

DIVINE WORSHIP

8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

PSALM 103:19, ESV

(+ Congregation, please stand if able.)

PRELUDE *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella* Daniel Leavitt

VOLUNTARY *Noël X* Louis-Claude Daquin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Josh Squires (8:30 A.M.)
Rev. David Henderson (11:15 A.M.)

INTROIT *A Great and Mighty Wonder* 14th-century German melody
Harmonized by Michael Praetorius

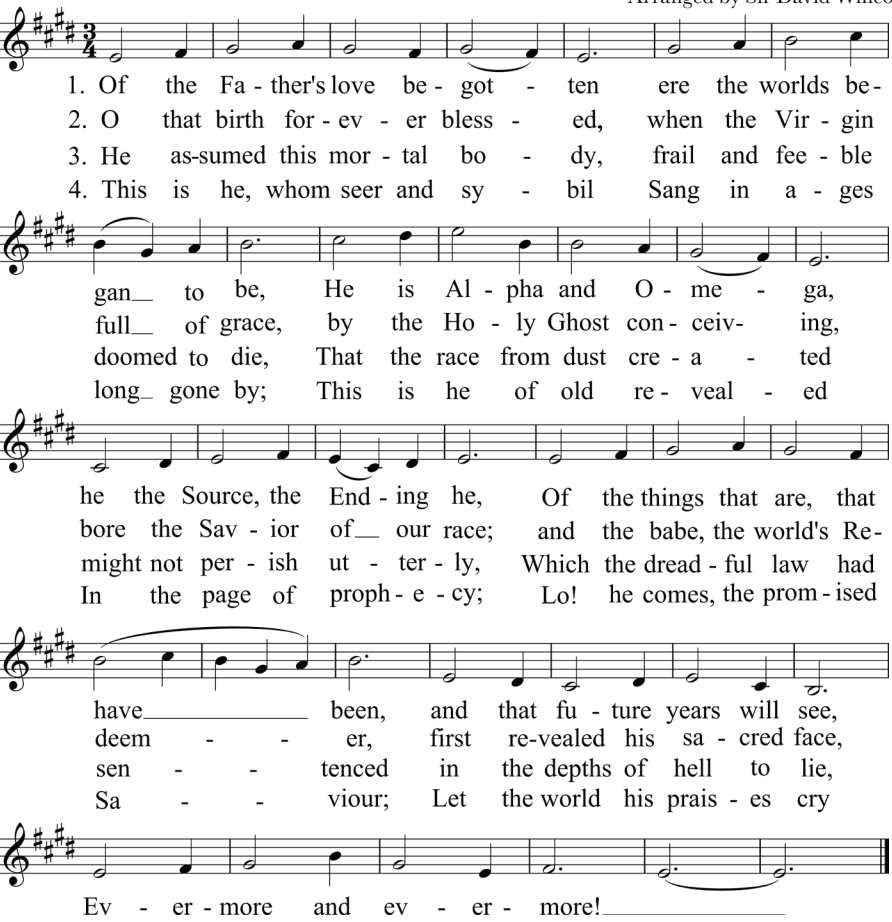
A great and mighty wonder, a full and holy cure!
The Virgin bears the Infant with virgin honour pure.
*Repeat the hymn again! “To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!”*

The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high!
And cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.

The Chancel Choir; Dr. Daniel Cole, director

CALL TO WORSHIP

+ **HYMN** *Of the Father’s Love Begotten* Melody from *Piae Cantiones* (1582)
Arranged by Sir David Willcocks



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin
3. He as - sumed this mor - tal bo - dy, frail and fee - ble
4. This is he, whom seer and sy - bil Sang in a - ges
gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
doomed to die, That the race from dust cre - a - ted
long gone by; This is he of old re - veal - ed
he the Source, the End - ing he, Of the things that are, that
bore the Sav - ior of our race; and the babe, the world's Re -
might not per - ish ut - ter - ly, Which the dread - ful law had
In the page of proph - e - cy; Lo! he comes, the prom - ised
have been, and that fu - ture years will see,
deem - - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
sen - - tenced in the depths of hell to lie,
Sa - - viour; Let the world his prais - es cry
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

5. Sing ye heights of heav’n, his praises; angels and archangels, sing!
Wheresoe’er ye be, ye faithful, let your joyous anthems ring;
Ev’ry tongue his name confessing, countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.

+ INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, which 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.

+ CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.

+ GLORIA PATRI

LADY STREET

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to the Holy Spirit,
Binding all the church as one!
As it was in the beginning
As is now and e’er shall be,
World without end! Amen.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most High God, we confess that our hearts are slow to bow before the exalted name of Jesus. You have given Him the Name above every name, yet we often live as though our own names, desires, and families were the chief things to pursue. Forgive us for such prideful arrogance, our short-sightedness, and the self-will that refuses to bend the knee to His glory. How the angels must gasp at our coldness and selfishness. Have mercy on us, Father. Help us not so much to love the good things of this life less, but to love and esteem Your Son more. Subdue every affection that rivals His place in our hearts, and cause us to walk in joyful obedience to our Savior and King. In His Name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take with you words and return to the LORD; say to him, “Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips. Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’ to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy.” I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

(Hosea 14:1–7, ESV)

MORNING PRAYER

+ HYMN *The First Nowell* FIRST NOWELL

Arranged by Dan Forrest (“Festival First Nowell”)



1.The first No - well, the an - gel did say Was to
2.They look - ed up and saw a star Shin-ing
3.Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing
cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields where they lay; In
in the east be - yond them far; And
prais - es to our heav' - nly Lord, That
fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep on a
to the earth it gave great light, And
hath made heav'n and earth of naught, And
REFRAIN
cold win - ter's night that was so deep:
so it con - ti - nued both day and night: No -
with his blood man - kind hath bought:
well, No - well, No - well, No - well, Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Magnificat* Daniel Ficarri

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm.
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
And hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things.
And the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, forever.
Amen.

The Brass Ensemble
Roger Keane, director

+ DOXOLOGY

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

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

*(During the 11:15 a.m. service, K4 and K5 children may leave for Children’s Church.
Parents should come for them in the Education Building, Room 107.)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Philippians 2:9–11
(Pew Bible page 981; Children’s Bible page 1273)

SERMON “Up to Glory” Dr. Neil C. Stewart

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD OF GOD

+ HYMN 211

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (Stanzas 1, 2, & 4)

GOD REST YOU MERRY
Arranged by Sir David Willcocks

+ BENEDICTION

+ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

GOD REST YOU MERRY
Arranged by Sir David Willcocks

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

POSTLUDE

In Sweet Rejoicing

J. S. Bach

Mr. Thomas Russell, organist

WORSHIP AT FIRST

Thank you for turning off cell phones during the worship service.

The Sanctuary is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask a deacon for a receiver.

Nurseries for children to the age of four are provided in the Education Building. A quiet room with a live video feed of the service is available in the Education Building, Room 113. There, mothers may attend to the needs of their children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us for our special **Sunday Evening Advent Services** as we continue to explore the prophecies that point to Christ. Dr. Mark Ross is preaching this series, inviting us to delve into the Scriptures that foretell the coming of our Savior.

Sunday Evening at 6:00 PM

Sunday, December 21: “He Shall Be Called a Nazarene” (Matthew 2:19–23).
During the service, Nathanael and Holly Cole will sing duets o f the season.

Our Advent services will culminate in our traditional **Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons and Carols** on Wednesday, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Dr. Neil C. Stewart will preach from 2 Corinthians 4:1–6 on the topic, “Light in the Darkness: The Face of God in the Face of Christ.”

Please join us for our **New Year’s Eve Worship Service** and the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper on Wednesday, December 31, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Dr. David Lauten will preach on Psalm 145 on the topic, “A Psalm for the New Year.”

PASTORAL STAFF

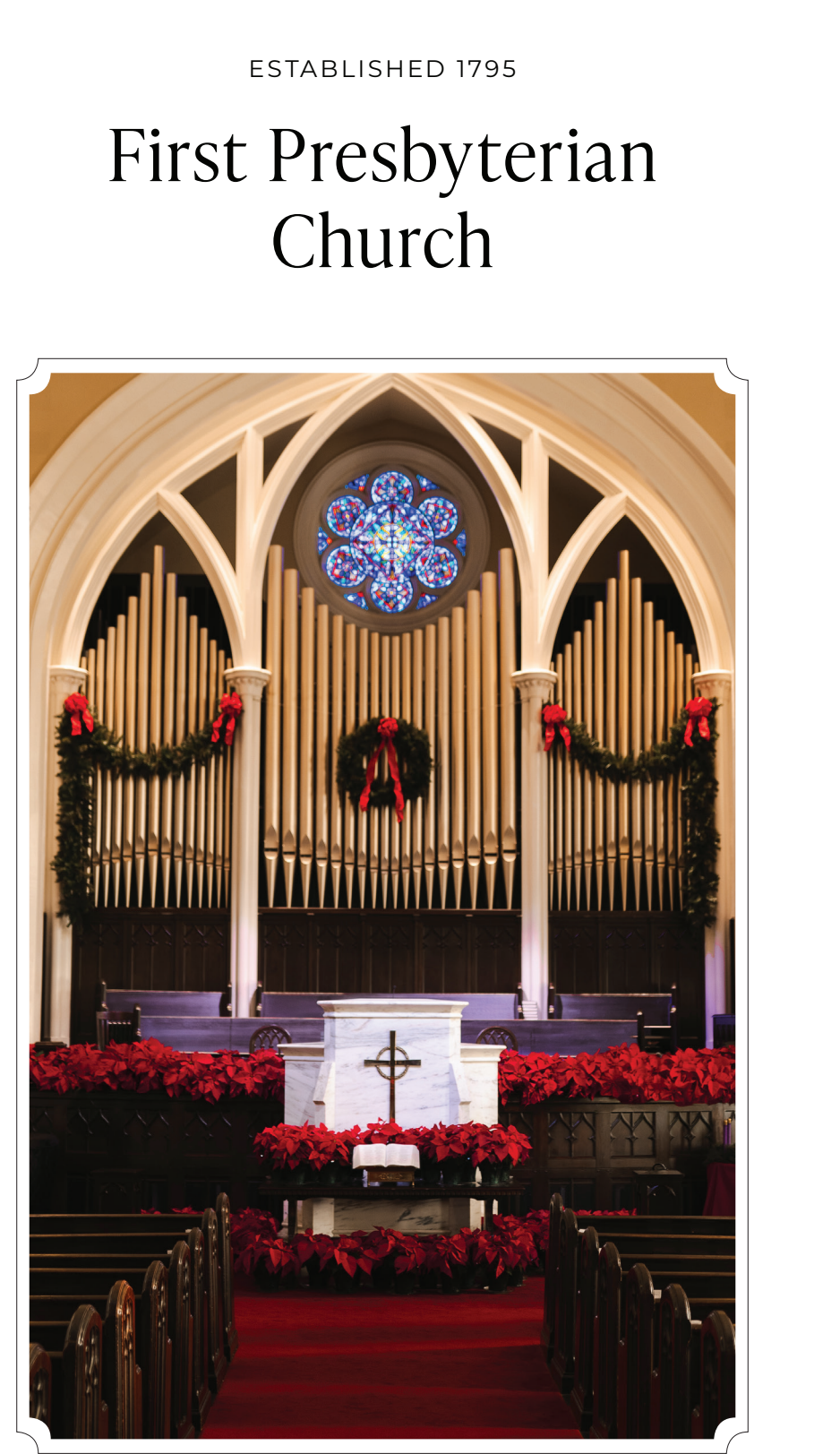
Dr. Neil C. Stewart, Senior Minister

Rev. Bryan Bult, Associate Minister to Seniors
Rev. David Henderson, Associate Minister of Discipleship
Rev. Sean Henderson, Associate Minister of Missions
Dr. David Lauten, Senior Associate Minister of Congregational Care
Rev. Josh Squires, Associate Minister of Counseling

JOIN US AT 6:00 P.M. FOR EVENING WORSHIP

Fulfilling All That the Prophets Have Spoken

“He Shall Be Called a Nazarene”
Matthew 2:19–23 | Dr. Mark Ross



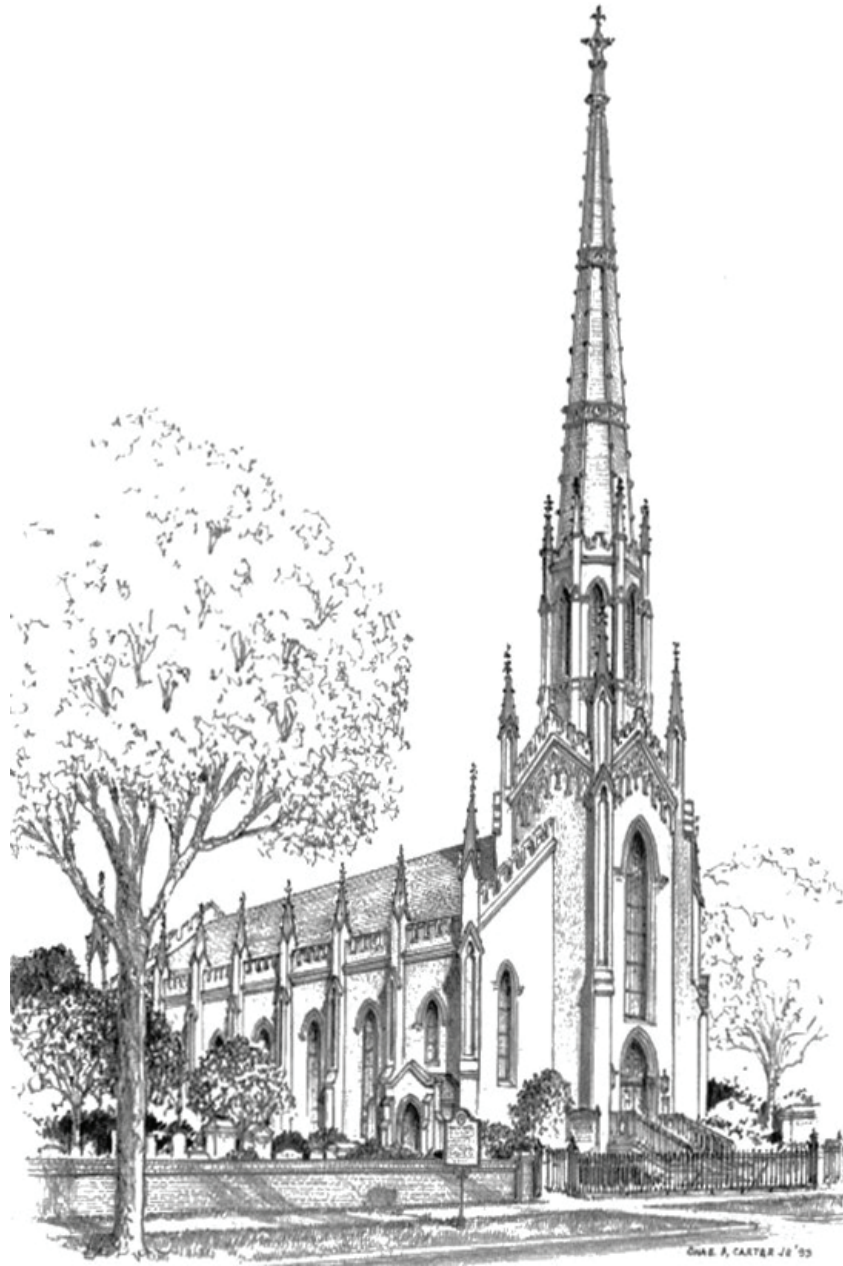
Lord’s Day, December 21, 2025

8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

1324 Marion Street, Columbia, SC

ESTABLISHED 1795

First Presbyterian Church



LORD'S DAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

1324 Marion Street, Columbia, SC

DIVINE WORSHIP

8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

PSALM 103:19, ESV

(+ Congregation, please stand if able.)

PRELUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

Daniel Leavitt

VOLUNTARY *Noël X*

Louis-Claude Daquin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Josh Squires (8:30AM)

Rev. David Henderson (11:15AM)

INTROIT

A Great and Mighty Wonder Tree 14th-century German melody

A great and mighty wonder, a full and holy cure!
The Virgin bears the Infant with virgin honour pure.

*Repeat the hymn again! “To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men!”*

The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high!
And cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.

The Chancel Choir
Dr. Daniel Cole, director

CALL TO WORSHIP

+ HYMN 194

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Melody from Piaie Cantiones (1582)
Arranged by Sir David Willcocks

Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

O that birth forever blessèd,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face.

He assumed this mortal body,
Frail and feeble, doomed to die,
That the race from dust created
Might not perish utterly,
Which the dreadful Law had sentenced
In the depths of hell to lie.

This is he, whom seer and sybil
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealèd
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering.

+ INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which 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.

+ CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.

+ GLORIA PATRI

LADY STREET

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to the Holy Spirit,
Binding all the church as one!
As it was in the beginning
As is now and e'er shall be,
World without end! Amen.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most High God, we confess that our hearts are slow to bow before the exalted name of Jesus. You have given Him the Name above every name, yet we often live as though our own names, desires, and families were the chief things to pursue. Forgive us for such prideful arrogance, our short-sightedness, and the self-will that refuses to bend the knee to His glory. How the angels must gasp at our coldness and selfishness. Have mercy on us, Father. Help us not so much to love the good things of this life less, but to love and esteem Your Son more. Subdue every affection that rivals His place in our hearts, and cause us to walk in joyful obedience to our Savior and King. In His Name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take with you words and return to the Lord; say to him, “Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips. Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’ to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy.” I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

(Hosea 14:1–7, ESV)

MORNING PRAYER

+ **HYMN** *The First Nowell*

FIRST NOWELL
Arr. Dan Forrest (“Festival First Nowell”)

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood our life hath bought.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Magnificat*

Daniel Ficarri

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm.
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
And hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things.
And the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, forever.
Amen.

The Brass Ensemble; Roger Keane, director

+ DOXOLOGY

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

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

*(During the 11:15 a.m. service, K4 and K5 children may leave for Children's Church.
Parents should come for them in the Education Building, Room 107.)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9–11

(Pew Bible page 981; Children's Bible page 1273)

SERMON

Dr. Neil C. Stewart

“Up to Glory”

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD OF GOD

+ HYMN 211

GOD REST YOU MERRY
Arranged by Sir David Willcocks

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (Stanzas 1, 2, & 4)

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray;

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father,
A blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The son of God by name.

The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding,
In tempest, storm, and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway,
The Son of God to find.

+ BENEDICTION

+ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

GOD REST YOU MERRY
Arranged by Sir David Willcocks

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

POSTLUDE *In Sweet Rejoicing*

J. S. Bach

Mr. Thomas Russell, organist

WORSHIP AT FIRST

Thank you for turning off cell phones during the worship service.

The Sanctuary is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask deacons for a receiver.

Nurseries for children to the age of four are provided in the Education Building. A quiet room with a live video feed of the service is available in the Education Building, Room 113. There, mothers may attend to the needs of their children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us for our special upcoming **Sunday Evening Advent Services** as we continue to explore the prophecies that point to Christ. Dr. Mark Ross is preaching this series, inviting us to delve into the Scriptures that foretell the coming of our Savior.

Sunday Evening at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 21: “He Shall be Called a Nazarene” (Matthew 2:19–23). During the service, Nathanael and Holly Cole will sing duets of the season.

Our Advent services will culminate in our traditional **Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons and Carols** on Wednesday, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Dr. Neil C. Stewart will preach from 2 Corinthians 4:1–6 on the topic, “Light in the Darkness: The Face of God in the Face of Christ.”

Please join us for our **New Year’s Eve Worship Service** and the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper on Wednesday, December 31, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Dr. David Lauten will preach on Psalm 145 on the topic, “A Psalm for the New Year.”