

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.



With gratitude to God, 2025 marks our 195th anniversary, and as we move toward our bicentennial, we have a great opportunity to reflect on our many accomplishments, evaluate our current mission, and identify new strategic pathways that will help us meet the needs of our congregation and community.

Please join us on our continued journey to preserve, strengthen, and innovate our community of faith.



Children of God, welcome home!

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

For our worshippers at 11 a.m. 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 worshipers at 11 a.m. 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 headset unit, please ask an usher to provide one.



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

Bold type indicates where we share the liturgy together.

Service for the Lord's Day

"...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'" - Matthew 1:20-21

The Gathering

11:00 a.m. TOLLING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE	8:30 a.m.	<i>Sellinger's Round—Circles Toward the Dawn</i>	William Byrd
	11:00 a.m.	<i>Musette sur Adeste Fideles</i>	Jeanne Demessieux
		Mengfei Xu, harpsichord/organ	

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

CAROL-SING

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains:
"Gloria in excelsis Deo!"**

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

SUSSEX CAROL

**On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring. *repeat*
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful king's birth!**

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

**Gentle Mary laid her child, lowly in a manger;
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *read responsively*

8:30 a.m. Greg and Harriett Treitz

11:00 a.m. Mac Barr and Alexandra & Jack Ortiz

from Matt 1:21-23

The birth of Jesus demonstrates God's love for the world:

They shall name him Emmanuel, "God-with-us."

We light the fourth candle to honor the love with which God saves us.

With loving hearts, we await the dawning of God's presence.

*HYMN 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *read in unison*

God of love, we give you thanks for this holy time of preparing for Jesus's birth. We praise you for reminders of our calling to be your people. Yet as we get closer to the stable, we see how we have fallen short of following your way. You call us to love our neighbor, but we often resist your call if it does not benefit us. You call us to love our enemies, too, but we worry that is impossible in these contentious times. Forgive us for loving only in the safest situations. Teach us to love as Christ loved, so he might be born joyfully in us.

Time for silent prayer.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

With Christmas joy in our hearts, let us join the angels in proclaiming this

Good News:

Through Christ, we are saved from our sins! Emmanuel;

God is with us! Amen.

*RESPONSE HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, refrain*

VENI EMMANUEL

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.

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

*PASSING OF THE PEACE *read responsively*

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Jerusalem

Christina Bouras Recktenwald, soprano

G.F. Handel

from MESSIAH

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

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

SECOND READING

Matthew 1:18-25

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

SERMON

Light Dawns: Joseph

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

The Response

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *read in unison*

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Joseph's Carol*
Jason Steigerwalt, soloist

John Rutter

Long and weary was the journey
Hard and dark the road we trod
Deep enfolded in the stillness of the night
It seemed I heard the voice of God
'Fear not, Joseph, weep not, Mary
Travel onward through the darkness of night
Bethlehem will see his glory
Christ, Emmanuel, the Lord of light
*Ecce miraculum (behold the miracle),
ecce miraculum*
Here in a stable lies your heav'nly King
Ecce miraculum, ecce miraculum
Alleluia, alleluia hear the angels sing

Journey's end was just a stable bare
Cold and lonely for a birth
Ox and ass were our companions there
When God revealed himself on earth
Shepherds came in awe and wonder
Kneeling low beside his manger stall
Angels singing, wise men bringing
Gifts to lay before the Lord of all

Ecce miraculum...

*DOXOLOGY 143 *Angels from the Realms of Glory, vs. 4*

REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to th' eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!**

*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 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

8:30 a.m.

Fugue on a Magnificat Tone

Johann Pachelbel

11:00 a.m.

Toccata on Hyfrydol

Gordon Young

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

OUR FLOWERS THIS MORNING

One arrangement at the Chancel is given in loving memory of Charles and Jerry Pence by their daughter, Sallie Pence.

One arrangement at the Chancel is given by Charlie and Edith Huber in memory of their parents, and in the beloved honor of their Children and Grandchildren.

The two arrangements in the Narthex are given in loving memory of Eleanor Nickerson by her daughter and son-in-law, Valerie and Ernie Dreher.

USHERS

8:30 Greg Treitz

11:00 Emily Lawrence, Curt Engelstad, Julie Engelstad, David Dorsey, Lee Ann Dorsey, Sarah Middleton

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, preacher; Rev. Andrew Bowman, liturgist; Susan Snyder(8:30); Karen Hadley, Lay Reader (11)

The Octet (8:30); The Sanctuary Choir (11); Jim Rittenhouse, director; Mengfei Xu, organist

Evan Vicic, Audiovisual Engineer; William Vicic, camera (11)

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We Lift Up in Prayer

The family of Margaret Flowers on her death, 12/10/25.

Gene and Connie Smith and family on the death of Gene's sister, Elizabeth Land, 11/20/25

The family of Natalie Brymer on her death, 11/20/25.

Ann and Roy Bowling and family on the death of her brother, Bruce Kleinschmidt, 11/18/25.

THE CHRISMON TREE

In 1986 a former member of our church, Edith Breed, President of the Women of the Church, had a dream of one day having a Chrismon Tree during the Advent Season in our church. Many women in the church researched the symbols of Christianity and handmade all of the decorations that you see on the tree in the Sanctuary. White is the liturgical color of Christmas which refers to the purity and perfection of Christ, and gold to the majesty and glory of Christ. The first Chrismon Tree was put in the Narthex for all to see in 1989. Please enjoy this piece of our history, which represents the work of so many women of our church.

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.

Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm7) Dm7 (Em7) Gm7 (A) C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C B^b F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 B^b C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C B^b C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
 when your re-newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

The flowers and wreaths are given to the glory of God by...

Wreaths:

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Edward Glasscock in memory of Clinton, and Jane Shewmaker
Jean O'Brien & family in loving memory always of John D. O'Brien MD & Matthew P. O'Brien
Lorrie & Peter Conway in memory of George & Ruth Conway, and Robert & Marilyn Smith
Ann Buckman in memory of J.D., Angelina, & Carletta Buckman
Eric Jagers
Janie & Tom Scovil in memory of her parents Jack & Jane Duerson and given with love
Tim & Sharon Clark in honor of our children & grandchildren, and in memory of our parents

Poinsettias:

Nelson & Deborah Clemmens in memory of Doug Toms
Elizabeth McKean in memory of Frank McKean
Mr and Mrs W. Edwin Lewis & Mr and Mrs Edwin H. Lewis in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hughes, & Mr & Mrs Robert K Lewis
Emily & Tom Lawrence in memory of our granddaughter Caroline Vitale, parents Hazel & Herb Ledford, Ruby Lawrence & sister Lucy Lawrence
Tom & Karen Sweets in memory of our parents
Bonnie & John Stone in honor of our daughters & grandchildren
Sandall & Tom Tyrrell in memory of Mr & Mrs Gerald F. Tyrell, Mr & Mrs Charles L. Dade, Gerald G. Tyrell, Charles L. Dade IV
Kelly, Joe, Campbell, Caroline, & Elizabeth Seiler in memory of John G Seiler Jr, and Mrs Louise B. Seiler
Kelly & Joe Seiler in honor of our children Campbell, Caroline, & Elizabeth Seiler
Ed Wilson in memory of Jeanie Wilson
Eric Jagers
Cindy & Mike Dickman in honor of our children Lillie, Maggie, & Jack, and in memory of our parents Norma & Bill Dickman, and Lester Key, in honor of Maxie Key
Jess & Susanne Wright in honor of our children & grandchildren. in memory of Portia Leatherman
Marcy Suter in memory of my husband Ron
Sunny & Ronnie Seale in honor of our grandchildren Morgan Fellon, Jackson & Ruby Seale
Anne Ehrman in loving memory of Frederick C. Ehrman MD by his family
Gene & Connie Smith in memory of our parents Mr & Mrs Mason Venner Smith, and Mr & Mrs Lester J. Rausch
Evelyn Hwang in memory of M.C. Hwang, Maria Niu, Hedy Shao, & Peter T.K. Wu., and in memory of Henri Hou MD, John Church, Eric Huang, and in memory of Rev. Chet Minarcik
Ken Herrington
Laura Hood in memory of Jane Nast (Grammy)
John & Laura Davis in honor of our children Abby, Allison, & Scott Davis
Priss & Gregg Hovious in honor of our children Kate, Robert, & Sam



Amy Rosenberger Babikian in memory of Bonita & Robert Rosenberger
Sissy Russelburg in memory of Paxton & Joyce Price
Wayne & Linda Rudloff in honor of their children Elizabeth, Andrew, Liz, Clay, & Stuart
Susan & Jack Moss, Elliott, Wesley & Rhodes in memory of Bill & Louise Elliot, and in memory of
Betty Kilgore Moss Gibbs & George Gibbs
Mary Lane & Eloise Penner in honor of Linda & Harold Blevins
Linda & Harold Blevins in honor of our children & grandchildren
Patty & Bill West in loving memory of Pat & Gordon Dabney, and Pat & Bill West
Edie Wells in honor of my grandchildren Lottie, Mary Townsend, & Miles
Kaye Chesemore in memory of Sharon Stern & Katherine Ferguson
Pat & Angela Duffy in honor of Evelyn Hwang, & the Duffy Boys
Glen & Brad Hume in honor of Florence Jenney Hume. in memory of Marion & Mac Chowning,
Walter Hume, Margurite Hume
Cathy Flowers in honor of my children & grandchildren: Will, Blair, Grayson, Maggie, Andrew,
Charlie, Lulu, Clark, Katie, Caroline, Tommy, & Vivi
Nan Dobbs in memory of Dr. Charlie Dobbs
Will, Maggie, Clark, & Caroline (Flowers) in loving memory of Margaret Flowers, our wonderful
grandmother
Andrea & Kyle Wiggins in memory of Robert B. Patterson
Frances & Charlie Scholtz in honor of their grandchildren Latham & Charlie, and in celebration for
the blessing of family
The Nichols-Pecceu Family in memory of Robert W. Nichols & Thomas B. Nichols
Cathy Cole Irvin in memory of Shelley Louise Irvin
Kitty & Stan deVoogd in honor of their granddaughters Amelia, Nori, & Charlotte
Greg & Harriet Treitz in memory of John & Jean Lee Treitz, and Albert & Ming Dick
Bruce & Joan Dudley, Nancy & Walter Ostertag, and Liz & Rick Haas in memory of
Barbara & George Dudley
The Costel Family in memory of William J. Rutledge, and William & Virginia Costel
Marcia & Scott Koch in memory of Abbott & Susan Reid
Heather, Amelia, & Colleen Campbell in memory of Chris Campbell
Walt & Jamie Swyers in honor of our grandchildren Marin, Tyler, Bennett, Lily, & Sam
Ed, Carolyn, Edwin, & Kim Lewis in memory of Clinton Glasscock
The McGuire Family in memory of Patrick & Kelsey McGuire
Jane Roth in memory of Jack Roth
Elizabeth & Doug Owen in memory of our parents Alice Cary & Eugene Farmer, Ceclia
Reynolds Hill, & Douglas H. Owen
Tim & Sharon Clark in honor of our children & grandchildren, in memory of our parents
George White in memory of Susan England White
Prentice Brown & Kim Muir Graven in memory of Joan Muir
Prentice Brown, Allison Duncan & Mark Brown in memory of Judy Brown & her son Chip
Walter Crutcher, Cheryl Cooper in memory of Scott Davis



Ruling Elders

Class of 2025

Paul Costel
Elaine Duncan
Bob Horton
John Hubbard
Elizabeth Scinta
Linda Watson
vacant

Class of 2026

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

Class of 2027

Ann Bowling
John Cunningham
Angela Duffy
Stephanie Fellon
Larry Jones
Justin Powers
Kyle Wiggins

Youth Elders: Morgan Fellon & Wilson Masick

Clerk: Chip Snyder

Deacons

Class of 2025

Sandy Bailey, *Clerk*
Prentice Brown
Scott Carothers
Cathy Flowers
Jane Roth
Martha Spencer
Lowell Stevens

Class of 2026

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

Class of 2027

Kelly Bryant
Tim Clark
Kitty deVoogd
Jim Haynes
Patrice Paton
Kay Reis
Sunny Seale

Staff

Barrett Abernethy *Pastor & Head of Staff*

Andrew Bowman *Associate Pastor for Community Life*

Elizabeth Clay *Coordinator for Pastoral Care*

Karla Wright *Director of the Weekday School*

Lorie Williamson *Director of Children's & Family Ministry*

Jim Rittenhouse *Director of Worship & Music Ministry*

Michael Harper *Coordinator for Youth Ministry*

Mengfei Xu *Organist and Assistant Director of Worship & Music*

Amy Kiefner *Communications Specialist and Technology Administrator*

Tammy Kissling *Ministry Coordinator for Faith Formation & Mission*

Jeremy Doyle *Director of Facilities*

Earl Toepfert *Maintenance Technician*

Yilena Romero Aguilera *Custodian*

Paula S. Roberts *Organist Emerita*

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