



FOUNTAIN CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 7, 2025 | 10:30 A.M.

PRELUDE

WORD OF WELCOME

Rev. Susan Balfour

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

The FCPC Youth

INTROIT

The Wexford Carol

Arr. Elaine Hagenberg

*Good people all, this Christmas time, Consider well, and bear in mind.
What our good God for us has done, In sending His beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray To God with love this Christmas day.
In Bethlehem upon that morn', There was a blessed Messiah born.*

*Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear, Which put the shepherds in great fear.
'Prepare and go, ' the angels said, 'To Bethlehem, be not afraid.'
'For there you'll find, this happy morn A princely babe, sweet Jesus born.'*

*With thankful heart and joyful mind, The shepherds went, this babe to find,
And as God's angels had foretold, They did our Savior Christ behold.
Within a manger he was laid, And by his side the virgin maid
Attending on the Lord of life Who came on earth to end all strife.*

*With Mary holy we should pray To God with love this Christmas day:
In Bethlehem upon that morn, There was a blessed Messiah born.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Romans 15:6-7

Dan Rhea

Liturgist: Christ, the One who was, and is, and is to come, welcomes you to this place. As one body, with one voice, we honor and glorify the giver of wisdom, counsel, knowledge, and joy.

All: **Amen. So be it.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

from Isaiah 11:10

All: **O Root of Jesse, O Peace, stir up your power within us, that in this time we may await with abundant expectation the fulfillment of your eternal presence in creation, for you live and reign among us, Maker, Savior, and Giver of Life, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*HYMN

Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

Glory to God Hymnal #77

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

Please sign and pass the friendship register located on the center aisle under the pew in front.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dan Rhea

Liturgist: Let us lay before God and one another the distances between us, the impatience, idolatries, and lack of compassion that form our confessions this day. For if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves. Yet in mercy, God will forgive us and renew us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from Matthew 3:12

All: Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people. We confess that we do not believe in your incarnation. We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do. We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends as beloved children whom you have made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and look to your power to heal us and raise us up, so that, at the last, you will gather us to you and give us peace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Rev. Susan Balfour

Minister: The reign of God has come near; the repentant will be judged with righteousness. We are forgiven. Be filled with hope, believing in the power of the risen Christ to bring you to new life. Rejoice and believe.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory to God Hymnal #582

All: Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dan Rhea

Liturgist: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Children ages 5 through 8 are invited to children's worship.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

from Romans 15:4

All: Your word, Holy God, was written for our instruction. By your Holy Spirit open our ears and fill us with the mysteries of your ancient love; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

Minister: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Praetorius/John Rutter

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind;
To show God's love aright,
She bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

Minister: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

Jesus Child

John Rutter

*Have you heard the story that they're telling 'bout Bethlehem?
Have you heard the story of the Jesus child?
How he came from heaven and was born in a manger bed?
Mary was his virgin mother, pure and mild.*

*[Chorus] Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters,
Worship the Jesus child and praise his mother mild.
'Glory to God on high', the angel hosts above are singing:
Listen to the story of the Jesus child.*

*Have you heard the story of the poor humble shepherd men
Sitting on the hillside with their flocks by night?
Suddenly the angel tells them 'Hurry to Bethlehem!
Go and find the Jesus child, the world's new light!' [Chorus]*

*Jesus child, lying at Bethlehem, Sleeping safe at Mary's knee:
Save my soul and bring me to paradise, Let me join the angels singing 'Glory to thee.' [Chorus]*

*Have you heard the story of the kings from the Orient
Following the star that's shining over his head?
Offering their precious gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense,
Kneeling with the ox and ass before his bed? [Chorus]*

*Brothers, let us celebrate the birth of the Jesus Child,
Sisters, come and welcome him, the new-born King;
Praise the Lord who sent him down from heaven at Christmas time;
Young and old and rich and poor, his praises sing. [Chorus]*

When Angels Filled the Sky

Parker/Hayes

*On the night when Christ was born Angels filled the sky
announcing news of peace and joy to shepherds standing by.
But their praise did not end there. They grace the heavens everywhere
rejoicing in the goodness of the Lord!*

*When the prodigal finds he way back home, angels fill the sky.
When God finds you lost, far away from home, you know they are nearby
Praising God just like before that night upon the hill!
Angels fill the sky tonight proclaiming good news still.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Glory to God on high!*

*When the prodigal finds he way back home, angels fill the sky.
When God finds you lost, far away from home, you know they are nearby
Praising God just like before that night upon the hill!
Angels fill the sky tonight proclaiming good news still. Gloria!*

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-14

Minister: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

ANTHEM

Dance Into the Light

Joseph Martin

*Glory to God! Shepherds awake, the time has come. Lift high your voice and sing.
Jesus is born in Bethlehem. Creation greets her King.
Arise, arise for a star awaits to lead you through the night.
Come follow the music of angels' wings and dance into the light,
and dance, dance, dance into the light! Glory to God!*

*Bethlehem wake! The time has come. Open your hearts to the Lord.
Will you turn the King away? Oh will He be ignored?
Oh, will you miss your miracle? Messiah comes tonight!
Oh, will you hear the angels sing and dance into the Light,
And dance, dance into the Light?*

*Gloria, gloria in excelsis! Gloria, gloria, alleluia!
Dance into the Light. Gloria! Dance into the Light! Gloria!
People arise! The time has come to leave your sorrows and strife.
The Savior is calling you to His dance, calling you into His life.
People arise! A song awaits, a love song in the night.
Come take the hand of the Morning Star and dance into the Light!
Dance, dance, dance into the light! Dance into the Light!*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Ecumenical Apostles Creed

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead; the third day He rose again; he ascended into heaven, and he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ecumenical Version

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, and we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

Dan Rhea

CALL FOR OFFERING

from Matthew 3:8

Dan Rhea

Liturgist: We bear fruit worthy of our repentance when we give our tithes and offerings for the well-being of the poor.

OFFERTORY

In Dulci Jubilo

LeBoux

***DOXOLOGY**

Glory to God Hymnal #606

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: We give you thanks, Holy One, for all good things: for this universe and for Earth itself, for creatures and plants, for water and food, for light and darkness; for Jesus, our brother, who enlarged our vision, setting himself before us as the bread and wine of abundant life; and for the Holy Spirit, who comes to us in baptism and moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you. Turn our offerings to your good will, and turn us always to you in gratitude. Amen.

***HYMN**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Glory to God Hymnal #82

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION**

**All: Make us one, Lord, make us one; Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let Your love flow so the world will know, we are one in You.**

**Please stand as you are able*

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

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. 50% of your gifts prepare students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Learn more by scanning the QR code below.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sanctuary Flowers this week are given to the glory of God in honor of Bob Eubanks, Nancy Wells, George Hill and the entire Fountain City Presbyterian Church music program.

Women’s Fellowship: Please join us at 1:00 PM, after the cookie swap for snacks, great conversation, hysterical trivia and just general relaxation before the "crazy season " starts.

Longest Night Service: For many, the holidays can be difficult. This year FCPC will offer a Longest Night service on Sunday, December 21 at 4:00 PM. Come experience the love of God during the coldest and darkest time of year.

Yuletide Tales and Treats: Join us on December 19 from 6-8 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a festive, fun-filled evening geared toward kids and presented by our Youth. Come dressed in your comfiest pajamas and enjoy a night of games, singing, pizza, and the heartwarming story of Jesus. It’s the perfect way to celebrate the season with good times and great company!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will take place on Wednesday, December 24th at 5:30 PM. This year FCPC will offer one service designed for all ages- O come, all ye faithful!

JARZHEIT

12/7/80 Georgia Harrell, 12/12/84 Guy Crosnoe, 12/8/87 Ruth Cowan, 12/12/87 Rose Monroe, 12/10/91 Mildred Jenkins, 12/13/00 Lila Childress, 12/11/05 Patty Thompson, 12/9/09 Bob Brewer, 12/10/09 Billie Witt, 12/10/17 Ruth Barkley, 12/11/20 George Jones, 12/12/20 John Dowling, 12/7/21 Jim Phifer, 12/10/22 Sue Hutchins

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

12/8 Ann Papa, 12/9 Bedford Chapman, 12/10 David Robertson, 12/11 Jon Miller, 12/13 Jake Watson

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP

Liturgist.....	Dan Rhea
Greeters.....	Sue Wheeler
Ushers.....	Barbara Riehl, Cathy Forester
Music.....	FCPC Chancel Choir
Tech Team.....	Mac Holland, Thomas Rader, Brett Miller, Debbie Hawkins
Faithful Friends (Children’s Worship).....	Susan Espiritu, April Lamb
Nursery.....	Laurismar Wrinkle, Laura Marquez

OUR CLERGY AND STAFF

Pastor.....	The Rev. Susan Balfour
Church Administrator.....	Ashton Hicks
Director of Music.....	Bob Eubanks
Accompanist.....	Nancy Wells
Nursery Staff.....	Laura Marquez & Laurismar Wrinkle

