



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

The Service for the Lord's Day – December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Ordination and Installation of Officers

Generation to Generation

A special welcome to those visiting with us today!

We are grateful for your presence with us and hope you find this time of worship to be meaningful.

When you see an asterisk *, please rise in body or spirit, however you are comfortable.

Children are welcome in worship! A nursery is also available for infants and toddlers in Room 119.

We Gather to Worship

PRELUDE

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

arr. Rob Roy McGregor

Blackwelder Brass

Ben Failor & Seth Seneca, trumpets; Vincent Vasconcellos, horn

Tyler Martindale, trombone; Jesse Soliz, tuba

WORDS OF WELCOME, CHURCH LIFE

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

PURPLE BAGS

Jim Tack

CHIME

INTROIT

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Jacques Berthier

Sanctuary Singers, Blackwelder Brass

arr. Warren Puffer Jones

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - Isaiah 2:4, 11:6, 35:1**

Scott, Nicole, and Willow Wilson

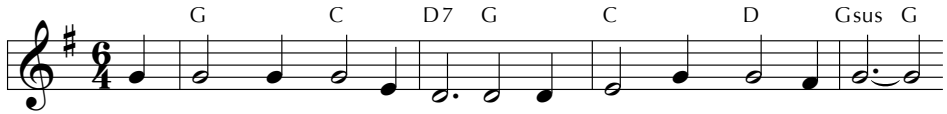
Leader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

People: Advent means coming.

Leader: We are preparing ourselves for the days

People: when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



- 1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

Leader: The wolf shall dwell 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.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

*HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison)

Brad Davenport

Eternal God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith, so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of fierce compassion, you call us to make our ways straight, yet we get lost down crooked roads of selfish concern. We are to prepare the way for your reign of justice, but we choose easier paths of comfort. Have mercy on us. Forgive us and set us back to work, clearing paths of justice, building highways of peace, and preparing the world for your return. (silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

To this peace we are called as members of a single body.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Gloria Patri

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit Three in one.

May every tongue and nation raise An endless song of thankful praise. Amen.

We Proclaim God's Word

DISCOVERY TIME

Children are invited forward for a special message.

Cyndi Lockwood

Children seated on the Chancel steps will be in view of the livestream image;

those on the floor facing the steps will not.

Afterwards, a nursery is provided in Room 119 for children four and under.

Children—5 years old to 4th grade—are invited to attend Children's Church in Room 215.

Parents may pick up children after worship from those locations.

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

ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Sanctuary Singers, Blackwelder Brass

HYFRYDOL
arr. Dan Forrest

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart. Come, O Sovereign Prince of Heaven; come, O wondrous Love Divine. Earth and heaven bow before Thee, Everlasting Peace sublime. O Thou Source of joy and wonder, bless us as we seek Thy face. At Thy manger grant us mercy, in Thine Advent grant us grace. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38 (pg. 56)

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO

I wonder as I wander
Caitlin Towell, soprano

John Jacob Niles

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor ornery people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky. When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all. But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it then did recall. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing, or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing, he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.*

SERMON

God Meets Us in Our Fear

Rev. John McKinnon

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN 129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

OFFERING

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Silent Night
Blackwelder Brass

arr. Keith Snell

*DOXOLOGY

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ELDERS AND DEACONS*

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS TO CONGREGATION

PRAYER OF ORDINATION/INSTALLATION

Ordained & Installed

Katie Burden*, Sue Henning*, Scott Wilson

Installed

Gaylan Adams, Barbara Charlet, Bill Hancock, Aidan McKinnon*,
Barbara Namminga*, Erica Taylor

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where.

It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
 En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he

win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

Although the early copies of this 15th-century German text include many more stanzas than are printed here, this simpler, shorter form has much to commend it. This early 17th-century harmonization of the traditional chorale melody invites and rewards singing in parts.

We Go in God's Name

*CAROL 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Carol of the Bells

arr. Keith Snell

Blackwelder Brass

Today

Sunday School Classes

- Evergreen | Room B-14 (9:30 a.m.)
- New Beginnings | Fireside Room (9:30 a.m.)
- Builders | Room B-8 (9:45 a.m.)
- High School | Youth Lounge (9:45 a.m.)
- Middle School | Room B-10 (9:45 a.m.)
- Children | Room 213 (9:45 a.m.)

Coffee & Cookies Fellowship | 9:30-10:55 a.m.

Coffee, cookies, and fellowship are available in the Reception Center every Sunday before worship!

Sanctuary Worship | 11:00 a.m.

First Sunday Lunch | 12:00 p.m.

After the worship service, we'll gather in Watchorn Hall to enjoy a delicious meal organized by Junebug Catering. **During First Sunday Lunch we'll also hold the Presbyterian Women's Annual Cookies & Cocoa Competition!** Help us decide who will win the bragging rights of Best Cookie by trying an array of tasty samples.

Menu: Ham & Swiss Sliders, Chicken Salad Croissants, Mini Burger Sliders, Potato & Green Chili Soup, Vegetable Soup, Chili, and Assorted Cookies

PW's Cookies in a Jar Fundraiser

The Presbyterian Women are selling cookie mixes for \$10/each. Stop by the Reception Center and grab a gift while supporting PW and all the work that they do!

Youth Chorale Rehearsals

Middle and High School students (grades 5th through 12th) are invited to stay after worship on Sundays (except for the 1st Sundays of the month)! We'll meet in Room B-32 and make music until 12:30 p.m.

Give to
FPC today!



136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain $\text{♩} = \text{♩}^3 \text{♩}$

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

FPC-OKC Podcast

Discover the FPC-OKC Podcast, featuring weekly sermons, sacred music, and evening prayer services. Whether you missed a Sunday or want to revisit a meaningful message or song, each episode offers inspiration, reflection, and a sense of connection wherever you are. Listen on your favorite streaming platform by searching FPCOKC or visit tinyurl.com/FPCOKCpodcast.

Upcoming Events

Bridge Group — Mondays | 6:00-8:00 p.m. & Wednesdays | 9:00-11:30 a.m.

We meet in Room B-10 (basement) on Mondays from 6:00–8:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9:00–11:30 a.m. Whether you’ve never played, are returning after a break, or just want a friendly bridge group to join, **contact Dan MacLemore at 405-496-0185 or rockdoc1949@gmail.com**.

Evening Prayer Service — Wednesdays | 5:00 & 5:30 p.m.

The Sanctuary is open on Wednesdays for individual meditation and prayer at 5:00 p.m., followed by an Evening Prayer Service from 5:30–6:00 p.m. This is a short worship service featuring sung psalms, readings, and prayers, offering a period of respite and contemplation after the workday, to help transition into the restful night.

After the service, we’ll have a time of fellowship in the Reception Center from 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Free Yoga Class — Wednesdays | 6:00 p.m.

Our Free Yoga Class is available weekly on Wednesdays! Angela Rose leads the hour-long class in the Rec Room in the basement. All skill levels are welcome.

Choir Rehearsal — Wednesdays | 6:30-8:00 p.m.

The choir rehearses at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays! **If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please reach out to Puffer Jones (puffer@fpcokc.org).**

PW Circle Meetings

Priscilla Circle — Tuesday, December 9 | 10:00 a.m.

Meeting at the church in Room 122.

Phoebe Circle — Tuesday, December 9 | 1:30 p.m.

Meeting at Mary Ann Doolen’s house.

Abigail Circle

No meeting in December. *Will resume regular meetings in January, on the 2nd Friday of the month.*

MORE EVENTS ON BACK

Service of Preparation — Sunday, December 14 | 2:00 p.m. | Chapel

The holidays can be both joyful and difficult, and many of us arrive at this season feeling tired or unsettled. If you need space to slow down, pray for healing, or simply be held in community, join us for a gentle service of word, song, and image as we prepare to welcome Christ.

Deacons Out & About: Sparkle — Saturday, December 20 | 5:30 p.m.

Celebrate the season with the Deacons as we enjoy an evening at Scissortail Park! We'll meet at 5:30 p.m. at Social Capital for fellowship and food before heading into the park around 7:00 p.m. for SPARKLE, the immersive holiday light-walk. This experience features dazzling holiday lights, whimsical scenes, and family-friendly displays winding throughout the park.

Tickets are limited, so sign up today by visiting tinyurl.com/FPCOKCsparkle or calling the church office at 405-525-6584. **If you have any questions, please contact Lancelot Duff-Williams (ldw.fpc@gmail.com).**

Christmas Pageant — Sunday, December 21 | During 11:00 a.m. Worship

Our children and youth will offer their annual Christmas pageant during worship. Join us to celebrate the story of Christ's birth and support the hard work of our young people and those who have helped prepare them.

Tactus Concert: Following the Star — Sunday, December 21 | 4:00 p.m.

In the darkest time of the year, we bring music of hope and renewal, celebrating the Christmas season and the winter solstice. Music by Franz Schubert, Eric Whitacre, Ola Gjeilo, Benjamin Britten, Errollyn Wallen, Randall Thompson, and more, featuring the seamlessly blended voices of the Tactus Vocal Ensemble. *Pre-concert talk begins at 3:30 p.m.*

Tickets are \$25, and K-12 students attend for free! Tickets and more info can be found at tactusensemble.org/concerts/following-the-star.

Christmas Eve Services

Young & Young at Heart Service — Wednesday, December 24 | 4:00 p.m.

Our family-friendly Young & Young at Heart Service will take place in the Chapel and include the Treble Choir and some of your favorite carols!

Service of Lessons & Carols — Wednesday, December 24 | 10:30 p.m.

Our candlelight service of Lessons & Carols is modeled after the service of nine lessons and carols made popular by King's College, Cambridge. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short lessons from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and choir anthems.

We hope you can join us for this very special time of worship! **(Prelude begins at 10:00 p.m.)**



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Help us adorn our Sanctuary for Christmas with poinsettias in honor, memory or celebration of a loved one(s). They will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve and be included in a listing of memorials and celebrations.

Please submit your order by Thursday, December 18.

Purchasing _____ poinsettia(s) at \$25 each.

Requested by _____

Dedicated to _____

Relationship _____

Please turn your form in to the church office or place it in an offering plate. Pay by cash, check or Venmo (@fpcokc).

☐ In memory of ☐ In honor of ☐ In celebration of