



First Presbyterian Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025, 11:00 AM

* Indicates that those who are able may stand

Bold type is spoken by the people.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Registers & Binder: Please sign, fill out, and pass.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

The Joy Offering

Diane Glasgow

VOLUNTARY:

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Children's Choir

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

FPC Youth

ONE: We light this candle as a symbol of the joy to be found in your kingdom on earth.

Lighting of the candle

ONE: For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind. We rejoice in his justice and mercy, faithful to all generations.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

FPC Youth, Liturgists

ONE: Behold! a teenage girl is pregnant with the God who knit her in her own mother's womb,

ALL: strange signs from a strange God who upturns expectations.

ONE: She said yes to divine revolution even though it meant social condemnation,

ALL: strange signs from a strange God who upturns expectations.

ONE: God's Spirit stokes subversive dreams in us to help us defy the status quo,

ALL: strange signs from a strange God who upturns expectations. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN:

People, Look East

#105

CALL TO & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE: God comes to us just as we are, with all our triumphs, our worries, our gratitude, and our failures. We deepen our relationship with God now by drawing close and confessing our sins, saying...

ALL: Shepherd of our souls, we anticipate your coming but do not feel ready. We have done too much, and not done enough. We have focused too much on ourselves, and not enough on others. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we might be saved.

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

*RESPONSE HYMN: Lord Have Mercy Upon Us #575

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Emmanuel did not come into this world to condemn, but to save.

ALL: God does not come to imprison us, but to set us free.

ONE: Through this abundant love, we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI #581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!**

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES *FPC Youth*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-16 **P.598**

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 1:1-7 **P.142**

ONE: Heaven and earth will pass away but the word of the Lord stands forever.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SOLO: Do You Hear What I Hear *Carrie Underwood
Violet Marsee, soloist*

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1:18-25 **P.1**

SERMON: *Rev. Michael Mclaughlin*

*SERMON HYMN: Of the Father's Love Begotten **#108**

COMMUNAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Confession of 1967, 9.19*

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

*GREETINGS

After an exchange of Peace between the liturgist and the congregation, we encourage you to greet one another. The Greetings will conclude with the first verse of *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*.

ONE: ...The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Let us pass the peace...

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;

#306

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ONE: ...Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Donna Robertson

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

#606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN:

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

#104

*BENEDICTION

ONE: ...Alleluia!

ALL: Alleluia!

POSTLUDE:

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Malcolm Archer

REGULAR WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

- **Higher Grounds Café** – 9:30am-11am, in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Advent Sunday School** – This year, we will be combining the three Sunday morning groups and anyone else interested in exploring further the season of Advent as we gather in the Fellowship Hall. – 9:30am-10:30am.
- **Worship Service** – 11am, in the Sanctuary
- **Nursery** – 9:30am-12:15pm - Ages 5 and under.
- **Children's Church** - 11:15am, in Room 16.

WEDNESDAY

- **Wednesday Night Gathering** – 6pm Candlelight Service in Sanctuary.
- **Choir Rehearsal** – No rehearsal this week.

THURSDAY

- **High School Youth Group** – Morning coffee talk and encouragement, 7am-7:30am, home of Rev. Ory.

STAFF:

The Rev. Michael D. McLaughlin.....Pastor & Head of Staff
The Rev. Katie Ory.....Dir. TTU PSA, Dir. Children & Youth Ministry
Paul Thurmond..... Director of Music
Virginia Fillers.....SoulSong Coordinator
Amy Ainsley.....Office Administrator

ELDERS:

2025: Dina Smith, Rick Woods
2026: Cade Arnold, Josh Doré
2027: Sidonie Sansom, Dee Tompkins

CLERK: Donna Simpson

DEACONS:

2025: Chris McCormick, Erica Scott
2026: Michelle Doré, Ron Ledbetter, Stacey Trent
2027: Kelly Appleton, Ann Hayes, Tony Lawson,
Colleen Mestayer, Gabrielle Pate, Shelley
Wiley

BIRTHDAYS:

Pate, Eric	12/03
McCormick, Emily	12/06
Lawson, Abram	12/09
Pate, Gabrielle	12/09
Wilson, Linda	12/16
Turner, Barry	12/19

Womack, Rowan	12/19
See, Bob	12/20
Pelren, David	12/24
Hayes, Pam	12/28
Nisbet III, John	12/29

Website: www.firstprescookeville.org

Church Office: Tue.-Thur. 9:00am-3:00 pm

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