

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!

Thank you for silencing mobile phones and other devices to honor the sanctity of our worship.

Bold type *is sung or read in unison.*

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

The Gathering

PRELUDE

+Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

Christina Recktenwald and Molly Melahn, sopranos; Mengfei Xu, piano

+How Far Is it to Bethlehem

Members of Chapel Choir & Worship Arts; Lorie Williamson, director

Prélude sur Adeste Fideles

Alexander Guilmant

Mengfei Xu, organ

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n!

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels. O
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

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

***LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE** *read responsively*

3:30 p.m. Patrick, Alex, Beau, & Rhett Nessenthaler

5:30 p.m. Jonathan, Liz, & Maddie Evans & Charles Ratliff

from Isaiah 9:2, 6

Light dawns upon us and we emerge from darkness.

A great light shines, and the world rejoices!

We light the Christ candle, for Jesus is born among us.

He is the Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, the Prince of Peace.

***RESPONSE**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, vs. 3

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Word

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

*The Friendly Beasts**

Animals (receiving blanket)

Kenneth Oeth

The Friendly Beasts, vs. 6

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**Thus every beast by some good spell,
in the stable dark was glad to tell
how they gave their gift to Emmanuel;
the gift they gave Emmanuel.**

Mary & Joseph (baby booties & socks)

Christina Recktenwald

Away in a manger, vs. 1

MUELLER

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

The First Nowell, vs. 1

THE 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.**

Kings (baby food)

Rev. Andrew Bowman

We Three Kings of Orient Are, vs. 1

KINGS OF ORIENT

**We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts; we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

Conclusion

Lorie Williamson

In the Bleak Midwinter, vs. 4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wiseman, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him; give my heart.**

**Readings adapted from The First Christmas Night by Keith Christopher
Gifts placed at the manger will be donated to South Louisville Community Ministries Infant Resource
Ministry.*

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:1–7

HOMILY

Light Dawns: Jesus Christ

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

The Response

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *congregation sings*

(sung to the tune of "What Child Is This?")

GREENSLEEVES

**These gifts we joyfully bring to you, to fill the world with meaning;
our hearts and minds are longing for the life of which you are dreaming.
These, these our gifts we bring, our lives we share, your praise we sing;
show us your vision, Lord, for hope, and peace, and caring.**

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

+I Saw Three Ships
The Octet

arr. John Rutter

VOLUNTARY

He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child
Mengfei Xu, organ

arr. Mark A. Radice

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.**

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

To light, please tilt your unlit candle toward the lit candle of the person next to you.

*CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing
with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia

ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
"Al - le - lu - ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
to our King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

The Sending

*BLESSING

*CAROL

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing...**

POSTLUDE

Postlude on Joy to the World

Herbert Colvin

Mengfei Xu, organ

*We are called to go out from our worship to share the light of Christ's coming
& the grace of God with one another and the world around us.*

*The turnaround time for our 5:30 p.m. service is short, so we encourage the worshipers at 3:30 p.m.
to move out of the space as quickly as possible. Thank you for assisting us!*

In Worship Today

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.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given...

One arrangement at the Chancel is given in loving memory of Charles and Jerry Pence by their daughter, Sallye Pence.

One arrangement at the Chancel is given by Charlie and Edith Huber in memory of their parents, and in beloved honor of their Children and Grandchildren.

THE NARTHEX FLOWERS are given...

In loving memory of Eleanor Nickerson by her daughter and son-in-law,
Valerie and Ernie Dreher.

A special thank you to Bonnie Boram and the House and Gardens Committee; our office administrators, pastoral and facilities staff; children from our Weekday School, and many others who helped to decorate our indoor and outdoor spaces so beautifully.

USHERS

3:30 Edie Wells, John Cunningham, Sallie Cunningham, Lee Ann Cunningham, Cathy Flowers, Hunter Judy, Sissy Judy, Tim Martin, Cathy Martin, Paul Costel, Ann Bowling, Stephanie Fellon, Morgan Fellon

5:30 Connie Smith, Nolan Williams, Ben Williams, Graham Williams, Jim Haynes, Emily Burrice, Johnny Burrice, John Hubbard, Nancy Hubbard, Edie Wells, Sasha Bjork-Mayer, Brooks Mayer, Chappel Mayer

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, preacher; Rev. Andrew Bowman, liturgist;
Lorie Williamson, Kenneth Oeth, Christina Recktenwald & Molly Melahn, readers

The Octet of the Sanctuary Choir: Laura Atkinson, Russ Dunlap, Molly Mehlan,
Kenneth Oeth, Christina Bouras Recktenwald, Jason Steigerwalt

Chapel Choir: Lorie Williamson, director: *Evie 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*

Jim Rittenhouse, Director of Worship & Music Ministry

Mengfei Xu, Organist and Assistant Director of Music Ministry

Evan Vicic, Audiovisual Engineer; William Vicic, Audiovisual Technician (5:30)

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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.

The flowers and wreaths are given to the glory of God by...

Wreaths:

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Edward Glasscock in memory of Clinton, and Jane Shewmaker
Jean O'Brien & family in loving memory always of John D. O'Brien MD & Matthew P. O'Brien
Lorrie & Peter Conway in memory of George & Ruth Conway, and Robert & Marilynn Smith
Ann Buckman in memory of J.D., Angelina, & Carletta Buckman
Eric Jagers
Janie & Tom Scovil in memory of her parents Jack & Jane Duerson and given with love
Tim & Sharon Clark in honor of our children & grandchildren, and in memory of our parents



Poinsettias:

The Pastor Nominating Committee in honor of Rev. Barrett Abernethy and his family
Allison, Will, Kate, Mary Claire & William Duncan in honor of: our Gadgy, (Prentice Brown), and
Gran, (Pam Duncan); and in loving memory of Grandmommy, (Judy Brown)
and Grandfather, (Bill Duncan)
Nelson & Deborah Clemmens in memory of Doug Toms
Elizabeth McKean in memory of Frank McKean
Mr and Mrs W. Edwin Lewis & Mr and Mrs Edwin H. Lewis in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Paul
Hughes, & Mr & Mrs Robert K Lewis
Emily & Tom Lawrence in memory of our granddaughter Caroline Vitale, parents Hazel &
Herb Ledford, Ruby Lawrence & sister Lucy Lawrence
Tom & Karen Sweets in memory of our parents
Bonnie & John Stone in honor of our daughters & grandchildren
Sandall & Tom Tyrrell in memory of Mr & Mrs Gerald F. Tyrrell, Mr & Mrs Charles L. Dade,
Gerald G. Tyrell, Charles L. Dade IV
Kelly, Joe, Campbell, Caroline, & Elizabeth Seiler in memory of John G Seiler Jr, and
Mrs Louise B. Seiler
Kelly & Joe Seiler in honor of our children Campbell, Caroline, & Elizabeth Seiler
Ed Wilson in memory of Jeanie Wilson
Eric Jagers
Cindy & Mike Dickman in honor of our children Lillie, Maggie, & Jack, and in memory of our
parents Norma & Bill Dickman, and Lester Key, in honor of Maxie Key
Jess & Susanne Wright in honor of our children & grandchildren. in memory of Portia Leatherman
Marcy Suter in memory of my husband Ron
Sunny & Ronnie Seale in honor of our grandchildren Morgan Fellon, Jackson & Ruby Seale
Anne Ehrman in loving memory of Frederick C. Ehrman MD by his family
Gene & Connie Smith in memory of our parents Mr & Mrs Mason Venner Smith, and
Mr & Mrs Lester J. Rausch
Evelyn Hwang in memory of M.C. Hwang, Maria Niu, Hedy Shao, & Peter T.K. Wu., and in
memory of Henri Hou MD, John Church, Eric Huang, and in memory of Rev. Chet Minarcik
Ken Herrington
Laura Hood in memory of Jane Nast (Grammy)



John & Laura Davis in honor of our children Abby, Allison, & Scott Davis

Priss & Gregg Hovious in honor of our children Kate, Robert, & Sam

Amy Rosenberger Babikian in memory of Bonita & Robert Rosenberger

Sissy Russelburg in memory of Paxton & Joyce Price

Wayne & Linda Rudloff in honor of their children Elizabeth, Andrew, Liz, Clay, & Stuart

Susan & Jack Moss, Elliott, Wesley, & Rhodes in memory of Bill & Louise Elliot, and in memory of
Betty Kilgore Moss Gibbs & George Gibbs

Mary Lane & Eloise Penner in honor of Linda & Harold Blevins

Linda & Harold Blevins in honor of our children & grandchildren

Patty & Bill West in loving memory of Pat & Gordon Dabney, and Pat & Bill West

Eddie Wells in honor of my grandchildren Lottie, Mary Townsend, & Miles

Kaye Chesemore in memory of Sharon Stern & Katherine Ferguson

Pat & Angela Duffy in honor of Evelyn Hwang, & the Duffy Boys

Glen & Brad Hume in honor of Florence Jenney Hume. in memory of Marion & Mac Chowning,
Walter Hume, Margurite Hume

Cathy Flowers in honor of my children & grandchildren: Will, Blair, Grayson, Maggie, Andrew,
Charlie, Lulu, Clark, Katie, Caroline, Tommy, & Vivi

Nan Dobbs in memory of Dr. Charlie Dobbs

Will, Maggie, Clark, & Caroline (Flowers) in loving memory of Margaret Flowers, our wonderful
grandmother

Andrea & Kyle Wiggins in memory of Robert B. Patterson

Frances & Charlie Scholtz in honor of their grandchildren Latham & Charlie, and in celebration for
the blessing of family

The Nichols-Pecceu Family in memory of Robert W. Nichols & Thomas B. Nichols

Cathy Cole Irvin in memory of Shelley Louise Irvin

Kitty & Stan deVoogd in honor of their granddaughters Amelia, Nori, & Charlotte

Greg & Harriet Treitz in memory of John & Jean Lee Treitz, and Albert & Ming Dick

Bruce & Joan Dudley, Nancy & Walter Ostertag, and Liz & Rick Haas in memory of
Barbara & George Dudley

The Costel Family in memory of William J. Rutledge, and William & Virginia Costel

Marcia & Scott Koch in memory of Abbott & Susan Reid

Heather, Amelia, & Colleen Campbell in memory of Chris Campbell

Walt & Jamie Swyers in honor of our grandchildren Marin, Tyler, Bennett, Lily, & Sam

Ed, Carolyn, Edwin, & Kim Lewis in memory of Clinton Glasscock

The McGuire Family in memory of Patrick & Kelsey McGuire

Jane, Annie, Lucy, Patrick, Claire and Libby in loving memory of Jack Roth

Elizabeth & Doug Owen in memory of our parents Alice Cary & Eugene Farmer, Ceclia
Reynolds Hill, & Douglas H. Owen

Tim & Sharon Clark in honor of our children & grandchildren, in memory of our parents

George White in memory of Susan England White

Prentice Brown & Kim Muir Graven in memory of Joan Muir

Prentice Brown, Allison Duncan & Mark Brown in memory of Judy Brown & her son Chip

Walter Crutcher, Cheryl Cooper in memory of Scott Davis



Texts & Translations

Gesu Bambino (The Christ Child)

Pietro Yon

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night,
Was birthed the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.
'The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced.
And at his blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart of rapture glows to greet the holy night
that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light.
Let every voice acclaim his name, the grateful chorus swell,
From paradise to earth he came that we with him might dwell.
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord. - *Frederick H. Martens*

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.

- *Frances Chesterton*

I Saw Three Ships

John Rutter

I saw three ships come sailing in ...
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas day in the morning.
And what was in those ships all three ...
Our Saviour Christ and His Lady ...
Pray whither sailed those ships all three ...

O they sailed into Bethlehem ...
And all the bells on earth shall ring...
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing ...
And all the Souls on Earth shall sing ...
Then let us all rejoice amain ...

- *William Sandys*

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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