

**Large Print Bulletins and Assistive Listening Devices are available.
Please ask an usher.**

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

*It is not over, this birthing.
There are always newer skies into which God can throw stars.*

*When we begin to think that we can predict the Advent of God,
that we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem,
that's just the time that God will be born in a place
we can't imagine or won't believe.*

*Those who wait for God watch with their hearts and their eyes,
listening, always listening for angel words.*

Ann Weems, "Kneeling in Bethlehem"

JANUARY 2, 2022

11:00 A.M.

The Congregation will speak aloud the bold print in responsive readings.

*** Please rise in body or spirit.**

GATHERING

*Worship begins with God. God takes the initiative and calls the Church into being.
In the name of Christ, we heed God's call and gather as the community of faith.*

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Prelude in C major, BWV 553* J.S. Bach

* **CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)** Psalm 91:1-4a

O Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless God's name;
Tell of God's salvation from day to day.

Declare God's Glory among the nations
The Lord's marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord.
And greatly to be praised.

* **HYMN NO. 134** *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*UNISON*)

Lord, You make all things new. You bring hope to those whose hearts are open to your coming. You provide light for those who walk in darkness. We confess that we are often anxious of what the future may bring. Forgive us. May the light of Christ lead us as we embrace the great journey you have in store for us. Thank you for this new year and for all the potential that it holds. May your light shine through us to a world in need of your light. May we live in ways that bring honor and glory to Your name.

(*Silent Confession*)

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Gathered in God's name, we now open ourselves to God's life-giving Word.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (*11:00*)

The children will remain with their families rather than come forward.

NEW TESTAMENT READING *REVELATION 21:1-6* NT, P. 259

ANTHEM *O Divine Redeemer* C. Gounod
Melanie Hanna, soprano

OLD TESTAMENT READING *GENESIS 12:1-9A* OT, P. 10

SERMON *BETTER THAN THE KNOWN WAY* Jody Welker

* HYMN NO. 686 *God of Our Life* SANDON

God of our life, through all the circling years, we trust in thee.
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land. Be though our guide.
With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.

God of the coming years, through paths unknown we follow thee.
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone, Our refuge be.
Be thou for us in life our daily bread,
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

The proclamation of God's Word invites responses of faith.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Please give online or place your offering in the offering plate as you exit the Sanctuary.

OFFERTORY

Fugue in C major, BWV 553

J.S. Bach

* DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All praise to God, Eternal One, and praise to Christ,

Redeeming Son, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise to the Spirit, ever near,

Great Three in One, be with us here, Alleluia (5 times)

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Loving God:

**We give you thanks for Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh.**

Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ's gift for us.

**Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility,
meekness and patience,**

that we may be Christ for others.

In his name we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*RESPONSIVE*)

May the God of new beginnings be with you.

And also with you.

People of God, lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the One who makes all things, including us, new.

Children of God, sing praises to the One who gives you new life.

We praise the One who continues to surprise us with hope and grace.

Before there was time

Hope of Eternity,

You took moment

to bring creation out of chaos.

You took time to create mountains,

and carve deep canyons.

You made the time to fill the oceans

and to plant food for all creatures;

You found time to plow rivers

to water a Garden,

and to shape us in Your image.

But we did not have time for You.

preferring to spend our days chasing sin,

and our nights seeking death.

You always made time for us

speaking of Your hopes

through the prophets

sharing Your dreams

through the angels.

Then, one day You decided

to do a new thing,

becoming one of us

as Jesus became human

to bring hope and grace to us.

So we join the saints of heaven
and our sisters and brothers on earth
who sing your glory:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of every time and space.
All creation sings of Your majesty and glory.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who gives us the water of life.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are You, Keeper of our days,
and blessed is Jesus Christ,
who is with us in every season of life.
He comes, not to judge us,
 but to forgive us.
He comes, not to cast us out,
 but to gather us into the new Jerusalem;
He comes, not to watch us suffer,
 but to die on the cross,
 that we might live with You.

**Christ died, so sin would have no more power over us;
Christ rose, destroying death's grip on us;
when the new heaven and new earth come,
 Christ will make all things, including us, new.**

In these sacred moments,
send Your Spirit
to sanctify the bread and the cup,
and to open the hearts
of those who approach the Table.
As the Bread of life touches our lips,
 may we be strengthened to serve
 those whom the world has forgotten.

As the Cup of salvation quenches our thirst for You,
 may we be enabled to bring relief
 to those who wander
 the desert wastes of our society.

And when all time ends,
and all people are gathered
around Your Table in Heaven,
we will rejoice in Your presence,
and sing Your praises forever;
one God, Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The communion elements are prepackaged, individual servings of a gluten-free wafer with grape juice. You are invited to come forward, receive a kit and return to your seat. Please partake of communion in your seat. At the conclusion of the service, please dispose of your empty kits as you exit the sanctuary.

If you are a visitor, we welcome you and invite you to follow the example of the members of the congregation as to when to come forward and how to return.

To request assistance opening your communion kits, or to receive a kit at your seat, please raise your hand and a server will come to you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

The God who calls us together in worship now sends us out in service.

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

* **HYMN** *Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgot* Burns/DeBevoise

**Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgot, And Never Brought to Mind
The Fellowship of Christian Faith, Is Sustained By Love Divine
For Auld Lang Syne My Friend, For Auld Lang Syne,
The Fellowship of Christian Faith, Is Sustained by Love Divine.**

**For Christ is Lord of Earth and Space, And Christ is Lord of Time
From Everlasting Thou Art God, Since Days of Auld Lang Syne,
For Auld Lang Syne My Friend, Since Days of Auld Lang Syne
From Everlasting Thou Art God, Since Days of Auld Lang Syne.**

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Toccata* J. Weaver

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

The Reverend Jody Welker

The Reverend Alisa Secrest

Dr. Bevan Keating, Director of Music and the Arts Ministry

Adam Savacool, Organist

Elder of the Day: Susan Marsh

Communion Servers: Alfred Williams, Kathy and Jim Wilkins, Herb Rule,
Diane McVinney

The Call to Worship comes from a liturgy written by Elizabeth Nanninga.

The communion liturgy is from Reverend Thom Shuman.

The final hymn is written by the Reverend John DeBevoise of Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church in Tampa, Florida. He is a longtime friend of Jody Welker.

For a full listing of prayer concerns, please call the
Care and Concern line at (501) 227-6117.

WE WELCOME VISITORS this morning to worship and hope that you will find our worship to be joyous and meaningful. If this church or its pastors may be of service to you in anyway, please contact the church office, (501) 227-0000. To become more involved in the life of Second Presbyterian Church, contact Catherine Allsbury, catherineallsbury@secondpreslr.org.

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**600 PLEASANT VALLEY DRIVE
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72227**

**OFFICE: (501) 227-0000
FAX: (501) 227-6513**

CARE & CONCERN LINE: (501) 227-6117

WWW.SECONDPRESLR.ORG

CONTACT CARDS: We invite everyone in worship today to fill out the Contact Cards in the bulletin. The cards can be dropped in the offering plates as you exit the Sanctuary. We are collecting contact information on the off chance that someone here today develops a serious and contagious health problem in the near future. Your cooperation is very much appreciated!

PRAYER CARDS: For your convenience, Prayer Cards are provided in the backs of the pews to collect your joys, concerns and notes. This is another way you can keep us informed with what's on your heart and mind. Please place your completed cards in the offering plate.

DID YOU MISS ONE OF THE SERMONS? If so, you can listen to recent sermons on the church website at secondpreslr.org. Click on "Worship and Music," then click on "Listen to Recent Sermons." To receive a copy of a sermon either by e-mail or regular mail, contact Karin Howze, karinhowze@secondpreslr.org or (501) 227-0000. Printed copies are available in the Narthex and the church office.

WELCOMING CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: Kids of all ages welcome throughout the entire service. We hope the worship packets provided (by the sanctuary doors) help your children to enjoy and feel fully included in the service. Younger children are also welcome in our church nursery for all or part of the service.

WELCOME TO THE WELKERS: Our Transitional Pastor, Jody Welker, begins his tenure with us today! Jody was the long-time head of staff at the Kirk of Kildaire, a large Presbyterian Church in Cary, NC, before his retirement in June. Jody is moving to Little Rock with his wife, Sharon, and we are excited to welcome them both to Second Presbyterian Church as Jody helps to lead our congregation during this time of transition.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: Both in-person and virtual Sunday School classes start at 9:50 a.m. Preschool classes are held in the hallway behind the sanctuary, while Elementary (1st-3rd Grade) and SPY Kids (4th-5th Grade) are held in Bible Village, on the first floor of the west wing. Online Classes are for all ages. Contact Grant Wright (grantwright@secondpreslr.org) for more information.

SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: Your generosity is a meaningful expression of your faith in God and your commitment to Christ's work in the world. Contributions can be made to the 2021 Annual Budget, Second Vision Capital Campaign, Memorial Gifts and the Birthday Fund. You may support the ministries of our church by placing your offering in the offering plate as you exit the Sanctuary, through online giving at secondpreslr.org/giving or mailing a check to the church office, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72227.

SOUND AMPLIFICATION: Assistive listening devices are in a cabinet at the rear of the Sanctuary, along with instructions. The wireless receivers each connect to either headphones or a neck loop. Use the neck loop if your hearing aid has a telecoil switch or t-switch. The telecoil feature is standard in most models. Use headphones if you don't have a t-switch or if you don't use hearing aids. See an usher for assistance.

WHEELCHAIRS AND WALKERS AVAILABLE: Please speak with an usher, greeter or staff person if you or a loved one have need of a walker or wheelchair while at church. Wheelchairs are available near the Second Hall and Northwest entrances, and walkers are also available in nearby closets. We want to provide safe and accessible mobility devices should the occasion arise. Please contact Alisa Secrest for more information, alisasecrest@secondpreslr.org or (501) 227-0000.



Stewardship 2022: *Pathways to Generosity* is the theme for this year's stewardship campaign. This year's campaign accompanies a spiritual journey where we will explore generosity and gratitude in response to God's abundant blessing in our lives.

The Leadership Team for the Pathways to Generosity campaign is Garry Mertins, J. Dyke, Robert and Barrett Feltus, and Melissa Fontaine. The journey begins in January and culminates on Sunday, February 6.

This year we invite you to join the congregation in reading a daily devotional. While you are reading the devotional, reflect and pray about the gift God has given us in Christ.

May this time be a time when we connect the giving of our gifts with our desire to worship, honor and serve Jesus Christ. May you find joy in knowing that your gifts support the very reason Christ came into the world. The devotional will be emailed to you daily beginning on January 9. If you prefer, you can pick up a copy of the devotionals in the narthex. We look forward to traveling this road with you.

COLLEGE CONFERENCE AT MONTREAT: A group of nine Second Presbyterian young people are attending the 2022 College Conference at Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, NC, January 2-January 5, 2022. This group is traveling with other young people and chaperones from The Arkansas Presbytery. The theme is "What's Next?" where they will explore what is next and how they are not alone in the uncertainty that the future can bring. They will discover and discuss what God might be revealing to us during these times of great change and transition, and how they can keep moving forward as the disciples did. Please keep this group in your prayers as they make this thoughtful journey of faith and fellowship.

MUSIC WITH MS. MARY: **Mary Ibis, Associate Director of Music and Arts Ministry,** will be on vacation beginning December 25 and will return to the office on Monday, January 10.

Children's Choir is in recess and will resume on Wednesday, January 12. We will begin singing (masked) indoors in January. Many of our children are vaccinated, but not all. If you would prefer, your child may participate in the bell/instrumental component of children's choir and be picked up after bells finish. The schedule for January and February will be 6:00-6:30 bells, 6:30-7:15, choir. Please contact Mary Ibis with any questions or concerns.

Adult Day and Evening Ringers are on recess and will resume Sunday, January 16 and Monday, January 17. We are actively recruiting new ringers. If you would like to join one or both of these ensembles, please contact Mary Ibis at (maryibis@secondpreslr.org).

Youth Ringers- All 6th through 12th graders are invited to ring in our Youth bell ensemble. For more information, please contact Mary Ibis. Plans for January and February are currently in the making.

MOMS NIGHT OUT: Families with Young Children Ministry invites Moms to join us for a game night in the Youth Building. We will have a game night on Friday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. Bring your favorite game and come COMFY! Please bring a mask. Moms Night Out will now be held on the 3rd Friday of each month. Check here or online for each month's location. RSVP to Dania Edwards daniedwards@secondpreslr.org.

JUNIOR HIGH JUBILEE AT MO-RANCH IN HUNT, TX: It's almost time for summer trips! Junior High Jubilee is a middle school youth conference that will include everything from taking a challenge on the Mo ropes course, dancing, games, energizers, vespers and popsicle parties, to aquathons, sports, evening movies, swimming in the beautiful Guadalupe, singing God's praises and more! This year's trip will be from July 2 through July 7 for all completed 6th through 8th graders. You can find more information and how to sign up in the weekly e-Loop or by contacting sharonhoward@secondpreslr.org.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES: A search committee has formed to find a new Director of Youth Ministries and they are hard at work. The team includes Sam Byrd, Alex Honeycutt, Tim Hyde, Cade Johnson, Marge Anna Luttrell, Amelia Ross, and Rev. Alisa Secrest. As the team continues to prayerfully consider how God is calling Second Presbyterian Youth (SPY), please share any thoughts you may have regarding the needs of this position that would be helpful to the search team by contacting Marge Anna Luttrell at maluttrell@yahoo.com or Alisa Secrest at alisasecrest@secondpreslr.org. The job description can be found on the church's website.

A WEATHER REMINDER: Weekday church events are canceled and the church office is closed if the Little Rock Public Schools are canceled or dismissed due to weather.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE:

January 9: "Get Acquainted with Jody Welker" in Second Hall and on Zoom. Jody is our incoming Transitional Pastor. All are welcome to join for this informal time to get to know him a little bit and to help him get to know more about our church.

January 16, 23, and 30: Jesus in the Arts in Second Hall and on Zoom. In this three week series we will explore images of Jesus found in literature, art, and music.

January 16: Chuck Chappell	Jesus in Literature
January 23: Jaime Rollans	Jesus in Art
January 30: John Davies	Jesus in Music/Hymns

STATEMENT OF WELCOME AND INCLUSIVENESS

As one part of the church of Jesus Christ, we are inspired and guided by Christ's vision of God's realm—one that includes all who seek to love God and neighbor.

Second Presbyterian Church welcomes all people.

As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we invite those who respond in trust and obedience to God's grace in Jesus Christ to become part of the membership and ministry of the church.

We would be pleased to have you join us in our journey of faith, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic or family status, ethnic background, mental or physical abilities.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.

— Romans 8:28a

Second Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation. We provide confidential Christian caregiving to hurting people. To find out more about Stephen Ministry or to receive a Stephen Minister's care, call Associate Pastor Alisa Secrest at (501) 227-0000. Pastor Alisa will work with you to decide if Stephen Ministry will be a good fit for you and your unique situation.

USHER/GREETER VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS APPRECIATED: Those who serve as ushers and greeters for our worship service are providing a ministry of hospitality for members and visitors to our church. Along with providing an important leadership role for worship, those who serve as ushers and greeters are also afforded a wonderful opportunity to meet and work alongside other members of the congregation. You may contact the following deacons who serve as usher captains to volunteer as ushers or greeters.

JANUARY WORSHIP USHER CAPTAINS

8:30 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.
Mary Carolyn Bailey marycbailey10@gmail.com	Natasha Graf nrgraf@icloud.com	Chris Boggs chrisboggsctrl@yahoo.com

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

*College Conference at Montreat
Worship 11:00

MONDAY, JANUARY 3

Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

MGM Men's Bible Study 7:00
Ministry Meetings 5:00
Youth Basketball 5:30
Youth Ministry 7:00

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

Staff Meeting 9:00
9:00 Music Rehearsal 6:30
Belonging Ministry 7:00
Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group
1:00
Youth Basketball 5:30

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9
Worship 8:30, 9:00, 11:00
Sunday School 9:50

* Denotes announcement in bulletin