

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR DEC. 29, 2024

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE He Is Born arr. Teresa Wilhelmi

INTROIT 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful (vrs. 1) ASESTE FIDELES

Gathering Around The Word

\*CALL TO WORSHIP from Ps. 148:1, 7, 12

One: Praise the Lord! Praise God in the heavens.

All: Praise the Lord from the earth!

One: Young and old alike,

All: men and women together. Praise the Lord!

\*HYMN 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)  
God of wonder,  
you surround us with signs of your glory  
and surprise us with your presence,  
yet we often miss the marvels you place before us.  
Forgive our dullness and make us alert  
to the ways you make yourself known,  
that we might be witnesses to your good news  
and proclaim your extravagant love;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON from Titus 3:5; Col. 3:13

One: In Jesus Christ God saved us, not because of any good works  
that we have done, but according to God’s mercy, through the  
water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. People of  
God, rejoice! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. As the Lord has  
forgiven us, let us also forgive one another. The peace of the  
Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: Thanks be to God.

\*PASSING THE PEACE  
We invite you to share the peace of Christ with others.

\*RESPONSE 581 GLORIA PATRI  
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, amen.

Listening To the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING ISAIAH 61:1-62:3  
(The scripture readings can be found on the bulletin insert)

ANTHEM 116 The Snow Lay on the Ground VENITE ADOREMUS

SECOND READING LUKE 2:22-40

SERMON “Called By A New Name” Rev. David Holden

Responding to the Word

\*HYMN Mary & Joseph Came to the Temple BUNESSAN  
(lyrics can be found on the back of the bulletin)

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH EXCERPTS FROM BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
The love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ,  
fully human, fully God.

We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
Everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

With believers in every time and place,  
We rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SHARING OUR PRAYERS See prayer concerns list, back page

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (“debts”/”debtors”) page 35 in hymnal

GIVING BACK TO GOD’S KINGDOM  
(Give online @ bit.ly/FPCSomersetGive or scan the code on the yellow pew card)

OFFERTORY Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arr. Teresa Wilhelmi

TEN CENTS A MEAL OFFERING  
(Any donation placed in the baskets today will go toward feeding those in need)

\*THE DOXOLOGY 606  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION from Col. 3:14

God Sends Us Forth

\*HYMN 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO

\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION from Col. 3:17

\*BLESSING

HYMN 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain (refrain only) GO TELL IT

POSTLUDE

Visiting today? Welcome!

Please tell us about yourself! You can scan  
this QR code with your smartphone to fill  
out our online form, or fill out a pew card  
and drop it in the offering plate.



This Week

Mon., Dec. 30 - Thur., Jan. 2 - Church office hours temporarily by  
appointment only  
(for an appointment call or text 606-383-0700)

Wed., Jan. 1 @ 10:30am - PW Bible Study  
Fri., Jan. 3 @ 7:30am - Men's Breakfast at Bob Evan's Restaurant

Worship Assistants Next Week

Liturgist.....Zack Vaught  
Ushers.....Erin Stephens & Linda Bonardel  
Audio.....Paul Guffey  
Video.....Sue Guffey  
Coffee Plus.....Laura Wright

\*for portions marked with an asterisk, you’re invited to rise in body or spirit

Mary and Joseph came to the temple  
brought the boy Jesus, offered him there.  
People were waiting wanting to greet him;  
long had they sought him, solace for care.

Anna had prayed there, widowed, long waiting,  
worshiping God by day and by night.  
Now she is praising, filled with elation:  
here is God's promise, Christ is her light.

Simeon sings now: God proffers blessing,  
brilliantly gilding dawn of his day.  
Light in the darkness, never extinguished,  
Light of all nations, light up our way.



Prayers for Comfort, Concern, and Healing

Angie Butler; Becky Butler’s brother, David Seiler; Shane Thurman; Baby S; Ed & Joyce Mick; Autumn Brock’s mom, Marie; Jennifer Williams; Bill House; Leslie Phillips

Current Giving				
	Rec'd month of Nov.	Needed Monthly	Received YTD	Needed YTD
Pledged Offering	\$13,173	\$11,985	\$144,311	\$131,839
Non-Pledged	\$6,669	\$3,289	\$57,420	\$36,173

Blessing Box Attendant

This Week.....  
Next Week.....

Assisting In Worship Today

Ministers.....Every Member  
Liturgist.....Troy Jamieson  
Ushers.....Suzanne Kidd & George Joplin  
Audio.....Paul Guffey  
Video.....Sue Guffey  
Coffee Plus.....Paula Burlew  
Director of Music.....Theresa Jean Kibby  
Piano & Organ.....Debby McDonald  
Pastor.....Rev. David Holden

Deacons:

Linda Cook	Rebecca Davis	Sue Guffey
Don Haney	Nancy Holland	Marshall Judy
	Marci Randall	

Elders:

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Charles Leveridge	Sharon Mandt	Jo Salmon
Zack Vaught	Perry Waller	Laura Wright

First Presbyterian Church

December 29th, 2024

The First Sunday of Christmas



Saget, Father George. Altar of Keur Moussa Abbey, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56077> [retrieved

People of God, Welcome Home!

May Christ’s peace and presence fill your heart  
as you worship this day, and may you go forth  
with the light and love of God shining within you.

We welcome you to worship, and ask that any  
electronic devices be placed on silent  
so that all may hear what God has to say.



**First Scripture Reading—Isaiah 61:1-62:3**

61<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>5</sup>Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks; foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines, <sup>6</sup>but you shall be called priests of the Lord; you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. <sup>7</sup>Because their shame was double and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

<sup>8</sup>For I, the Lord, love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

62<sup>1</sup>For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the Lord and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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**Second Scripture Reading—Luke 2:22-40**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word,  
<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

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