

# 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](https://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!*

***Bold** type indicates where we share the liturgy together.*

# *Service for the Lord's Day*

## *The Gathering*

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE      *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BuxWV 223*      Dieterich Buxtehude  
Mengfei Xu, organ

WELCOME

INTROIT      *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*      J. Schop, arr. J. S. Bach  
The Octet

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning.  
You shepherds, shudder not with fright, but hear the angel's warning.  
This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,  
the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.  
*Johann Rist, trans. John Troutbeck*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Throughout the Christmas Season, we have come to bask in the light of Christ.

**This morning we follow in the footsteps of the Magi.**

As we offer our gifts to Christ our Lord by praising his holy name, let us take the gift  
he offers us back out into the world.

**Let us kneel before the ones who have fallen so we can help them up;  
let us share our gold with those who can't keep a roof over their head or  
enough food in their pantries..**

Let us start this year in the same spirit we ended the last one: in a spirit of gratitude  
for the neighbor down the street and the neighbor an ocean away.

**Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN 147

*The First Nowell*  
*vs. 1-3, 5*

THE FIRST NOWELL

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *read in unison*

**God of Light, as we put away the candles, the Chrismons, and the creches, let us not close off the spirit that this season has inspired. Too often, we feel compelled to cordon off Christmas hope and return to the grind of life. The competition of daily self-gratification and greed neglects the reason Jesus entered the world. Let us not slide back into these ways. Let us not forget this time. Let us speak with the radiant imagery that beckoned the Magi to kneel - for they knew they were witnessing something and someone full of hope. Let that hope guide us in this new year, and let it begin with us...**

*Time for silent prayer.*

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In peace, let us receive and proclaim the Good News:  
**Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*RESPONSE HYMN 147

*The First Nowell, vs. 6*

THE FIRST NOWELL

*Children of all ages are welcome to come forward. Following the Peace, children ages 3 through kindergarten will be dismissed through the side door for activities.  
Those in 1st grade and above may return to their seats.*

**Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought:  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel!**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE *read responsively*

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

# *The Word*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 2:1-12

### SERMON

*Light Dawns: Magi*

Rev. Andrew Bowman

# *The Response*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Epiphany Star Words

## 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

*O Morning Star*

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET DER MORGENSTERN

arr. Kyle Pederson

*O morning star, how fair and bright;  
You shine with God's own truth and light,  
aglow with grace and mercy.  
O light eternal, radiant one,  
we bid your truth in us now come;  
illuminate the darkness.  
Holy, holy,  
great and glorious, blaze within us;  
Lift our voices, hear our praises;  
Alleluia through all eternity.*

*Come heav'nly brightness, light divine,  
and deep within my heart now shine;  
There make yourself an altar.  
Fill me with joy, with strength to be your fol'wer,  
joined eternally in love that cannot falter.  
Longing for you,  
love possessing, always blessing,  
hearts confessing, lips professing;  
Alleluia through all eternity.*

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *read responsively*

The Lord be with you.      **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.      **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right ... joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place...

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We have come to this place ... for Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat of the bread and drink of this cup we proclaim your death,  
Lord Jesus, until you come in full glory.**

Holy Spirit, come into this bread and this cup ... as we pray the prayer he taught us:

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.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All those who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to take part in the sacrament. A choice of red wine or white juice is offered. Gluten-free bread is available in cups on the plates. You are invited to say, as you pass the bread, "Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life" and as you pass the wine, "Jesus Christ, the Cup of Salvation."*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*Song of Stillness*  
Mengfei Xu, organ

Alexander Boëly

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## SHARING GRACE

### *The Sending*

\*HYMN 151

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

vs. 1: Men of Choir sing; all sing refrain

vs. 2: All singing

vs. 3: Higher voices of congregation sing verse, all sing refrain

vss. 4 & 5 : All singing

\*BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE

*Triumphal March*

Paul Herbert

*We are called to go out from our worship to share the grace of God with one another and the world.  
You are welcome to remain seated for the postlude or exit quietly.*

## 147

## The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be - yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

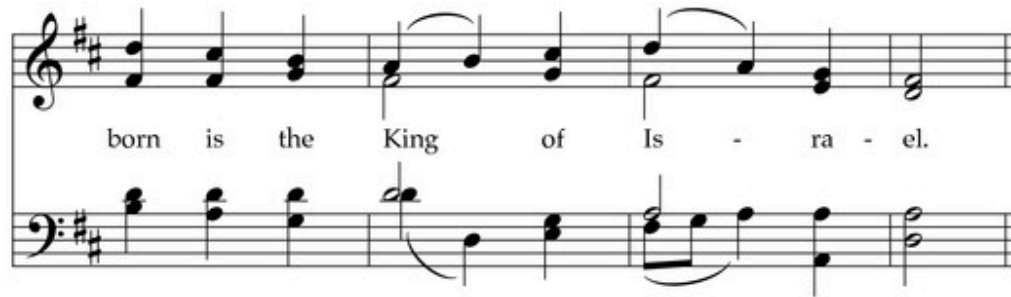
their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

## Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / nē*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord  
full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
their gold, and myrrh, and and with his blood our life hath bought.  
frankincense. *Refrain*



## 151 We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
 prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

*Refrain*

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Although Christians had begun by the 2nd century to speak of these visitors from eastern countries (Matthew 2:1-12) as "kings," perhaps because of passages like Psalm 72:10 and Isaiah 60:3, it is more accurate to think of them as magi or astrologers, the scholars of their day.

## *In Worship Today*

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given by Nancy Hubbard.

### USHERS

Connie Smith, Linda Watson, Sharon Clark, Larry Jones, Sandy Bailey, Patrice Paton

### OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Andrew Bowman, preacher; Rev. Barrett Abernethy liturgist

The Octet; Jim Rittenhouse, director; Mengfei Xu, organist

Evan Vicic, Audiovisual Engineer; William Vicic, camera

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## *We Lift Up in Prayer*

Cindy & Mike Dickman, and Lillie, Maggie, and Jack on the death of Cindy's mother,  
Maxie Key, 12/23/25.

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.

# Announcements

January 4, 2026

## TO OUR VISITORS - Welcome to Second Presbyterian!

Please help us get to know you better by filling out an information card (in the pew pockets).

You are welcome to hand the card to a pastor in the Narthex or place it in the offering plate. *Thank you!*

CHILDCARE is not available today. Please visit the Children's Worship Cart in the Narthex for items to help keep your child engaged in worship.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Sign up by scanning the QR code or contact Lorie Williamson at [lwilliamson@2ndpreslou.org](mailto:lwilliamson@2ndpreslou.org). (All volunteers must be members and are subject to background check and training.)



CHILDREN'S CHURCH resumes today. Please visit the Children's Worship Cart in the Narthex for items to help keep your child engaged in worship.

BITES WITH BARRETT - Join Barrett for a small-group gathering on **Sunday, January 11th, from 5:00 - 7:00 PM**. Please complete the form found in Seconds to Go. To ensure a meaningful opportunity for everyone to connect, the event is limited to ten guests. Additional opportunities to meet Barrett will be available in February and March.

PLEDGE CARDS - If you have not had a chance to turn in your pledges for 2026, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards have been sent in the mail, and extras are available at the tables outside of the worship spaces if you need one. We still have quite a few yet to be returned, so let's keep those pledges coming. *Thank you!*

CABBAGE PATCH CHRISTMAS GIFTS: Did you miss out on donating toward Cabbage Patch Christmas gifts? Presents have been purchased, wrapped, and delivered, but there is still time to give! All additional funds received will be given to Cabbage Patch families in the form of gift cards. Contact Brad Hume or Emily Lawrence for more information.

DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH - For the month of December we are collecting monetary donations for foreign mission outreach to both PC(USA)'s Global Ecumenical Partnerships and mission co-workers, Dustin and Sherri Ellington currently working in Lebanon. Please make checks payable to Second Presbyterian Church or online through our giving page.

WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER starts back on January 7 with a special Epiphany Celebration for the whole family! Dinner at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall followed with a service featuring the traditions of Epiphany - meditations, and hands-on crafts for the whole family, and King Cakes! NB: Children's Choirs and Worship Arts, along with new adult programming begins on January 14. Reservations need to be to Tammy by Monday, January 5: [tkissling@2ndpreslou.org](mailto:tkissling@2ndpreslou.org).

WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER CLASS OFFERINGS- beginning 1/14: Join Rev. Barrett Abernethy as we peruse the book *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers*. Please sign-up so you are guaranteed a copy of the book (Cost is \$12). Parenting Education Nights 1/21-2/4 *Bringing New Understanding and Connection: Relationships in Early Childhood*. RSVP needed for dinner & childcare. Contact Tammy Kissling at [tkissling@2ndpreslou.org](mailto:tkissling@2ndpreslou.org).

MEMORIAL FLOWERS - We are asking for a gift of memorial flowers for Sunday services on January 18, February 1, and February 22. Please call or text Nancy Hubbard at 502-939-5744 if interested.

## Upcoming Events - January 4, 2026

<b>Sunday, January 4</b>	<b><i>Epiphany Sunday - Holy Communion - 11 a.m. service only</i></b>	
9:45 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation	Rooms 251, 252, Parlor, JFH
11:00 a.m.	Service for the Lord's Day	Sanctuary/Live Streamed
12:30 p.m.	SPOT: Sunday Singles	Mesh
3:00 p.m.	SPOT: Mah Jongg	Room 168
<b>Monday, January 5</b>		
1:00 p.m.	Monday Afternoon Club	Room 252
<b>Tuesday, January 6</b>		
5:30 p.m.	SPOT: Book Notes	Parlor
<b>Wednesday, January 7</b>		
5:00 p.m.	Wednesdays Together Epiphany Celebration	Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room/Sanctuary
<b>Thursday, January 8</b>		
9:30 a.m.	Morning Joy	FHA/Zoom
11:00 a.m.	Reflections	Room 251
1:00 p.m.	SPOT: Mah Jongg	Room 168
<b>Friday, January 9</b>		
7:00 a.m.	Men's Weekly Bible Study	Room 251/Zoom
1:00 p.m.	SPOT: Mah Jongg	Room 168
<b>Sunday, January 11</b>	<b><i>Baptism of the Lord Sunday</i></b>	
8:30 a.m.	Service for the Lord's Day	Chapel
9:45 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation	Room 251, 252, Parlor, JFH
11:00 a.m.	Service for the Lord's Day	Sanctuary/Live Streamed
12:00 p.m.	SPOT: Busy Needles	Parlor
3:00 p.m.	SPOT: Mah Jongg	Room 168
<b>Monday, January 12</b>		
1:00 p.m.	Monday Afternoon Club	Room 252
4:00 p.m.	Caregiver's Group	Zoom
<b>Tuesday, January 13</b>		
7:00 p.m.	Open Gym	Great Hall
7:00 p.m.	Sisters in Spirit	Parlor
<b>Wednesday, January 14</b>		
5:00 p.m.	Wednesdays Together	FHA/B, 150, 180, 179, Great Hall
7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room/Sanctuary

Please visit [2ndpreslou.org/calendar](https://2ndpreslou.org/calendar), or scan this QR code, for a complete list of events at Second. See our weekly email, *Seconds to Go*, for details about upcoming activities and Zoom links. To learn more about the ministries at Second, contact us at [info@2ndpreslou.org](mailto:info@2ndpreslou.org) or 502-895-3483.





## *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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