1st Sunday of Christmas

December 31st, 2023 **10:30 a.m.**

PRELUDE ***Good Christians All, Rejoice*** *arr. Greer*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

✞CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Every year we celebrate Christmas.
All: Each month we break bread.
One: Each week we gather for worship.
All: Each day we count our blessings.
One: Every minute God is near.
All: Every minute God is near.
One: These are the rituals of our faith.
All: Let us worship our Holy God.

✞HYMN OF PRAISE ***Angels, from the Realms of Glory*** **#143, vv. 1-3**

✞PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of rhythms, we confess: our faith would not be what it is without rituals. We return to this space again and again to hear old, familiar stories. If we stopped, it would not take long before we lost our way. Forgive us for our fragility and thank you for giving us ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto. With grateful and humble hearts we pray. Amen.

✞ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

One: Friends, it is not enough to hear once a month or once a year that we are forgiven. We need to hear it every single week. Every single week we need to be reminded that we are held in God's loving embrace. So let us proclaim the Good News:
All: No matter where we are on our journey of life, love, or faith; no matter what we have done or left undone: We belong to God. We are loved by God. We are claimed by God. We are known by God. We are forgiven by God.
One: This is the Good News of the Gospel.
All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

✞RESPONSE ***Angels, from the Realms of Glory*** **#143, v. 4**

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run!

✞PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Registration Pad found at the end of the row and pass it along.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

All children are invited to come forward for the Time for Young Disciples. Following this time, children through 1st grade are invited to Children's Church.

HYMN MEDLEY
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear **#123, vv. 1&4**
Gentle Mary Laid Her Child **#146, vv. 1&2**
Away in a Manger **#115, vv. 1&3**
✞***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*** **#132, vv. 1&2**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION 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.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING Exodus 12:1-14 p. 58 OT
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC ***The Work of Christmas*** *Dan Forrest*

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 2:21-24 p. 58 NT
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED **Tim Reynolds**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

Offertory ***Mary, Did You Know?*** *arr. Burger*
✞Response ***What Child Is This?*** **#145, v. 3**
✞Prayer of Dedication

✞AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that faith is a journey marked by rituals and rhythms. We come to worship. We confess our sins. We pass the peace. We offer grace. We hear the Word. We baptize children. We tell the story of a loving God. Through these sacred rituals, we are reminded: we are not alone. God is near and we have work to do. May this belief shape the rhythm of our lives.

✞HYMN OF SENDING ***Go, Tell It on the Mountain*** **#136**

✞BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

✞POSTLUDE ***Go Tell It on the Mountain/*** *arr. Burger*
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

✞PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT, AS YOU ARE ABLE

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Tim Reynolds – Pastor
Sarah Morgan – Pastor
Clara Hardin – Liturgist
Matthew Mimbs – Director of Music & Arts
John Lasater – Organist
2nd Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Ushers: Doug Barbour, Marty McLean and Janis Smith
Technicians: Neal Henley (video); Paul Sexauer (audio)

WORSHIP

UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS AND TOPICS: Our Advent sermon series, *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?,* concludes this morning. Next week we begin a study in Colossians that we are calling, *Christianity Made Simple.*

Dec 31	Luke 2:21-24	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? *We Root Ourselves in Ritual*
Jan 7	Colossians 1:1-8	Christianity Made Simple: *Theology*
Jan 14	Colossians 1:9-14	Christianity Made Simple: *God's Will*
Jan 21	Colossians 1:15-23	Christianity Made Simple: *The Gospel*

THE FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the glory of God.

TODAY WE ARE WORSHIPING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL: Worship in the Fellowship Hall on the 5th Sunday of the month is a little less formal and gives us an opportunity to be together in a different way than usual. If you are sitting in the sanctuary, you're in the wrong place. Get up and move!

USHERS NEEDED Are you interested in serving 2nd Presbyterian in a position that allows you to meet and welcome both members and guests to Sunday Worship? Kim Hudgens and Janis Smith, who coordinate the usher schedule, are recruiting new members of the ushering team. This is a low-stress way to make a personal contribution to church worship. Please contact Kim (kimhudgens05@comcast.net or 865-567-6477) or Janis (smithjb1@gmail.com or 615.260-7784) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

ORDINATION SERVICE FOR JESSICA LEWIS: On Sunday, January 21st at 2:00 p.m., Jessica Lewis will be ordained as a Teaching Elder and Minister of the Word & Sacrament. The service will take place in Lambert Hall (part of Clayton Center for the Arts) at Maryville College. All members of 2nd Presbyterian Church are invited to come and be part of this special worship service.

WINTER WEATHER POLICY: Sunday worship will never be cancelled due to weather, though there may be some last-minute modifications to the worship service. Please use your own discretion, however, in deciding whether or not to come. Safety is of primary importance; stay home if you don't feel you can make it to worship safely. You can always join virtually. All other activities will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Any cancellations will be posted in Realm and on the website. Please check these if you are unsure.

WE WILL BE TAKING DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS on January 3rd at 9:00 am. All are welcome to join us!

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are excited to have you with us today and hope you feel at home! We are honored you are here and pray you will feel God's presence in this place. If you do not have a church home, we would love for you to be a part of the 2nd Pres. Please let us know a bit about you by completing a Visitor's Card or by filling out your information in the Friendship Register. Children are welcome in worship. There is a **family worship area** down the front. There is also a "crying room" next door in the Library where the service is live streamed. **Children's Worship Bags** are available in the Narthex. Children ages 2 through 1st grade are invited to **Children's Church** following the children's time in worship. A **nursery is available** for infants and children through age 2. **Hearing Devices** are available if needed.

CONNECT

FELLOWSHIP TIME: All are invited to stay for coffee, cookies, and a time of fellowship following worship each week.

SECOND WEDNESDAYS @ 2ND: Our next 2nd Wednesday dinner and program is January 10th. Dinner is at 6:00 pm. At 6:45, our program will be a sample Faith, Science, and the Future Sunday School lesson. FSF studies current events through the lens of faith. We will email the topic, some brief reading, and some questions to consider on Monday, January 8th. Then on Wednesday night, Dick Dodson will lead us in discussion and study. Hope to see you there!

GROW

THE FAITH SCIENCE & THE FUTURE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS meets in the Barbour Room at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. This class studies current events through the lens of faith using a weekly curriculum called *The Wired Word*. WE WILL NOT MEET DECEMBER 31ST.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: The Wednesday night Bible study resumes this week. We are concluding our study on the book of James. Our next study will be the book of Colossians and will begin on January 10th. Come join us for fellowship and study in the library at 6:30 pm.

GO

THE ARTS & CRAFTS TEAM of the Presbyterian Women's is making winter hats for school children at West View Elementary. The GO Team is asking the congregation to contribute mittens or gloves for those students. Hats, mittens, and gloves can be dropped in the bins in the narthex and atrium. Thanks for keeping the West View students warm this winter!

THE GO TEAM is looking for volunteers for KARM lunch on *Wed, Jan 17 from 11 am-1 pm.* 2nd Pres needs seven volunteers. If you haven't served at KARM before, please take this chance. If you have, please consider volunteering again. Contact Leonard Bailey at 865-207-4947 or lbailey@chartertn.net to sign-up or learn about more opportunities to serve in the next year.

SUPPORT

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Monday & Tuesday, January 1st & 2nd, in observance of the New Year's holiday.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will take place in conjunction with the Souper Bowl luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, February 12th. Please mark your calendars now!

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, December 31st
10:30 a.m. Worship (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, January 1st 2024
Church Closed, New Year's Day

Tuesday, January 2nd – Church Office Closed
5:00 p.m. Facilities Support Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 3rd
9:00 a.m. Un-decorate the church
2:00 p.m. Compassionate Cuisine (Atrium)
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Bible Study (Library)

Thursday, January 4th
1:00 p.m. GO Team (Barbour Team)

Sunday, January 7th
9:15 a.m. Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
9:30 a.m. Faith, Science & The Future Class (Barbour Room)
10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Ruth Ewald, Amy Cross, Caroline Buckner, Clara Hardin, Sue Jacox, Janis Smith, Arlys Milligan, and Brice Gilmer.

*Please notify the office if you are sick, in the hospital, or have a prayer request.
Names remain on the prayer list 4 weeks unless requested to keep them on longer.

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

	Members & Friends of the Congregation	
Ministers:		
Teaching Elder:	Tim Reynolds	treynolds@2ndpres.org
Teaching Elder:	Sarah Morgan	smorgan@2ndpres.org
Director of Music & Arts:	Matthew Mimbs	mmimbs@2ndpres.org
Organist:	John Lasater	jdlasater77@gmail.com
Student Ministries Director:	Holly Grimm	hgrimm@2ndpres.org
Preschool Director:	Linda Sue Byrd	lsbyrd@2ndpres.org
Church Administrator:	Bonnie Smith	bsmith@2ndpres.org
Media Coordinator:	Marta P. Villalta	mvillalta@2ndpres.org
Pastor Emeritus:	*Dr. Ed Carver*	moxcar@eatel.net

facebook.com/SecondPresbyterianChurchKnoxville/ www.2ndpres.org
instagram.com/2ndpresknox/ www.youtube.com/@2ndPresKnox/

WI-FI NETWORK: Our Wi-fi network is for use by anyone who visits the building. The network is "Second Presbyterian Church", and the password is *Psalm100*.

GIVE ONLINE: Visit us at www.2ndpres.org/give, text *2ndPresKnox* to 73256, or scan the QR code.



2nd Pres Knox

WELCOMING + FAITHFUL + HOPEFUL

Responding in gratitude to God's love and grace, we are a welcoming, faithful, and hopeful community, following Jesus and serving him in the world.

Organized 1818
A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

A Stephen Ministry Congregation
2829 Kingston Pike + Knoxville, TN 37919
Church Office: 865.523.2189
Preschool: 865.523.9997
Church Office Email: bsmith@2ndpres.org
Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

December 31, 2023