



# CHRISTMAS CANTATA



First Presbyterian Church

December 7, 2025



# Welcome

to First Presbyterian Church of  
Huntsville, Alabama

*We are a congregation of the  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

## Notes About Our Worship Bulletin:

- An asterisk denotes standing--in body or Spirit.
- Bold text means the congregation is invited to recite the text together.
- There are margin notes throughout the service to increase understanding of the service.
- Children of all ages are a welcome blessing in worship! They are an important part of our church community and we would love for them to stay for the whole service. Wiggles and giggles will not bother us; tears and fears remind us we're human. Ushers can provide you with worship notebooks to engage your children during worship.
- Nursery care is available anytime between 8:15 am and 12:00 pm for infants and toddlers in Rooms 105 and 106 as needed.
- All children are invited to come forward during *This Little Light of Mine* for a message and prayer.
- Children are welcome (but never required!) to go to Room 205 for Children's Church after the Time for Young Disciples. Parents may escort them, or Children's Ministry Assistants are available to walk with them.
- Members, having children worship is a gift and a sign of health and vitality for our church. Please welcome children and offer parents a smile of encouragement.

Want more information about the church?  
Speak with an usher in the narthex, or visit our website at [fpchsv.org](http://fpchsv.org),  
or listen to sermons later in the week, at:



FOR APPLE



FOR ANDROID

## Worship Resources Adapted From:

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion Series, the Book of Common Worship, and Enterthebible.org  
CCLI 1345744 One License: A-722711

## **WELCOME**

Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## **GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

CHIMING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

*Overture for Christmas*

Arr. Neil Stipp

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please sign in on the pew pads found at the end of each row and share those with your neighbor. We thank God for your presence this day!*

CHORAL INTROIT

*Once in Royal David's City*  
Chancel Choir

IRBY

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness, and He shares in all our gladness.*

*And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed and binds up the brokenhearted.

**People: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

Leader: The Promised One of God proclaims liberty to captives and release to the prisoners.

**People: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

Leader: The Promised One of God comforts all who mourn and gives a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

**People: Rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, holding fast to what is good, we are witnesses to the light of Christ! Let us worship God!**

## **WORSHIP LEADERSHIP:**

Dr. Patricia Hacker,  
Director of Music

Dr. Lois Lee,  
Pianist/Organist

Kathy Gillmore,  
Director of Education

Chancel Choir  
Veronika Johnson,  
violin I  
Malia Goe, Violin II  
Beatrice Renee Collins,  
viola  
Jihyun Kim, cello  
Stacy Owens, flute

Liturgist:  
8:30 & 11:30 am-  
Stephanie Hyatt

Ushers:  
8:30 am-  
Susan Lewis  
Barbara Rahrer

11:00 am-  
Patty Frierson,  
Beth Clapp,  
Clinton Wann

Video and Sound:  
Tom Stroud  
Dave Young  
Maxwell R. Carter

*\*Those who are  
able, please stand.*

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN 93

*Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates*

TRURO

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

8:30- Case Family

11:00-Scholl Family

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Refining God, you have sent us prophets, and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*(Let us now continue our confession in silence.)*

ANTHEM

*Still, Still, Still*  
*Chancel Choir*

AUSTRIAN CAROL  
Arr. Norman Luboff

*Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.*  
*For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,*  
*Holy Star its vigil keeping*  
*Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.*  
*The night is peaceful all around you,*  
*Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.*  
*Sleep, sleep, sleep 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.*

*Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.*  
*While guardian angels without number*  
*Watch you as you sweetly slumber.*  
*Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LEADER: In the name of the One God who lives and moves among us, you are forgiven.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN 113

*Angels We have Heard on High*  
*(Refrain Only)*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

GLORIA

*\*Those who are able,  
please stand.*

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**People: And also, with you.**

(Take a moment to greet one another in the peace of Christ  
and welcome those who are new to our church community)

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

All children are invited to come forward during  
*This Little Light of Mine* for a message and prayer.

## TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Following the Time for Young Disciples, children are invited to join Kathy Gillmore in Room 205 for Children's Church. Infant and toddler care is available in rooms 105 and 106 as needed.

LESSON: LUKE 1:26-33

CAROL:	<i>The Angel Gabriel</i>	John Leavitt
	<i>Chancel Choir</i>	

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!*

*For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor Thee,  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

*Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,  
"Most highly favored lady, Gloria!"*

Having been reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, the people are invited to share signs of reconciliation and the peace of Christ. In sharing the peace, we express the reconciliation, unity, and love that come only from God, and we open ourselves to the power of God's love to heal our brokenness and make us agents of that love in the world.

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

LESSON: ISAIAH 12:1-6

CAROL:

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
Chancel Choir

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM  
Arr. Arlen Clarke

*Of the Father's Love begotten e're the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He, the source, the ending, He.  
Of the things that are and have been, And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore.*

*Of the birth forever blessed, when the Virgin full of grace,  
by, the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race:  
And the Babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed His sacred face,  
Evermore and evermore.*

*Let the heights of heav'n adore Him; angel hosts His praises sing;  
Powers, dominions bow before Him, and extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ever voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore.*

LESSON: LUKE 2:8-14

CAROL:

*Shepherd's Pipe Carol*  
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

*Going through the hills on a night all starry  
On the way to Bethlehem,  
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping  
On the way to Bethlehem.*

*Angels in the sky came down from on high,  
Hovered o'er the manger where the babe was lying  
Cradled in the arms of His mother Mary,  
Sleeping now at Bethlehem.*

*Angels in the Sky brought this message nigh:  
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King is  
Come to bring us peace on earth  
And He is lying cradled there at Bethlehem."*

*Where is the new King, shepherd boy piping merrily,  
Is He there at Bethlehem?  
"I will find Him soon by the star shining brightly  
In the sky o'er Bethlehem."*

*Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily  
On the way to Bethlehem,  
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely  
On the way to Bethlehem? (To refrain)*

*"May I come with you, shepherd boy, come to Bethlehem,  
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle,  
Is it far to Bethlehem?"*

*"None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely  
On the way to Bethlehem,  
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies  
When I get to Bethlehem."*

*Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:  
"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the infant King is  
Born this night in lowly stable yonder.  
Born for you at Bethlehem."*

*\*Those who are able,  
please stand.*

LESSON: MATTHEW 1:18-21

CAROL:

*The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*  
Chancel Choir

WEST INDIAN CAROL  
Arr. Joseph Martin

*The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
And they say His name was Jesus.  
He comes from the glory,  
He comes from the glorious Kingdom.*

*The angels sang upon that holy night  
And they shouted the name of Jesus.  
He comes from the glory,  
He comes from the glorious Kingdom.*

*The wise men went to the place where He lay.  
And they worshipped the baby Jesus.  
He comes from the glory,  
He comes from the glorious Kingdom.*

LESSON: MATTHEW 1:22-25

CAROL

*Jesus Child*  
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

*Have you heard the story that they're telling 'bout Bethlehem,  
Have you heard the story of the Jesus Child?  
He who came from heaven and was born in a manger bed?  
Mary was His virgin mother pure and mild.*

*Sing Alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters,  
Worship the Jesus child and praise His mother mild.  
"Glory to God on high" the angel hosts above are singing:  
Listen to the story of the Jesus Child.*

*Have you heard the story of the poor humble shepherd men,  
Sitting on the hillside with their flocks at night?  
Suddenly the angel tells them: "Hurry to Bethlehem:  
Go and find the Jesus child, the world's new light."*

*Jesus child, lying at Bethlehem,  
Sleeping safe at Mary's knee,  
Save my soul and bring me to paradise  
Let me join the angels singing Glory to Thee.*

*Have you heard the story of the kings from the orient,  
Following the star that's shining over His head?  
Offering their precious gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense,  
Kneeling with the ox and ass before His bed?*

*Brothers, let us celebrate the birth of the Jesus child,  
Sisters, come and welcome Him, the newborn King;  
Praise the Lord who sent Him down from heaven at Christmastime;  
Young and old and rich and poor, His praises sing.*

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### THE 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 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.**

### PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*The Little Drummer Boy*

Arr. Alan Miller

\*DOXOLOGY 606

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

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

HYMN 132

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

## SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH THE WORLD

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH

*Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Is the gift of Christmas. Love!  
Praise to you, God on high!*

Postlude

*Wachet Auf*

Arr. Emma Lou Diemer

Want to give your  
offering via credit  
card? Scan below.



FOR ONLINE GIVING



## PRAYER LIST

Names added to the prayer list will be removed after *six weeks*.

Please take the bulletin home to add these names to your daily prayers.

Prayer requests should be emailed to Kristin Pepper, Administrative Assistant, at [admin@fpchsv.org](mailto:admin@fpchsv.org).

### **Church Members:**

Ida Jo Daughtry  
Betty Loeb  
Sharon Hudson  
Paula Weider  
Family of Ted Paludan  
Stella Wilson  
Sandra Stewart  
Carsten Schroer  
Frances Byrd  
Anne Whitfield  
Bob Monroe  
Betty Thompson  
Family of Richard McElveen  
Ed Green  
Maxwell R. Carter and family  
Becky Buckner  
Alicia Beam  
Janice Fowler  
Charlie Watkins  
Ted Buckner  
Barbara (Bonny) Morris  
Cay Lambert  
Jan Nickoloff  
Amelia Beimrohr

### **Friends and Family:**

April Woods- great-niece of Dave & Peggy Galloway  
Chad Self- friend of Maxwell Carter  
Misty Short Anderson and family and friends  
Maggie Day & Josie-cousins of George Harsh  
Marlene Stark - mother of Lisa Everett  
The Wilmer Family - friends of Katy Bryan  
Melinda Thompson - daughter of Mary Edith Thompson  
Rob Klouw & Katherine Randall - friends of Rachel Harrod  
Chet Johnston - friend of Frederick Wessel  
Brian Cain  
Mike Moore  
Erik and Paul Davis

Family of Mike Galant - friends of Maxwell R. Carter  
David Barnes - friend of Maxwell R. Carter  
Frances Kyser - friend of Tam Bevel & Judy Howard  
Deborah Lamb - aunt of Kaitlyn Huaroto, sister of Pam Huaroto  
Emily Loeb Locke - daughter of Betty Loeb  
Mr. Bookout - friend of Ron & Lisa Stephens  
Mr. Wade - friend of Ron & Lisa Stephens  
Nathan Harsh Brown Chitty - cousin of George Harsh  
Bennie Jacks - friend of George & Eleanor Harsh  
Emily Neely - daughter-in-law of Serena Neely  
Katie Little Pickle - great-niece of Dave & Peggy Galloway  
Nancy Neely Harris - sister of Mary Margaret Cofield  
Marie Mitchell - mother of Libby Smith  
Antony Leo - brother of Lori Smith  
Charles Trainosky - grandson of Charlie Watkins  
Grant Adams - brother of Glen Adams  
The Zapototskyi Family - FPC's sponsored Ukrainian family  
David, Jessi, and Emma Grace Hill-friends of Davis Carter  
Jared Breach  
Claudia Fahrner  
Sam Eidt - friend of Betty & Ed Green  
Patty Monnett- friend of Katy Bryan

### **Members and Relatives in Specialty Care:**

Marlyn and Hoyt Harris (Brookdale)  
Cay Lambert (Huntsville Health & Rehab)  
Chuck Hooker (Floyd E. Tut Fann State Veteran's Home)  
Annewhite Fuller (Whitesburg Gardens)  
Kathleen Perry (Valley View)

### **Military & International:**

Prayers for Haiti and our mission partners. This is a critical time as the civil unrest there may undermine all humanitarian work.  
All those serving in the armed forces; particularly  
LT Connor Howard, U.S. Navy Pilot

# THIS WEEK AT FPCHSV

## December 7-December 14

### Sunday, December 7, 2025

8:15am –12:00pm Nursery Room 105/106  
8:30am –9:30am Worship Service SAN Cantata  
8:45am –9:30am Children's Church RM 205  
9:30am –10:30am Charles Danner Seminar Class LIB  
9:30am –10:30am LEAD Youth GBH  
9:30am –10:30am Westminster Ringers BR  
10:00am –10:30am Connect 4th & 5th RM 012  
10:00am –10:30am Faith & Life Adult Class JAH  
10:00am –10:30am Holy Moly K - 3rd RM 010  
10:00am –10:30am Peepers SS (Preschool) RM 108/109  
10:30am –11:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal/Choir RM  
11:00am –12:00pm Worship Service SAN Cantata  
11:15am –12:00pm Children's Church RM 205  
12:00pm –2:00pm PKC FH Downtown Tinsel Trail

### Monday, December 8, 2025

9:00am –1:00pm First Friends Preschool  
10:00am –12:00pm PW Circle 1 CH  
10:00am –12:00pm PW Circle 2 RM 104 LIB  
4:30pm –6:00pm PW Evening Circle CH

### Tuesday, December 9, 2025

9:00am –1:00pm First Friends Preschool  
9:30am –11:30am First Friends Theater FH  
5:30pm –8:30pm Cub/Boy Scouts GBH  
6:30pm –8:30pm HMC CR

### Wednesday, December 10, 2025

7:00am –8:00am Men's Bible Study FH  
9:00am –1:00pm First Friends Preschool  
11:30am –12:30pm Moms at the Well GBH  
1:30pm –3:00pm Prayer Shawl Group Rm 104 LIB  
5:00pm –7:00pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal  
7:00pm –8:30pm Chancel Choir Practice CR

### Thursday, December 11, 2025

9:00am –1:00pm First Friends Preschool  
10:00am –4:00pm Goodtimers 2.0 Offsite Cullman w/ bus  
10:15am –10:30am First Friends Chapel SAN  
11:00am –12:00pm Prayer Group LIB/Zoom  
12:00pm –1:00pm Al-Anon GBH  
7:00pm –8:30pm PNC Meeting LIB RM 104

### Friday, December 12, 2025

9:00am –1:00pm First Friends Preschool  
12:00pm –1:00pm FF Christmas Program

### Sunday, December 14, 2025

#### **\*\*No 8:30 Worship Service\*\***

9:15am –10:15am Nursery Room 105/106  
9:30am –10:30am Charles Danner Seminar Class LIB  
9:30am –10:30am Westminster Ringers BR  
10:00am –10:30am Combined Sunday School FH (Youth and Children)  
10:00am –10:30am Faith & Life Adult Class JAH  
10:30am –11:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal/Choir RM  
**11:00am –12:00pm Worship Service Christmas Pageant SAN**  
11:15am –12:00pm Children's Church RM 205  
1:30pm –4:00pm Nativity to use parking lot (Holiday Market)  
5:30pm –6:30pm Session Meeting/FH

#### Calendar Legend:

<b>BR</b> - Bell Room (RM 204)	<b>GBH</b> - Gideon Blackburn
<b>CH</b> - Carriage House (GBH)	House
<b>CR</b> - Choir Room (RM 201)	<b>HR</b> - Historical Room
<b>FH</b> - Fellowship Hall	<b>JAH</b> - John Allan Hall
<b>LIB</b> - Library (RM104)	(GBH)
	<b>SAN</b> - Sanctuary



## Advent Services

November 30<sup>th</sup> 8:30 & 11:00 Services  
Hanging of the Greens

December 7<sup>th</sup> 8:30 & 11:00 Services  
Cantata

December 14<sup>th</sup> 11:00 Service Only  
Christmas Story with Children

December 21<sup>st</sup> 8:30 & 11:00 Services  
Westminster Ringers

December 24<sup>th</sup> 3:00 & 5:00 Services  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30 & 11:00 Services at  
John Allan Hall



## CHRISTMAS EVE


### *Flower Dedications*

Honorariums/Memorials are \$50 each.

There is no limit on the number of dedications we can receive, although there will be 12 arrangements in the church. Flowers stay at the church to decorate for the holiday, and the money goes to support our flower guild all year long.

If you would like to make a flower dedication for Christmas Eve, please fill out a dedication card found in the narthex, call the church office, or visit the church website.

Dedications must be received by  
Monday, Dec. 15, 2025.



# PKC : : Dec 7

for 3rd - 5th  
graders

Noon - 2:00

Pizza at Sam & Greg's  
Tinsel Trail

Hot Cocoa at Cozy Cow

register here



## The Christmas Story by WNL Children's Choir

Sunday, December 14, 11:00am

Celebrate the story with our children as worship leaders during the 11:00 service.



**11:00 Service Only  
on December 14th**



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**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

307 Gates Ave SE  
Huntsville, AL 35801