come thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here. Dispense the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

O Monarch of the people and their desired one, cornerstone that makes all one:

Come and make whole those whom you created from the dust of the earth.***All Singing: O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind. Bid envy, strife, and discord cease. Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

SCRIPTURE

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Lorie Williamson

ANTHEM

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Antonio Vivaldi

The Sanctuary Choir & Chamber Orchestra; Guy Younce, organ

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

REFLECTION

⁺*God's Surprise, excerpted*

John Bell

Russ Dunlap

ANTHEM

⁺*The Huron Carol*

Sarah Quartel

The Sanctuary Choir & Meme Tunnell, piano

REFLECTION

⁺*Remembering that It Happened Once*

Wendell Berry

Jim Rittenhouse

SCRIPTURE

Zephaniah 3:18b-20

Dr. Karen Hadley

REFLECTION

+First Coming

Madeleine L'Engle

Janet Rittenhouse

ANTHEM

Unto Us Is Born a Son

trad. English carol
arr. David Willcocks

Unto us is born a son,
King of choirs supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.
Christ, from heav'n
descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their Owner know
E'en cradled in a manger.

Thus did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild
Hear the Christmas story:
O that Mary's gentle Child
Might lead us up to glory!

O&A and A&O,
Cantemus in choro,
Voice and organ, sing we so,
Benedicamus Domino.

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 pen.
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 *+ Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr* Johann Gottfried Walther
ANTHEM Two Movements from *Christmas Oratorio*, BWV 248 J.S. Bach

*Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled
Within my heart, and there recline
And keep that chamber ever Thine.*

*Shout for joy and praise the day,
Praise to what the Most High has done today.
Let this make you tremble. Banish your lamentations.
Sing with joy and gladness.*

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

*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 dedicated with Gratitude for All of our Friends at
Second, from Marcy and Ron Suter.

USHERS

8:30 Bill Creason, John Cunningham, Sallie Cunningham, Mike Vairin, Dennis Dolan

11:00 Brad Hume, Glen Hume, Roy Bowling, Ann Bowling, Curt Engelstad,
Julie Engelstad

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Kim Clayton & Rev. Andrew Bowman, liturgists;

Lorie Williamson, Dr. Karen Hadley, Russ Dunlap & Janet Rittenhouse, readers.

Austin Memorial Handbells: *Bonnie Boram, Terry Cissell, Elizabeth Clay, Lindsay Cook, Kit Davis, Stacie Farris, Steve Farris, Brandon Flamion, Katherine Flamion, Jean Herp, Sue Rogers, Carmen Sanders, & Susanne Wright.*

The Sanctuary Choir (Octet*): *Laura Atkinson*, Mary Ayers, Paul Ayers, 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, David Rummeler, Deborah Skaggs, Larry Sloan, Martha Spencer, Jason Steigermalt*, Camille Williams-Neal, & Jesse Wright; Megan Durham & Amanda Hood, guest singers.*

Chamber Orchestra: *Alex Vvedenskiy & Stephanie Hile, Oboes; Dillon Welch, Chris Robinson, Kim Tichenor, Ilija Steinschneider, Violins; Jennifer Shackelton & Laura de St. Croix-Vicic, Violas; Cecilia Huerta-Lauf, Violoncello; Karl Olsen, Double Bass; Sam Riddick, Percussion*

Kentucky Brass: *Jim Recktenwald & Nicholas Recktenwald, Trumpets; Jon Gustely, Horn; James Seymour, Trombone; Stasi Fafalios, Bass Trombone.*

Guy Younce, organ; Meme Tunnell, piano; Jim Rittenhouse, conductor

Evan Vicic, Audiovisual Engineer; William Vicic, camera

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O Emmanuel, *from Sounding the Seasons, by Malcolm Guite, © 2012 Canterbury Press, used with the author's permission.*

FEATURED ART (Bulletin Cover) *“Advent Star”*

Artist: Robyn Sand Anderson, contemporary artist, Minneapolis, MN

In her own words: “Abstract expressionism opened up a new world for me; one which used color, movement and texture to help me work through what I couldn't find the words to express. My use of bright, vibrant color always moves toward hope. As I worked in abstraction, I became conscious that I see color with certain music. I feel like this way of painting lifted me out of a dark place. I am grateful.”

We Lift Up in Prayer

Lenny and Kelly Gant and family on the death of his father, Carl Gant, 12/8/24.

John Y. III, Rebecca, John Y. IV, and Maggie Brown and family on the death of his mother, and their grandmother, Ellie Brown, 12/7/24.

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.

Texts

Den die Hirten lobten sebre

Chorale text commonly sung in Latin *‘Quem pastores laudaverē’*; tr. Aaron Jensen.

Translation:

Him whom the shepherds lauded,
to whom the angels said,
Far be it now from you to fear,
born is the King of glory.
Him whom the shepherds lauded,
and the angel still more so,
“Fear ye henceforth nevermore,
to you is born a King of glory.”

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr’

Chorale text written by Nikolas Decius (1525)/Martin Luther; tr. Frances Browne

*Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr'
Und Dank für seine Gnade,
Darum daß nun und nimmermehr
Uns rühren kann kein' Quen Schade.
Ein Wohlgefall'n Gott an uns hat,
Nun ist groß' Fried' ohn' Unterlaß,
All' Fehd' hat nun ein Ende.*

To God alone on high be glory
and thanks for his mercy,
since now and forever more
no harm can touch us.
God is pleased with us,
now there is great peace without
cease,
all feuds have now an end.

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.

The Huron Carol

Translated from the language of the Huron/Wendat people; the song's original Huron title is "Jesous Ahathonhia" ("Jesus, he is born").

"Twas in the moon of winter-time
When all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou
Sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wandering hunters heard the hymn:
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria."

Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapp'd His beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
The angel song rang loud and high...
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria."

The earliest moon of wintertime
Is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory
On the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria."

O children of the forest free,
O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven
Is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant Boy
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.
"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria."

Remembering that It Happened Once

Wendell Berry

Remembering that it happened once,
We cannot turn away the thought,
As we go out, cold, to our barns
Toward the long night's end, that we
Ourselves are living in the world
It happened in when it first happened,
That we ourselves, opening a stall
(A latch thrown open countless times
Before), might find them breathing there,
Foreknown: the Child bedded in straw,
The mother kneeling over Him,
The husband standing in belief
He scarcely can believe, in light

That lights them from no source we see,
An April morning's light, the air
Around them joyful as a choir.
We stand with one hand on the door,
Looking into another world
That is this world, the pale daylight
Coming just as before, our chores
To do, the cattle all awake,
Our own white frozen breath hanging
In front of us; and we are here
As we have never been before,
Sighted as not before, our place
Holy, although we knew it not.

First Coming

Madeleine L'Engle

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.
He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. He did not wait
till hearts were pure. In joy he came
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.
He came to a world which did not mesh,
To heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
The Maker of the stars was born.
We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

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.

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

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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CHURCH

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