



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

The Service for the Lord's Day — December 14, 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

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 *Ricercar pro Tempore Adventus* Johann Kasper Ferdinand Fisher

WORDS OF WELCOME, CHURCH LIFE

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Suzanne Baxter

CHIME

INTROIT

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Jacques Berthier

Sanctuary Singers

arr. Warren Puffer Jones

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

Bill and Jan Robinson

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.

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.

People: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

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

*ADVENT HYMN 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

(Only singing stanzas 1-4)

Hymn introduction on medieval flute

*PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison)

Jamie Slade

Emmanuel, let your Spirit rest upon us, dwell within us, and flow from us. Send us to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Then our mouths will be filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. The Lord has done great things for us! We rejoice in your name! Amen.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We have kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts. Help us rejoice in the light of love made flesh, so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. (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.

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.

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.

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

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.

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

7 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.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

ANTHEM

Love Came Down at Christmas

John Rutter

Sanctuary Singers

Christina Rossetti

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; worship we our Jesus: but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine; love to God and all men, love for plea, and gift and sign.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1-10 (pg. 663)

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

SOLO

Joseph's Song

Michael Card

Lars Pollard, tenor

How could it be? This baby in my arms sleeping now so peacefully: "The Son of God," the angel said; how could it be? Lord, I know he's not my own, not of my flesh, not of my bone. Still, Father, let this baby be the son of my love. Father, show me where I fit into this plan of yours. How can a man be father to the Son of God? Lord for all my life I've been a simple carpenter. How can I raise a king? He looks so small. His face and hands so fair; and when he cries the sun just seems to disappear.

But when he laughs, it shines again. How could it be?

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25 (pg. 1)

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

SERMON

We Can Choose a Better Way

Rev. John McKinnon

We Respond to God's Word

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I 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 Ghost,
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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
The forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*HYMN 302

When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace

O WALY WALY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE

Advent Amen

STILL, STILL, STILL

Sanctuary Singers

OFFERING

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

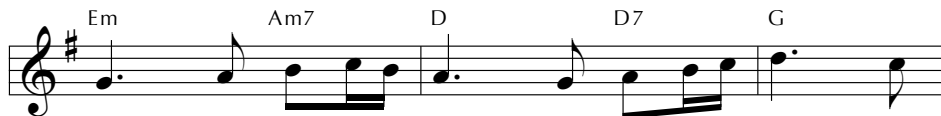
Tell Out My Soul

arr. Paul Manz

When Hands Reach Out and 302 Fingers Trace



1 When hands reach out and fin - gers trace the beau - ty
2 When fin - gers spell and signs ex - press our prayer and
3 When bro - ken bod - ies will not mend, we thank you,
4 And when the ways we learn and grow are not the
5 Your Spir - it gives us dif - fering ways to serve you



of a loved one's face, we thank you, God, that
praise and thank - ful - ness, we thank you, God, that
God, for Christ our friend. In him, our heal - ing
ways that oth - ers know, we thank you, God, that
well and of - fer praise. When all are joined as



love re - lies on gifts of grace not seen with eyes.
hands can sing; you bless the si - lent songs we bring.
can be - gin: he wel - comes all the wound - ed in.
we have learned your love's a gift, and nev - er earned.
one, we'll be your a - ble, strong com - mu - ni - ty.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This hymn celebrates the breadth of human diversity and the variety of gifts and abilities through which God's people serve the church and world. Incorporating such diversity provides a vital witness to the hospitality of Christian community and to the inclusive nature of love.

*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

We Go in God's Name

*CAROL 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

People, Look East

arr. Richard Lind

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Veronica and Sam Borquaye upon the death of Veronica's mother, Martha Akudey, of Ghana, on November 24, 2025. Please keep Veronica and Sam and their family in your thoughts and prayers during this time of loss.

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.

Youth Chorale Rehearsals | 12:00 p.m.

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.

Service of Preparation | 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.

Give to
FPC today!



SCAN ME

Love Has Come

110

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

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!

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.**

Note: Bridge Group will not meet December 24 or 31.

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. ***Note: No class on December 24 or 31.***

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 please reach out to Puffer Jones (puffer@fpcokc.org). ***Note: No rehearsal on December 24 or 31.***

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.

MORE EVENTS ON BACK

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 \$20, 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.**)

Music for the Nativity — Friday, January 2 | 12:00 p.m.

Join us for a special midday concert featuring Mr. John L. Edwards on the organ, in the Sanctuary choir loft. This 45-minute program is based on the story of the Nativity and will include music by Bach/Gounod, Daquin, Gray, Mui, and Smith.

A free lunch will follow in Watchorn Hall. Donations accepted. **For lunch reservations, call the church office (405-525-6584) by December 31.**