

Welcome to Second Presbyterian Church

Sharing the grace of God with one another and the world around us.



This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.

Please visit our website 2ndpreslou.org to connect with various ministries, or to contact the office for more information about our faith community.

If you are new to us, scan this QR Code to visit our website and learn about our life at Second.



With gratitude to God, 2025 marks our 195th anniversary, and as we move toward our bicentennial, we have a great opportunity to reflect on our many accomplishments, evaluate our current mission, and identify new strategic pathways that will help us meet the needs of our congregation and community.

Please join us on our continued journey to preserve, strengthen, and innovate our community of faith.



Children of God, welcome home!

** Please stand if you can do so comfortably.*

Bold type indicates where we share the liturgy together.

⁺ *Texts and translations can be found in the back of the bulletin.*

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering

PRELUDE

Bells Ringing in Joy
Mengfei Xu, organ

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

And the Glory of the Lord from *Messiah*
Kentucky Brass

G.F. Handel
arr. Jim Stanton

Unto Us Is Born a Son arr. David Willcocks
Symphonic Arts Chamber Orchestra; Mengfei Xu, organ

11a +How Far Is it to Bethlehem? arr. David W. Music
Chapel Choir & Worship Arts; Lorie Williamson, director

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

FESTIVAL INTROIT *+Arise, Your Light Has Come* David Danner
The Sanctuary Choir, Austin Memorial Handbells, Kentucky Brass; Mengfei Xu, organ

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES *read responsively*
8:30 a.m. Dennis Dolan & Scott Carothers
11:00 a.m. Robert, Emily, Ella, Johnny, & Zach Burrice

from Luke 1:47-49

“My spirit rejoices in God my Savior,” sang Mary.

Almighty God has done great things for us!

We light the third candle to celebrate the joy which comes from God's promises.

With gladness and rejoicing, we await the One who makes all things new.

*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *read in unison*

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we hear Mary's song, we still seek security in pride, power, and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. Forgive us. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring, and turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray all this to the one who is present with the lowly, Emmanuel.

Time for silent prayer.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *read responsively*

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, refrain* VENI EMMANUEL

*11:00 a.m.: Children ages 3 through completed 3rd graders are invited to come forward;
they will be dismissed through the side door for activities following the Peace.*

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

*PASSING OF THE PEACE *read responsively*

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

MUSICAL CELEBRATION *Do You Hear What I Hear?* Arr. Joel Raney
Austin Memorial Handbells

The Word: Redemption's Happy Dawn

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:46-53

Lorie Williamson

ANTHEM

Magnificat, Wq. 215

Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach

Mvt. 1 - *Magnificat anima mea dominum*

The Sanctuary Choir & Symphonic Arts Chamber Orchestra

Magnificat ánima mea Dóminum.

My soul doth magnify the Lord.

Et exultávit spíritus meus: in Deo salutári meo.

And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

POEM

⁺*Song of Mary, Part One*
Rev. Andrew Bowman

Steven Garnaas-Holmes

ANTHEM

Magnificat, Wq. 215
Mvt. 5 - *Fecit potentiam*
Jason Steigerwalt, baritone

C.P.E. Bach

*Fecit potentiam in brachio suo:
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.*

*He hath shewed might in His arm: He hath
scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.*

POEM

⁺*Song of Mary, Part Two*
Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Steven Garnaas-Holmes

ANTHEM

Magnificat, Wq. 215
Mvt. 6 - *Deposuit potentes sedes*
Laura Atkinson, mezzo soprano; Ricky Case, tenor

C.P.E. Bach

Deposuit potentes de sede: et exaltavit humiles.

*He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath
exalted the humble.*

POEM

⁺*You Bore for Me: A Sonnet*
Janet Rittenhouse

Malcolm Guite

ANTHEM

⁺*See Amid the Winter's Snow*
The Sanctuary Choir; Symphonic Arts Chamber Orchestra; Mengfei Xu, organ

Dan Forrest

The Response

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *read responsively*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *adapted*

As if to shame the mightiest human efforts and achievements,
a child is placed at the center of history,
a child born of humans:
a son, given by God.

That is the mystery of the world's redemption.

Everything past and everything future is encompassed here.

As the redeemed people of God, please stand as you are able as we confess
what we believe:

**The infinite mercy of the almighty God comes to us in the form of a
child, his son.**

**That this child has been born for *us*,
that this son has been given,
that this human child, this son of God, belongs to *me*;
that I know him, have him, love him,
that I am his and he is mine—
my very life now depends entirely on all these things.
A child has our life in his hand. Amen.**

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*We welcome you to scan this QR code and visit the Giving page on our website.
You can fulfill your pledges and offer your financial support for the ongoing
ministries of Second Presbyterian Church. Thank you!*



ANTHEM

Magnificat, Wq. 215

C.P.E. Bach

Mvts. 8 & 9 - *Gloria Patri & Sicut erat*

Glória Patri, et Fílio, et Spirítui Sancto,

Glory be the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Sicut erat in princípíio, et nunc,

As it was in the beginning, is now,

et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

and ever shall be, forever and ever, Amen.

SHARING GRACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *read in unison*

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.

The Sending

*BLESSING

*HYMN 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

vs. 1, ALL vs. 2, choir

vs. 3 & 4, ALL

We are called to go out from our worship to share the grace of God with one another and the world.

In Worship Today

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in loving memory of Ann Logan Anderson from her children Laurie, David, Rob, and Sid Anderson; and her sister Leelee Louis and brother Renny Logan

USHERS

8:30 Bill Creason, James Seiler, Mike Vairin, Crystal Kannapell, Scott Carothers, Chip Snyder, Susan Snyder

11:00 Henry Kelsey, Ernie Dreher, Valerie Dreher, John Bahe, Cheeky Bahe, Sarah Hunter

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgists: Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Pastor & Head of Staff; Rev. Andrew Bowman, Associate Pastor for Community Life

Readers: Lorie Williamson, Director of Children's & Family Ministry; Janet Rittenhouse

Austin Memorial Handbells: *Bonnie Boram, Ricky Case, Terry Cissell, Elizabeth Clay, Kit Davis, Kitty deVoogd, Steve Farris, Jean Herp, Steven Pierce, Sue Rogers, Carmen Sanders, Becky Timerding, Eric Timerding, & Susanne Wright.*

The Sanctuary Choir (Octet*): *Laura Atkinson*, Mary Ayers, Adrienne Blair, Mila Bobrovskikh, Ricky Case*, Lamoine Cash, Terry Cissell, Dick Clay, Jane Cleary, Jeanne Curtis, Patty Dailey, Stan deVoogd, Linda Dukes, Russell Dunlap*, Chris Ellis, Richard Ellis, Sara Gilford, Jodie Goldberg, Ann Grissom, Karen Hadley, Krista Heckmann*, Jean Herp, Carol Hull, Lindsey Hundley, Clay Kannapell, Jack McKean, Molly Melahn*, Kenneth Oeth*, Harrison Palmer-Ball, Becky Peer, Christina Bouras Recktenwald*, Janet Rittenhouse, David Rummler, Deborah Skaggs, Larry Sloan, Martha Spencer, Jason Steigewalt*, Camille Williams-Neal, & Jesse Wright; Megan Easton & Amanda Hood, guest singers.*

Chapel Choir: Lorie Williamson, director: *Erle Abernethy, Elizabeth Arton, Ellis Bowman, Reyna Dobbins, Ellie Farnsley, Coral Mueller, Miriam Ransan, George Sandman*

Worship Arts: Lorie Williamson, director: *Joshua Cook, Bebe Davis, Lucy Farnsley, Ava Grace Wright, William Wright*

Symphonic Arts Chamber Orchestra: *Alex Vvedenskiy & Alex DiThomas, Oboe; Dillon Welch, Allison Culin-Ellison, Kim Tichenor, & Christopher Robinson, Violin; Jonathan Mueller & Laura de St. Croix-Vicic, Viola; Cecilia Huerta-Lauf, Violoncello; Christopher Choi, Timpani/Percussion; Quinton Schwaniger, Percussion.*

Kentucky Brass: *Jim Recktenwald, Stacy Simpson, & Will French, Trumpet; Scott Leger, Horn; James Seymour, Trombone; Stasi Fafalios, Bass Trombone.*

Jim Rittenhouse, Director of Worship & Music, conductor

Mengfei Xu, Organist and Assistant Director of Worship & Music,
organ/piano/harpsichord

Evan Vicic, Audiovisual Engineer; William Vicic, camera

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ABOUT *Magnificat*, Wq. 215

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, the eldest son of Johann Sebastian, wrote his brilliant *Magnificat* in 1749. At the time, he was employed in Prussia at the court of Frederick the Great, where his principal occupation was as a composer and keyboard player. He adapted his work over his career, and the movements used this morning include horns and trumpets from the final edition. Many say that the *Sicut Erat* (final movement) resembles Mozart's famous *Kyrie* from his *Requiem* which was written 40 years after C.P.E. Bach's.

THE CHRISMON TREE

In 1986 a former member of our church, Edith Breed, President of the Women of the Church, had a dream of one day having a Chrismon Tree during the Advent Season in our church. Many women in the church researched the symbols of Christianity and handmade all of the decorations that you see on the tree in the Sanctuary. White is the liturgical color of Christmas which refers to the purity and perfection of Christ, and gold to the majesty and glory of Christ. The first Chrismon Tree was put in the Narthex for all to see in 1989. Please enjoy this piece of our history, which represents the work of so many women of our church.

We Lift Up in Prayer

The family of Margaret Flowers on her death, 12/10/25.

Gene and Connie Smith and family on the death of Gene's sister, Elizabeth Land, 11/20/25

The family of Natalie Brymer on her death, 11/20/25.

Ann and Roy Bowling and family on the death of her brother, Bruce Kleinschmidt,
11/18/25.

James, Allie, and Claire Seiler and family on the death of their son and brother, 10/30/25.

The family of Anne Anderson on her death, 10/22/25.

Sallie, John, and Lee Ann Cunningham on the death of Sallie's father, Robert L. Bellamy,
10/19/25.

Wayne, Christie, Sims, and Marie Wilson on the death of Wayne's mother, Linda, 10/18/25.

The family of Wallace Horine on his death, 10/18/25.

Lucy Hovis and family on the death of her sister, Eva Sirach, 10/12/25.

Lee Ann and David Dorsey and their family on the death of Lee Ann's sister, Roberta
Gordon Barnett, 10/8/25.

Texts

How Far Is it to Bethlehem

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
Can we see the little child, is he within?
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there, oxen or sheep?
May we peek like them and see Jesus asleep?

If we touch his tiny hand, will he awake?
Will he know we've come so far, just for his sake?

Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me.
I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for Heaven to live with thee there.

Arise, Your Light Has Come

Awake, my spirit, Awake lute and harp;
I will awake at the dawn of day.
Arise, I will confess You,
O Lord among the nations.
I will raise a psalm to You, for Your love,
is wide as the heavens,
And Your truth reaches to the skies!

Wake, awake, for night is flying,
The watchmen on the heights are crying;
Awake, Jerusalem at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes, awake;
Your lamps with gladness take!" Alleluia!
Prepare yourselves to meet the Lord,

Whose light has stirred the waiting guard.

Now let all the heavens adore you,
And saints and angels sing before You.
The harps and cymbals all unite.
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, dwelling with the choir immortal
We gather around Your dazzling light.
No eye has seen nor ear has yet been
trained to hear. What joy is ours!
Crescendos rise; Your halls resound;
Hosannas blend in cosmic sound.
Arise, O Jerusalem! Arise clothed in light!
Your light has come, and the glory of God
upon your hearts will shine. Alleluia!

Luke 1:46-53

My soul sings praise to God, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
For God has looked favorably on me, a humble servant;
from now on, all generations will call me blessed.
God has done great things for me; God's name is holy.
God's mercy is from generation to generation for those who fear God.
God who has displayed mighty power, has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;
God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

Song of Mary

This dance is not the wrecking ball
it sounds like.
It's only that we're startled that
it's love not might.

The blossom bursts the stone we live in.
The Almighty naked and small, always,
always.

In our vacancies the overwhelming
Presence,
granting what we so firmly withhold,
saving what is beyond hope,
undoing our undoing,

lifting up what you despaired of,
putting to rest your own despotic king.

You Bore for Me: A Sonnet

You bore for me the One who came to bless
And bear for all and make the broken whole.
You heard His call and in your open 'yes'
You spoke aloud for every living soul.
Oh gracious Lady, child of your own child,
Whose mother-love still calls the child in me,
Call me again, for I am lost, and wild
Waves surround me now. On this dark sea

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Alleluia! ...
See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.

Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

The righting of our upended minds.
Evil we can't stop, stopped.
The mending of our grasp,
and our failure to grasp.
Looking for love in all the right places.

In darkness thick as stone let there be life.
The truth of what is made of dust, or light.

Tyrants spew nightmares,
throw heavy shadows, heavy sounds,
but the poorest child defeats them.
A woman alive in her body shifts mountains.

She sings, earth trembles

.

Shine as a star and call me to the shore.
Open the door that all my sins would close
And hold me in your garden. Let me share
The prayer that folds the petals of the Rose.
Enfold me too in Love's last mystery
And bring me to the One you bore for me.

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
He who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim!

Sacred Infant, all divine,
what a tender love was Thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!

O Come, All Ye Faithful

133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed!
 glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Ruling Elders

Class of 2025

Paul Costel
Elaine Duncan
Bob Horton
John Hubbard
Elizabeth Scinta
Linda Watson
vacant

Class of 2026

Miriam Ballert
Marilyn Duke
Liz Ratliff Evans
Lindsey Hundley
Lucy Kosse
Deb Vetter
Whitney Watt

Class of 2027

Ann Bowling
John Cunningham
Angela Duffy
Stephanie Fellon
Larry Jones
Justin Powers
Kyle Wiggins

Youth Elders: Morgan Fellon & Wilson Masick

Clerk: Chip Snyder

Deacons

Class of 2025

Sandy Bailey, *Clerk*
Prentice Brown
Scott Carothers
Cathy Flowers
Jane Roth
Martha Spencer
Lowell Stevens

Class of 2026

John Davis
Nathan Dicken
Glen Hume
Sissy Judy
Susan McDowell
Paige Reinstine
Kristi Smith

Class of 2027

Kelly Bryant
Tim Clark
Kitty deVoogd
Jim Haynes
Patrice Paton
Kay Reis
Sunny Seale

Staff

Barrett Abernethy *Pastor & Head of Staff*

Andrew Bowman *Associate Pastor for Community Life*

Elizabeth Clay *Coordinator for Pastoral Care*

Karla Wright *Director of the Weekday School*

Lorie Williamson *Director of Children's & Family Ministry*

Jim Rittenhouse *Director of Worship & Music Ministry*

Michael Harper *Coordinator for Youth Ministry*

Mengfei Xu *Organist and Assistant Director of Worship & Music*

Amy Kiefner *Communications Specialist and Technology Administrator*

Tammy Kissling *Ministry Coordinator for Faith Formation & Mission*

Jeremy Doyle *Director of Facilities*

Earl Toepfert *Maintenance Technician*

Yilena Romero Aguilera *Custodian*

Paula S. Roberts *Organist Emerita*

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