

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!

Bold type *is sung or read in unison.*

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering

11 a.m. THE TOLLING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Partita, Mvt. 1 - Liberamente, Allegro* Jan Koetsier
Jennifer Potochnik, English Horn; Dr. James Rightmyer, Guest Organist

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

11 a.m. INTROIT *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* J. Schop, arr. J.S. Bach
The Sanctuary Choir

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning.
You shepherds, shudder not with fright, but hear the angel's warning.
This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,
the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.
Johann Rist, trans. John Troutbeck

PRESENTING THE MEANS OF GRACE

*HYMN 147 *The First Nowell* THE FIRST NOWELL
vs. 1-3, 5

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *read in unison*

Eternal God, you hold the past, present, and future in your hands. All of time, all of our lives are encompassed by your light and love. We begin this new year confessing freely that we are forgetful of the many ways you sustain us. Distracted by busy schedules and endless lists, we divide our days into tiny fragments. We keep focused on the lists and responsibilities that are ever before us. Help us to look up, searching for your glory shining everywhere. Help us to look out, noticing the people and places, the beauty and opportunities you place before us. Light the way before us and guide us in your paths so that, beholding your grace, we may reflect your love and your light to others.

Time for silent prayer

(please turn page quietly)

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

... therefore, we celebrate this Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. The past is finished and gone; we can begin again. Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE HYMN 147

The First Nowell, vs. 6

THE FIRST NOWELL

*11: Children ages 3 through completed 3rd graders are welcome to come forward to the center;
they will be dismissed through the side door for activities following the Peace.*

**Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the king of Israel!**

*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

Isaiah 60:1–6

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

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 2:1–12

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

SERMON

The Journey Toward Light

Rev. Dr. Kim Clayton

The Response

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *read in unison*

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.

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!



ANTHEM

Behold a Star from Jacob Shining from Christus

Felix Mendelssohn

Behold a star from Jacob shining,
And a scepter from Israel rising,
To reign in glory over the nations.
Like some bright morning star is he,
The promise of the coming day,
Beyond the night of sorrow.

Break forth, O Light!
We, our joyful hearts uplifting with thanksgiving,
Hail the brightness of Thy rising.
- based on Numbers 24:17

*DOXOLOGY

Angels from the Realms of Glory, vs. 3

REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *read responsively*

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.

It is truly right...And hear us as we pray the prayer Jesus gave to us in his days upon the earth, saying...

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *Partita, Mvt. V - Andante sostenuto* Jan Koetsier
Jennifer Potochnik, English Horn; Dr. James Rightmyer, Guest Organist

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SHARING GRACE

The Sending

*HYMN 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

vs. 1: Men of Choir sing; all sing refrain

vs. 2: All singing

vs. 3: Women sing verse, all sing refrain

vss. 4 & 5 : All singing

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Dr. James Rightmyer, Guest Organist

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

You are welcome to remain seated for the postlude or exit quietly.

In Worship Today

PRESENTING THE MEANS OF GRACE

Our life is in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. The Bible is the written witness to Jesus Christ, therefore it is "The Word of Life." Our lives are claimed by God through our baptism. It is God's seal on who we are as the children of God, therefore it is "The Font of Identity." The Table is the center of our home in the Body of Christ, the place where we are welcomed, renewed, and strengthened for the life to which we are called, therefore it is "The Table of Sustenance."

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given in honor of our nine grandchildren from Ann MacDonald Ross and Ron Ross

USHERS

8:30 Bonnie and Larry Boram

11 Gene and Connie Smith, Sarah Middleton, Tim Martin, Elizabeth Scinta,
Chuck Dobbins

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Kim Clayton, preacher; Lorie Williamson, liturgist

The Octet (8:30) and the Sanctuary Choir (11); Jim Rittenhouse, Director;

Dr. James Rightmyer, Guest Organist; Jennifer Potochnik, English Horn/Oboe

Evan Vivic, Audiovisual Engineer; William Vivic, Audiovisual Technician

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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.

Elizabeth Owen on the death of her sister, Alice Cary Farmer Brown 11/29/24.

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.

147

The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
 2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / nē*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

The image shows a musical score for the phrase "born is the King of Is - ra - el." It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

- 5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and
frankincense.
Refrain
- 6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Refrain

151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1–12) as “kings,” perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

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

Staff

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



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