



**First Presbyterian Church**  
OF OKLAHOMA CITY

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**The Service for the Lord's Day – December 22, 2024**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*Songs for the Waiting*

**Sermons Inspired by the Carols of Advent**

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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.

## **We Gather to Worship**

PRELUDE *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice, Setting II* Paul Manz

WORDS OF WELCOME, CHURCH LIFE  
CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING Kay Brown

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* Paula Denner

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.**

**CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



The **Christmas Joy Offering** provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



HEAVEN BROWN



The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

12136-24-305



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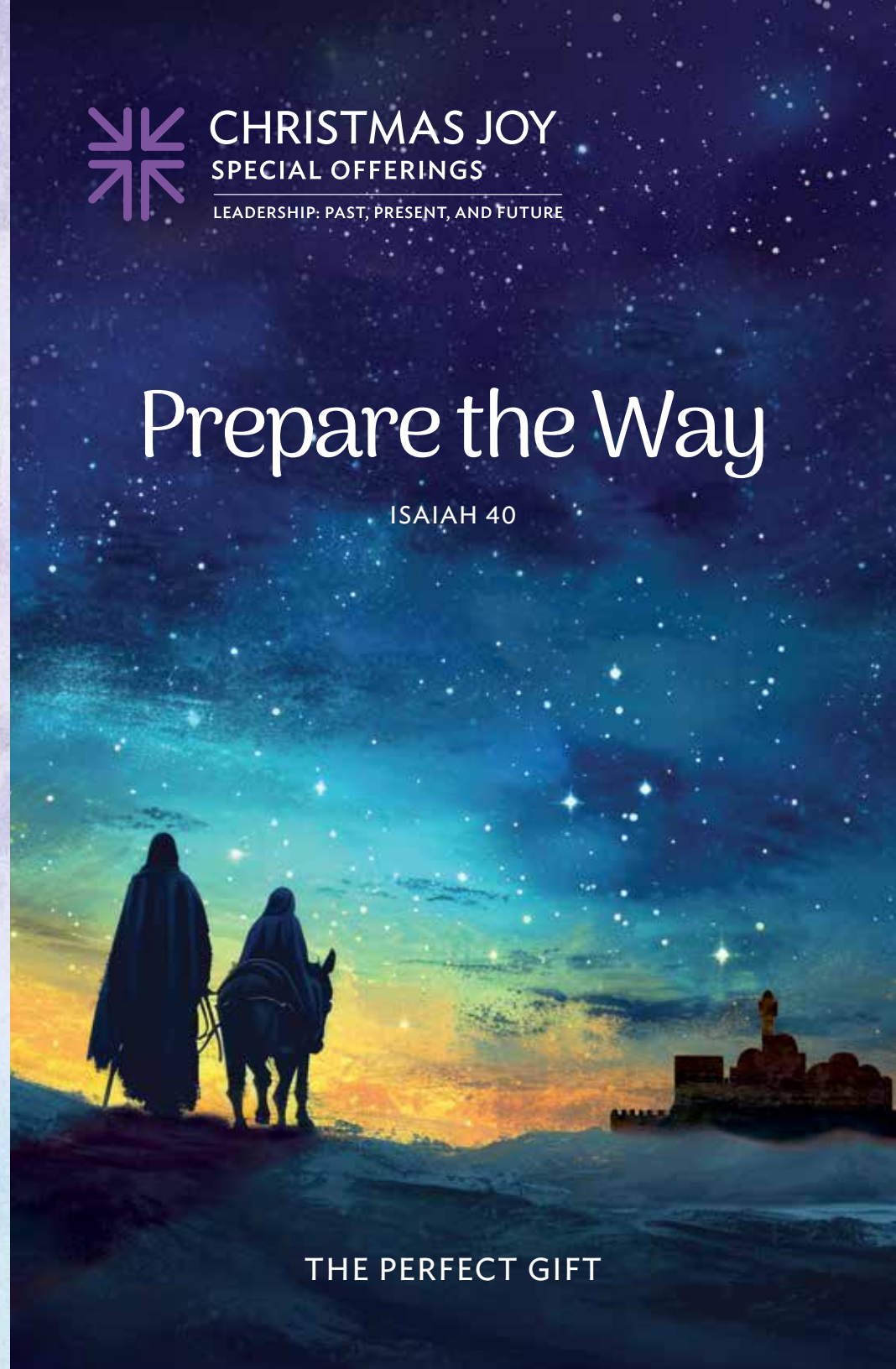
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**CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

# Prepare the Way

ISAIAH 40



THE PERFECT GIFT

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we prepare the way for the leaders of our Church — past, present and future.

50%

of our gifts smooth the path for current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need.

Jenni Whitford's whole world turned upside down when her husband unexpectedly passed away, leaving her and her young children with many financial challenges. At that time, Jenni was serving as a Christian-educator at the First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Michigan. Thanks to her pastor's referral, at a time of "chaos, upheaval and huge emotions," Jenni found just the support she needed through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. The peace of mind that the Offering provided her meant everything.



Jenni Whitford above, and the Whitford family.

*"It's that great cloud of witnesses that I think about. People who I don't know or never will meet who gave generously to the Christmas Joy Offering to help support people like me."*

—Jenni Whitford



Isabella Pérez Sanchez at left and center right.

50%

of your gifts prepare students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Isabella Pérez Sanchez, raised in a Christian household in Bogotá, Colombia, was the first person in her family to attend school in the United States, at the Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas. Once she arrived on campus, she thrived and dreamed of being a doctor. Unexpectedly, she underwent emergency brain surgery and spent nearly two months in the intensive care unit. During this difficult time, she received her calling for life; to help others and to be God's hands in the world. Returning to school prepared her to move ahead and today, more than five years after her huge medical scare, Pérez is completely healed .

Isabella says, *"I am completely thankful to everyone who has donated to the Christmas Joy Offering to keep our school running. I hope more people have the opportunity to grow as I have grown, not only in knowledge but also in faith."*

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY...  
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,  
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!



Leader: The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel (God is with us).

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

**\*LITANY FOR ADVENT**

John McKinnon

Leader: O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: O Adonai, Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai: Come with outstretched arm to save us.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all the peoples, before you earthly rulers will keep silent, and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: O Key of David, scepter over the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open: Come to set free the prisoners who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, Sun of justice: Come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: O Ruler of the nations, Monarch for whom the people long, you are the Cornerstone uniting all humanity: Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: O Immanuel, our Sovereign and Lawgiver, desire of the nations and Savior of all: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Leader: God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

**\*CAROL 102**

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

## Savior of the Nations, Come 102

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's  
2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to  
3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows  
4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
God his path - way leads; out to van - quish  
night with new - born light. Night can - not this  
son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.  
light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.  
Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.** (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

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

*The First Christmas*

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."*

*Joyful all ye nations rise;  
Joint the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Joy to the World*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!*

*Let earth receive her king.*

*Let every heart prepare Him room*

*And heaven and nature sing*

*And heaven and nature sing*

*And heaven and heaven and nature sing!*

**ANTHEM***Canticle of the Turning*

Irish traditional

Sanctuary Singers

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

*(paraphrase of Luke 1:46-55) My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn? My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy shall last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION****SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 1:26-38 (pg. 56)

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.****SOLO***Mary's Song*

Warren Puffer Jones

Jennifer Coffman, mezzo-soprano

Luke 1:46-49

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.*

**REFLECTION***To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary*

Rev. John C. 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.**

**\*CAROL 98***To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary*

ANNUNCIATION

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

RESPONSE

*Advent Amen*

STILL, STILL, STILL

Sanctuary Singers

# 98 To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

Capo 3: (Em) (B7) (Em) (Am) (B) (Em)  
 Gm D7 Gm Cm D Gm

1 To a maid whose name was Mar - y, the an - gel Ga - briel came.  
 2 "For you are high - ly fa - vored by God the Lord of all,  
 3 But Mar - y was most trou - bled to hear the an - gel's word.  
 4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.  
 5 "How shall this be?" said Mar - y, "I am not yet a wife."  
 6 As Mar - y heard the an - gel, she won - dered at his words.

(Em) (B7) (Em) (G) (D) (G)  
 Gm D7 Gm B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup>

"Fear not," the an - gel told her, "I come to bring good news;  
 who e - ven now is with you. You are on earth most blest;  
 What was the an - gel say - ing? It trou - bled her to hear,  
 His name shall be called Je - sus, God's off - spring from on high.  
 The an - gel an - swered quick - ly, "The power of the Most High  
 "Be - hold, I am your hand - maid," she said un - to her God.

(Em) (Am) (B) (Em) (Am) (B) (Em)  
 Gm Cm D Gm Cm D Gm

good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."  
 you are most blest, most bless - ed; God chose you, you are blest!"  
 to hear the an - gel's mes - sage, it trou - bled her to hear.  
 And he shall reign for - ev - er, for - ev - er reign on high."  
 will come up - on you short - ly, your child shall be God's child."  
 "So be it; I am read - y ac - cord - ing to your word."

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38) displays many characteristics of a folksong style, especially repetition in both text and tune and short quotations included in the narrative. Such features help to make a song both memorable and singable.



## OFFERING

### CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Collection plates are located by the doors as you exit the Sanctuary.)

### OFFERTORY

*What Child Is This*

Paul Manz

### \*PRESENTATION HYMN

*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 113

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE

*Let All Together Praise Our God*

Paul Manz

## Scouts' Pancake Breakfast & Popcorn Sale

As a thank you to FPC-OKC for our continuing support, Troop 15 is hosting a free pancake breakfast in Watchorn Hall today from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:00-1:00 p.m. They will also be holding a popcorn fundraiser before and after worship service. Thank you for supporting Troop 15!

## 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.

Give to  
FPC today!



# 113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

The image shows a musical score for a vocal piece. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the staves. The top staff contains a vocal line with a melodic line and a lower line of accompaniment. The bottom staff contains a bass line with a lower line of accompaniment. The lyrics are: - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

# Upcoming Events

## Christmas Eve Services

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

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

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

Our candlelight service of Lessons and 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 3 | 12:00 p.m.**

FPC-OKC presents Joseph Ripka, Organist Canon Precentor & Director of Music Diocesan Music Missioner at St. Paul's Cathedral of Oklahoma City, in a Music for the Nativity concert. The concert will be followed by a luncheon in Watchorn Hall.

Both the concert and luncheon are FREE, but donations will be accepted. **RSVP for the luncheon by calling 405-525-6584 or emailing [office@fpcokc.org](mailto:office@fpcokc.org).**



## Merry Christmas from the Diaconate!

This year, the Deacons' Christmas gift to the congregation was a \$1500 donation to the Urban Mission's Santa Store

First Presbyterian Church has supported the Urban Mission since its inception 50 years ago. It is a client-choice food & resource center that operates as a food pantry to fight food insecurity in OKC. This year, their Santa Store provided toys, books, and winter gear for 1,000 children in our community! Parents were taken through a shopping experience and had the opportunity to choose toys for their children. Each family was given Christmas

décor, wrapping paper, and a holiday meal. Children were taken to do a Christmas craft, watch Christmas movies, and take pictures with Santa!

The past three years, the congregation has received jigsaw puzzles of iconic images of our beautiful building. This year, the Deacons desired to make a difference in the lives of children and families in our community. Sharing our resources with others is made possible by the generous donations to the Deacon Fund. Thank you for your support!

## Merry Christmas from the Mission Council!

The holiday meal given to 310 families at the Santa Store is also a gift from First Presbyterian Church.

The Mission Council allocates \$13,000 to pay for large boxes of food, consisting of cereal, flour, sugar, canned fruits, and vegetables. Each of the families also receives a bag with personal hygiene items.

Thank you to the many volunteers who went to the Urban Mission on Friday, December 6, and Saturday, December 7, to set up the tables and fill the boxes for distribution!

