

December 7, 2025



**First Presbyterian
Church**
of Pittsburgh

WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:45 am

Second Sunday of Advent

****Please stand as you are able***

Prelude: “In the Bleak Midwinter”
Gustav Holtz; arr. Larry Shockley

Alaine Fink, *piano*

Time of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Craig M. Walls
Senior Pastor

Gathering Before the Word

***Responsive Call to Worship**

Paul Horne, *liturgist*

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

People: A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord."

Leader: Every heart shall be made whole.

People: For peace is stronger than turmoil, and love is louder than hate.

Leader: As we light our second Advent candle, we pray for the peace of God.

People: Come now, O Child of Mary,

Leader: Come now, O Prince of Peace.

All: Let us worship God together this Second Sunday of Advent.

Choral Introit: “Rejoice, Rejoice with Music”
Arr. Joseph Martin and Stacey Nordmeyer

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Burt and Pam Fazi

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. (Isaiah 11:6-9)

We watch and wait for Christ's coming!

On this the second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of **peace**.

We come recognizing God's work to restore all of creation to harmony.

God of hope and peace come into our darkness.

We light the candles of hope and peace remembering the promises of God.

Choral Response: “O, Come, O Come Emmanuel”

***Hymn #132:** *"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!"* (located in this bulletin)

Call to Confession

Paul Horne

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God, we know that you are a God of justice and might, as well as a God of tenderness and mercy. We know of your promises to come again to set all things right. Yet we confess that we so often live as people without hope. God of Hope, forgive us. Teach us to speak and sing once more of the coming of your great day of justice. *Amen.*

Time of Silent Prayer and Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Walls

The Lord's Prayer

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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Anthem: *"O Come, All You Unfaithful"*

Arr. Heather Sorenson

Sermon: *"John's A Christmas Carol"*

Rev. Walls

Responding to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed**

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

***Communion Hymn #347 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”** *(located in this bulletin)*

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Communion Music: *“Pastorale on a French Carol”*
Gordon Young

Alaine Fink, *organ*

Call for the Offering *(Online giving available, scan code on back)*

Rev. Walls

Offertory

“I Wonder as I Wander”
Appalachian carol; arr. Amy Potter

Matthew Sartore, *bass soloist*
Alaine Fink, *piano*

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; alleluia, alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Walls

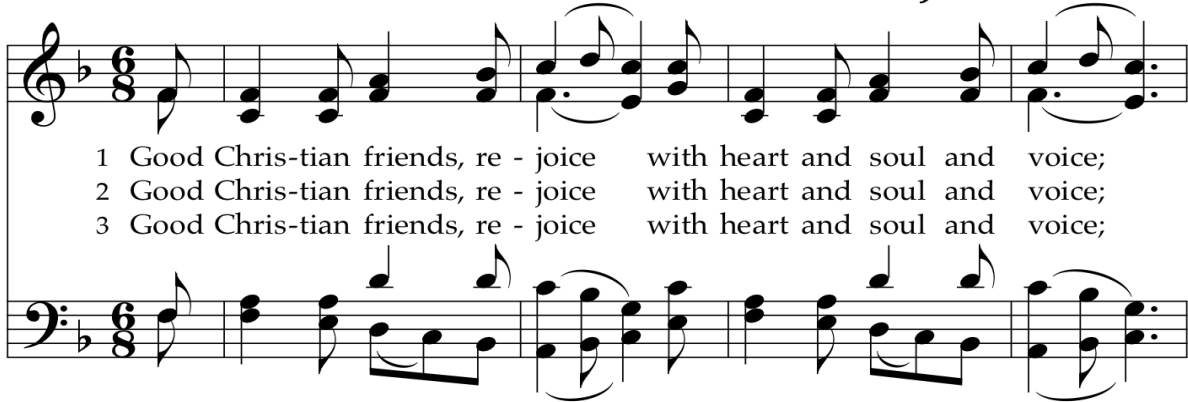
***Hymn #143: “Angels, From the Realms of Glory ”** *(located in this bulletin)*

***Invitation, Charge and Benediction**

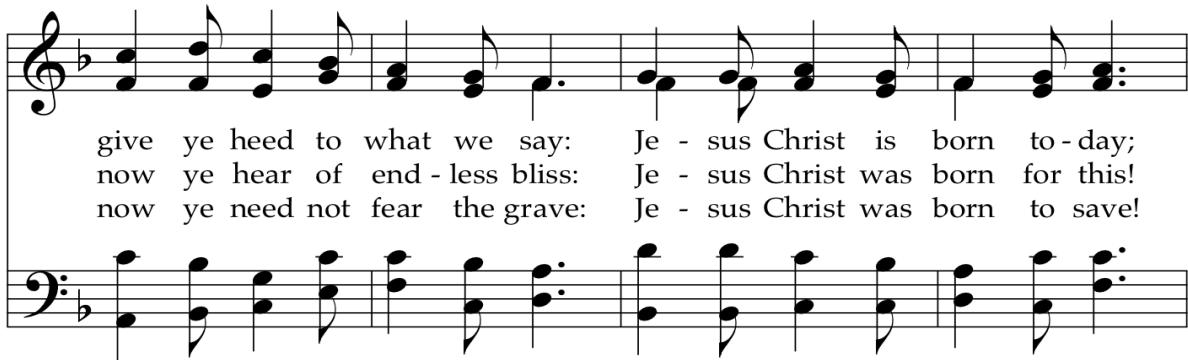
Postlude: *“Noël Suisse”*
Louis-Claude Daquin

Alaine Fink, *organ*

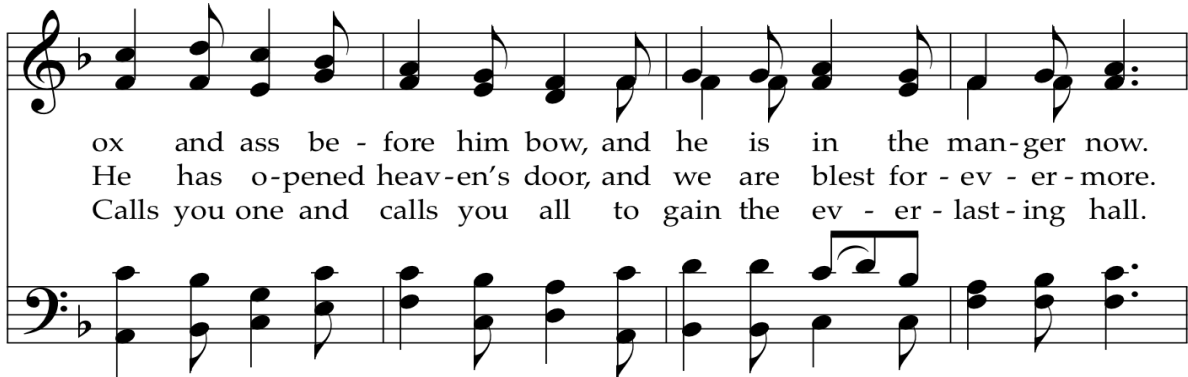
132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence 347

Capo 3: (Bm) Dm (G) B \flat (D) F (Bm) Dm (C) E \flat

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim, with

(G) B \flat (F \sharp) A (G) B \flat (D) F (Em) Gm

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man
 on the way, as the Light of light de -
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the

(Bm) Dm (C) E \flat (G) B \flat (D) F

mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
 ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
 scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
 pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,

(B) D (Em) Gm (Bm) Dm (A) C

Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
 he will give to all the faith - ful
 that the powers of hell may van - ish
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

(Bm) Dm (Em) Gm (F \sharp m) Am (Bm) Dm

our full hom - age to de - mand.
 his own self for heaven - ly food.
 as the shad - ows clear a way.
 al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high!"

The flowering of English hymnody in the 19th century included the rediscovery, translation, and versification of ancient Christian hymns, such as this text from one of the earliest existing Christian liturgies. It is set here to an adaptation of a 17th-century French melody.

143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star:
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

Ongoing/Upcoming Opportunities . . .

Hospitality Hour

Join us after worship this morning for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the chapel. If you're visiting with us, we would especially like to get to know you!

Sunday School

The Cornerstone Class continues to explore the early Church through a study of the **Book of Acts**. The class meets from **9:30 - 10:30 a.m.** in **Room #17** (chapel area, next to the stage). If you'd like to join them for fellowship and learning, please contact **Charlie Claudon at 412-400-4868**. Children's Sunday School also continues in Room 4 downstairs. All children ages kindergarten to fifth grade are invited.

It's Poinsettia Time!

We are again planning to decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas Eve worship. **Each plant is in a 6" pot and costs \$15.** An announcement will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin listing the donors and the individual(s) being honored or memorialized. **The deadline for ordering is Friday, December 12.** To order, please contact Cheryl at **412-471-3436 x220** or cswartz@fpcp.org. You can then place your check (payable to the church) in the offering plate or send it to the church office (320 Sixth Ave, Pittsburgh, 15222). (Please indicate "*poinsettias*" in the memo field).

Lessons and Carols and Christmas Luncheon – December 14

On Sunday December 14th, a Fellowship Luncheon will be held after the *Lessons and Carols* service in the Chapel/Lounge Area. The Deacons will provide baked ham and cookies. A sign-up sheet is located on the coffee table in the Lounge. Please sign up to let us know if you're able to bring a hot or cold side dish to share. If you have any questions, please see any Deacon.

Christmas Eve Service

Make plans now to be with us on Christmas Eve. The service will begin at 5:00 pm, but come early to enjoy a special prelude and to prepare your heart for the wonder of His birth.

Make the season bright for Cellar Students!

We would like to include a small gift card in the Christmas goodie bags that we'll be assembling for the students at *The Cellar*, and the store Five Below is one of their favorites. *Could you help us by donating a \$10 Five Below gift card or two?* If you're not a shopper, you can also send a check payable to the church with "*Cellar Christmas*" in the memo field.

Due to the one school we serve having a trimester system and breaking for Christmas early, we will be having this year's Christmas celebration early on *Thursday, December 11*. As a result, we'd like to have the gift cards in hand by Wednesday, December 10. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Please contact Cheryl with any questions. cswartz@fpcp.org or 412-471-3436 x220.

Outreached Arms (OA) – NEW Hoodie Donations Requested

Outreach Arms is collecting warm new hoodies for about 125 guests. Suggested sizes are *Large, XL, 2XL and 3XL* as our guests like to wear a hoodie over their sweatshirt. Please bring your hoodie donations to the Fellowship table on Sunday mornings. *Please do not wrap the hoodies as they will be wrapped after they are all collected.* If you are not a shopper, you may send donations via their website at www.outreachedarms.org or send a check made payable to **Outreached Arms** with "*OA Hoodie drive*" in the memo field. You can bring/mail checks to the church and they will be forwarded to OA.

Giving Envelopes are here!

If you had requested personalized giving envelopes for 2026, please stop by the lounge and pick up the box that has your name on it. Envelopes not picked up by December 31 will be mailed out.

First Church Staff and Clergy

Church Office: 412-471-3436
320 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
www.fpcp.org – info@fpcp.org

SENIOR PASTOR
Rev. Dr. Craig M. Walls
cwalls@fpcp.org
ext. 222

**WEDDING
COORDINATOR**
Megan McFarland
mmcfarland@fpcp.org

PIPER IN RESIDENCE
George Balderose
george@bagpiping.org

SECURITY
Mary Caswell
mcaswell@fpcp.org

PASTOR EMERITUS
Rev. Thomas M. Hall II

OFFICE MANAGER
Cheryl Swartz
cswartz@fpcp.org
ext. 220

ACCOUNTANT
Kate Williams
kwilliams@fpcp.org
ext.230

THE CELLAR
Joanne Galinowski, *director*
jgalinowski@fpcp.org

Anita Perry, *assistant*

MINISTER OF MUSIC
Alaine Fink
afink@fpcp.org

MAINTENANCE STAFF
Tim Salinetto, *supervisor*
tsalinetto@fpcp.org

Louis Pack
John Radford
Sharon Zorich

**VOLUNTEER SOUND/
VIDEO TECHNICIANS**
Victor Ndinyah
Doug Williams
Dan Conner
David Charlton
Brian Vertz

Our Sanctuary is open to visitors Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Call to Schedule a Tour!

You can reach the Church Office Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Call: 412-471-3436 | Email: info@fpcp.org | www.fpcp.org.

Visiting Us Today?



Scan Code to Connect with Us!

Giving Online?



Scan Code to Give!

Need Validated Parking?

Sundays only, get a sticker for your parking ticket at the FPCP Welcome Center in the Narthex (front lobby). Scan both sides of the ticket at the payment booth at the **Oliver**, **Mellon Square**, and **Smithfield** garages to pay \$1 for parking.

Music at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh is reprinted and broadcast by permission through CCLI License #3071786, OneLicense #A-741897, and CCS License #11486.