



First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021

Order of Worship

✦ Stand as able



Gathering As God's Beloved People

GATHERING MUSIC

Gesu Bambino
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
ADESTE FIDELIS/STILLE NACHT/GLORIA
The Birthday of a King

Pietro Yon
Dan Miller
F. William Voetberg
William Harold Neidlinger

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING CAROLS (remain seated)

113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*
147 *The First Nowell*

GLORIA
THE FIRST NOWELL

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

In the darkness, in stillness, while all lie sleeping
Jesus Christ is born!
Gently, humbly, while we were looking elsewhere,
God has come among us.
In hope, in peace, while the world pursues all manner of things,
Jesus Christ is born!
Let us behold the wonder of this Gift!

✦ HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

✦ CALL TO CONFESSION

✦ CONFESSION

God of Wonder, your Word became flesh to share our life, yet we do not proclaim the marvel of your presence with us. We wield words of criticism and complaint and withhold words of truth or healing. Pardon our failure to be messengers of good news and peace. Give us words to point toward your Word that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

✦ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hymn 132 (stanza 1 & 2) *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!* IN DULCI JUBILO
Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ is born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Proclaiming the Word

WONDERING WITH GOD'S CHILDREN *Happy Birthday, Jesus!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***The Christmas Story told by Congregation! ***

Interactive Sermon Words:

Angels: "Don't be afraid!"

Wise Ones: "Look, a Star!"

Shepherds: "Let's go see!"

Responding to the Word

✦HYMN 145

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night
Janet Carmichael, solo

Adolphe Adams

✦HYMN OF RESPONSE 128

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ZLOBIE LEZY

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Being the Church in the World

✦SENDING HYMN 136

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Salvation Now Is Come to Earth

J. S. Bach

Worship Notes

Friendship Registers

There are Friendship registers in each pew. We ask that you sign in each week that you attend. If you are a visitor or interested in church membership signing in helps us with a way to contact you. The registers are also our way to know who to call in the case of a Covid-19 exposure. Thanks!

End of the Year Giving

All 2021 pledges or other cash donations must be received by the church **no later than midnight on Friday, December 31 (or postmarked by that date)** in order to be included in 2021 Giving Statements for tax purposes. The church office will be closed on Thursday, December 30 and Friday, December 31, but you may drop your donations in the mail box at the office entrance at the foot of the steps. Pull down the tray and then make sure it dropped into the locked portion of the box.

Giving through Your IRA

If you are 70 1/2 years of age or older, you can instruct your IRA provider to make a **Qualified Charitable Distribution to FPC directly from your IRA**. Any donations paid this way are not reported as taxable income to you. You can make your entire annual pledge or other cash donations with one payment, help to satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, and incur no tax on the withdrawal. Qualified Charitable Distributions must be processed directly from your IRA provider.

Serving Today:

Tech Team: Brad Phillips, Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins; **Acolyte:** Kately Lane;

Usher Chair: Stephanie Scarborough

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We thank you for your continued support of First Presbyterian Church of Covington!

You are invited to "Text to Give"
 your offering: Text to: 73256
 Enter FPCCOV as your message, click to send
 Or use this link: <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchCov/give/FPCCOVtext>

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

- ✦ Kim Bailey-tests (family of Bernice & Betty Bailey)
- ✦ Melissa-cancer (friend of the congregation)
- ✦ Susan Crane-friend of Darcel Tabb
- ✦ Denny Dobbs-recovering from surgery
- ✦ Fred Calalay (friend of Angela Gilmer)
- ✦ Audrey Harper Arwood-back pain (daughter of Pat Harper)
- ✦ Saba Tanner-cancer treatment (friend of Warren & Jeanie Liem)
- ✦ Jennifer Magnan-stillborn child (niece of Barbara Martin)
- ✦ Alice Walker-hand injury
- ✦ Alton Cochran-skin cancer surgery, 11/24 (outpatient)
- ✦ Jean Wolverton-See updates at Caring Bridge. Link in the Enews
- ✦ Cathy Martin-breast cancer-chemotherapy (sister-in-law of Chris Martin)
- ✦ Jeff Terrell-recovering from medical procedure (friend of Steve & Louly Kapp)
- ✦ Anne Cranford-treatment for breast cancer
- ✦ Lynn Lanier-amyloidosis (friend of Chris Martin)
- ✦ Doug Bolton-burn injury treatment
- ✦ Susan Fiedler-cancer (friend of Darcel Tabb)
- ✦ Blair Weaver-health issues
- ✦ Sarita Pope-breast cancer (mother-in-law of Elizabeth Martin Pope)
- ✦ Beverly Beasley-caring for husband who has leukemia (friend of Jean Elder)
- ✦ Karen Moss-breast cancer
- ✦ Carter Mackenzie-neck injury (son of Julie & Jeff Mackenzie)
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa-home health care (sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie)
- ✦ Wilford Reed-health issues (friend of Jeff MacKenzie)
- ✦ Bob Darby-kidney problems (friend of Jeff MacKenzie)
- ✦ Joyce Williams-Alzheimer's, breast cancer treatment (sister of Danny Vining)

- ✦ Brandon Massey-blood cancer (grandson of Chuck and Sherry Brasher)
- ✦ Carol Baynes-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Travis Moss-Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Penny Blakeney-home
- ✦ Julia Brubaker-Benton House
- ✦ Jean Elder-currently in Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher-Merryvale
- ✦ Guy McGiboney-Merryvale
- ✦ Betty Robinson-Merryvale
- ✦ Louise White-Merryvale

Military Service

- ✦ Koen Ardis-Navy
- ✦ Lee Scarborough-Army
- ✦ Billy Scarborough-Marines



Condolences

We pray for the family of **Jerry McGaffney**, who passed away December 11th. Jerry has been a member since 1998 and has been living at Merryvale for several years. She was 101 years old.

Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to: admin@fpccov.org or by clicking the "Email Peni" button at the bottom of the Enews prayer list. Requests will be removed after 3 weeks if not updated. Please specify if you want the request in the bulletin or for pastors only, or only the confidential prayer circle.

Keep the APNC in Your Prayers

Those serving on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee: Jodi Walden Atkins; Dana Hall; Judy Hooten; Steve Kapp; Randy Layton; Pam Stillerman & Bob Tabb.

Interested in Joining the Church?

If you're interested in joining the FPC church family, you are welcome to reach out to Neeley. You can enjoy a coffee together and discuss what it means to become a member.

To set a date:

by email: neeley@fpccov.org;
 By phone: 770-786-7321,
 please leave a message with Peni Kehoe.

Do you have a mobile phone or a tablet?

If so, you can download the bulletin on your device to follow the service and save paper. If you pick up a paper bulletin please remember to recycle it here or at home! The environment will thank you! (Please do put your device on silent!)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	<i>Caring for Our Children in the Nursery</i>
Alisa Castilla	<i>Seminary Intern</i>	Danielle Schubert
Krista Firkus	<i>Music Director</i>	Beverley Beasley
Alice Walker	CAGO, AAGO	Amiah Williams
	<i>Organist/Ambassador Choir</i>	Ian Rein
Peni Kehoe	<i>Church Administrator</i>	Kennedy Lynn

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2021 Jay Lanners Warren Liem Cindy Moon Pam Stillerman Cy Wolverton	Class of 2022 Aubrey Evans John McCarthy Stephanie Scarborough Trista Hooten Wilson	Class of 2023 Stan Hall Louly Hay Kapp Ed Perkerson Bob Tabb
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Please Recycle



Activities In the Life of the Church

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 26 Christmas 1

No Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service

Monday, December 27

Church office closed

Wednesday, December 29

10:00 Coffee and Conversation

Thursday, December 30 and Friday, December 31

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 2 Christmas 2

11:00 Worship Service
(No Sunday School)

Church office will be closed on Monday, January 3

Children's Sunday School

10:00am

Sunday School Room Downstairs
Teachers: Rotation Model
Interested in teaching?
email info@fpccov.org

Youth Sunday School

10:00am

Youth Room Downstairs
Teachers: Pam and Jim Stillerman

Adult Sunday School

10:00am

Foundations Class, downstairs

No Sunday School Classes on December 26th or January 2nd!

Nursery for Children

We have a nursery available for children newborn—1st grade. It is located on the lower level. Ask an usher to direct you. Children are also welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pew.

Worship Bags for Children

The bags are labeled with children's name tags clipped to their bag and they are invited to use the same bag every time they come to worship. For our visitors and newcomers we have bags labeled "Child of God." The bags are hanging on a rack on the right side of the narthex.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 9th, immediately following the worship service. Save the Date!

"Women On-The-Go"

Monthly Book Study

January 12, 2022

5:45 pm-7:15 pm @ Church Parlor

Childcare Provided

(Read the final chapters)

