

**HANGING OF THE GREENS
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

NOVEMBER 27, 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

Noel X

L. Daquin

* **CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

How shall we prepare this house for the promised messiah?

With branches of cedar, the tree of majesty and strength.

How shall we prepare this house for the eternal Christ?

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the prophet of Galilee?

**With wreaths of holly and ivy, remembering his passion,
death, and resurrection.**

How shall we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus?

By hearing again the words of the prophets and the promises of scripture.

For in the story of Jesus, we see revealed
the transforming power of God's justice and peace.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (RESPONSIVE)

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
(The first candle is lit.)

CANTOR: While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

CONGREGATION:



While we are wait-ing come; while we are wait-ing, come.



Je - sus our Lord, Em - man - u - el, while we are wait-ing come.

Advent means coming.

We are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations shall beat their
swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall
not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

* **HYMN NO. 82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

* **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Prepare the Way of the Lord!
Let us make our confession to God.

* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*UNISON*)

Great Deliverer, we entrust to you our confession of sin. We are easily discouraged when our good deeds do not make things better. We fear harm to ourselves if we take too firm a stand. Signs of danger arise about us, and we doubt the future you have promised. God, in Christ, forgive our cowardice, for the sake of him who endured the cross for us.

(Silent Confession)

* **ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*RESPONSIVE*)

The Good News of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life.

**Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us,
turning us towards love and service.**

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Refrain of Hymn No. 113

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

* **PASSING OF THE PEACE** (*RESPONSIVE*)

Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled or afraid."
The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

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

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Please take the red friendship pad, sign your name and pass it down the pew and back, noting the names of those worshipping with you. We encourage visitors to share their information that we might be aware of your presence with us.

ANTHEM

The Holly and the Ivy
SPC Adult Choir

Traditional

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 3:1-6

NT, P. 60

MEDITATION

*Come With Us to Bethlehem:
Preparing For the Trip*

Jody Welker

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

Let us celebrate the first Sunday of Advent by bringing symbols to remind us of God's goodness and love in the coming of Jesus Christ and remember that even now God is with us.

AN EVERGREEN WREATH

The evergreen wreath reminds us that even as many things pass away, the promises of God endure forever. We place this wreath as a reminder of the joy and hope of Christ's coming that has no end.

SUNG RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 105, STANZA 1

**People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

THE POINSETTIAS

The star-shaped formation of beautiful poinsettias reminds us of the star which shined at the first Christmas. We place them in our sanctuary as a reminder that the Lord continues to give us light, just as he did for the wise men long ago.

THE GARLANDS

Garlands decorate the homes of many people during the season of Advent. We place them in our sanctuary to remind us that our church is a house of God and that all who gather here are family.

SUNG RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 105, STANZA 2

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

THE CHRISMONS

The decorations we put on this Chrismon tree highlight many themes of the Biblical story. The ornaments, known as Chrismons or "Christ Monograms," are symbols of our faith that remind us of the good news we celebrate during the Advent season.

THE OUTREACH TREES

The trees in the Narthex of our church are our Outreach trees. On the trees are ornaments with specific needs listed, and we invite you to select an ornament and bring it back to church with the items attached. With these trees, our congregation will help provide supplies for our neighbors served by our Afghan Welcome Project, Our House, and Youth Home. These trees remind us to share Christ's love with others during the Christmas season.

SUNG RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 105, STANZA 4

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.**

THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The lights on our Chrismon tree remind us of the light of Christ shining into the world. We light them in our sanctuary to remind us of Christ's power to renew our world and light our way. The living Christ declares, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

SUNG RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 105, STANZA 5

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

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.**

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Interlude

W. S. Lloyd-Webber

* 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 pray.

You have given yourself to us, Lord.

Now we give ourselves for others.

Your love makes us new people.

**People called to serve you joyfully,
to embrace life and enjoy you forever.**

Your glory fills our hearts.

Help us to glorify you in all things. Amen.

SENDING

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

* **INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

* **HYMN NO. 106** *Prepare the Way, O Zion* BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

**Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.**

**He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.**

**Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.**

* **BENEDICTION**

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Personent Hodie* Traditional

Let resound today with voices,
joyfully praising Him who is born to us,
given by most high God,
and conceived in a virginal womb.

POSTLUDE *In dulci jubilo, BWV 729* J.S.Bach

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

The Reverend Jody Welker

The Reverend Marie Mainard O'Connell

Dr. Bevan Keating, Director of Music and the Arts

Mary Ibis, Associate Director of Music and the Arts

Grant Wildwright, Interim Director of Families and Young Adult Ministries

Adam Savacool, Organist

Clint Brockway, Interpreter

Cantor: Diana Menyaeva

Liturgists: Eli, Mia, Jamie and Horacio Gomez

Elder of the Day: Kate Franks

Ushers: Nancy and Ansley Fleming, Chris Boggs, Chris Herring,
Pam Luther, Judy and Kelley Johnson

Please notify the church office of hospitalizations,
joys and concerns. For a full listing of prayer
concerns, please call the Care and Concern line at
(501) 227-6117.

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.

DID YOU MISS ONE OF THE SERMONS? If so, you can watch past worship services on the church website at secondpreslr.org. 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.

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 2022 Annual Budget, 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.



PRAY FOR OUR GLOBAL MISSION PARTNERS: For several years, our congregation has supported the ministry of PC(USA) mission co-worker Dori Hjalmarsen in Honduras. Dori accompanies, coordinates and coaches lay and pastoral leaders of the Presbyterian Church of Honduras as they develop educational opportunities for their members and communities. For more information about getting involved in our Presbytery's International Partnership with the Presbyterian Church in Honduras, contact Lindy Vogado (lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org).

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Let Us Build A House Where Love Can Dwell

*"The Lord said to Moses,
Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You
are to receive the offering for me from
everyone whose heart prompts them to give.
Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I
will dwell among them."
(Exodus 25:1-2, 8)*



On November 20, we dedicated our Estimate of Giving commitments to God in worship. We give thanks to everyone who has made their commitments known. We will continue to receive Estimate of Giving commitments in the coming weeks. We encourage those who have not yet made a commitment to do so as a sign of your love for what God is doing in the life of Second Presbyterian Church. Every commitment makes a difference. We want to be able to maintain a vital and active ministry and compensate our staff fairly. Please prayerfully consider your support for your church. There are several ways you can turn in your Estimate of Giving card: place it in the offering plate today, mail it to the church, drop it off at the church office during the week, go to the church website or use the QR code.



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

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FOR VERA LLOYD has moved online! While we have traditionally had an Outreach Tree in the Narthex to provide Christmas presents for the youth living at Vera Lloyd Family Services, they began using an online registry format during the pandemic. Visit the registry at <https://www.amazon.com/registries/holiday/4VEMNDUAOISZ> to make Christmas brighter for children and youth living in foster care. If you need assistance using the registry and making an online purchase, please contact Lindy Vogado in the church office.

THE PRAECLARA RINGERS invite you to a free concert filled with Broadway hits. From *Les Misérables* to *Oklahoma*, and so much in between, you're bound to hear familiar favorites. Sunday, December 11, 3:00 p.m. in our Great Hall. For more information, please contact Mary Ibis, maryibis@secondpreslr.org.

CHEESES WITH JESUS: Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. #5 Berwyn Drive, Little Rock. Continuing our study of flawed characters in the Bible, we will look at the struggle between brothers Jacob and Esau. What does their story suggest to us about learning to reconcile as adult siblings? For our next [Service Project](#), we will be collecting funds to purchase Christmas gifts for one or two children at Centers for Youth & Families. We will be accepting contributions in November, so that Santa's helper(s) have time to make purchases in time for Christmas.

SECOND HALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: Join us next Sunday for our new class, "The Redemption of Scrooge" by Matt Rawles. Each week we'll view a short video and discuss the imperative question—how, and why, can Scrooge be redeemed from his pride, greed, and envy? Led by Vernon Markham, books are available in the church office for \$15.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES: Join these Adult Sunday School classes starting at 9:50 a.m.! Connections Cafe (Room 62) younger adults (20s to 40ish) gather to discuss careers, families, and current life issues, led by Kathryn Hyde. Seeking More Light (Room 67 & Zoom) with Greg Adams is reading Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Always a Guest*. Copies are available in the church office. Adult Bible Study (Zoom and Library) with Graham Catlett continues *The Present Word* curriculum for discussion of biblical texts. Spiritual Nourishment (Zoom & Heritage Room) with Nancy Hicks continues to study *Being Belonging Doing: Balancing Your Three Greatest Needs* in their intimate and caring exploration of personal faith. For Zoom links and more information please contact Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell at mariemo@secondpreslr.org.

MIDWEEK ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES to enliven your faith during the week, on Zoom and in person. *First and Third Monday Morning Bible Study* meets December 5 at 9:30 a.m. *Tuesday Men's Group Ministry*: each Tuesday at 7:00 a.m., men gather in person in Second Hall and on Zoom for encouragement, support, and bible study. Free donuts and coffee! For more information, Zoom address, questions and ideas please contact Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell at 214-686-6347 and mariemo@secondpreslr.org

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: Check out our table in the Narthex for a plethora of Advent opportunities for reflection and meditation. We've got options for reading, poetry, coloring, doodling, activities, calendars, cell-phone-texting and more! Check out the Sunday morning Second Connections email for digital options as well.

TEXT DEVOTIONAL SIGN-UP: Among the Advent devotionals available this year is a new opportunity to have a daily scripture and action reflection texted directly to your phone November 27 through January 6. Simply use this QR code or text "Advent Devo" to Rev. Marie at 214-686-6347.



UPDATE FROM YOUR PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

More great news from the PNC! The MIF (Ministry Information Form) has been posted to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) site for prospective candidates, and we have begun getting applicants! The next ongoing part of the process is for us to prayerfully evaluate these applications/applicants and determine who we want to consider further. Please continue reaching out to your connections with other Presbyterian pastors or folks in the pastor community. Let them know we're looking, and let us know if you've got contacts we can reach out to. Again, if you visit a church in your travels and the pastor knocks your socks off, we'd love to have those recommendations. Continue to pray for us as we continue this search.

PNC Members: Beth Sigler, Moderator, Greg Adams, Christina Littlejohn
Jim Marsh, Kathryn McMillan, Jennifer Rigsby, and Jón Stevenson

FAMILY AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY UPDATES

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: Young Adults (18-35ish) are invited to join us at our regular fellowship events. We meet on Sundays in the Narthex after the 11:00 a.m. worship service for lunch and discussion. We also meet offsite every other Thursday at 7:00 p.m. for trivia and fellowship. To inquire about these events or get on our mailing list to find out about special events, contact grantwildwright@secondpreslr.org.

SUNDAY FAMILY DINNERS: Families with children are invited to dinners every other week (alternating with Sunday Evening SPY) at the home of the McCormack family. The next dinners will be held December 4, December 18 and January 8. Main dish provided, bring a side dish or dessert to share. The McCormacks' address is 2 Northwest Ct. Little Rock, AR 72212. Contact Grant Wildwright with questions grantwildwright@secondpreslr.org.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: There are Sunday School options for all ages of children starting at 9:50 a.m. each Sunday. Toddlers and Preschoolers have Beginners Sunday School in the Nursery, while Elementary Age kids meet in the Bible Village downstairs. We teach from the SparkHouse curricula, incorporating audio, visual, and tactile learning. With any questions, contact Grant Wildwright at grantwildwright@secondpreslr.org

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF STEPHEN MINISTRY AT SECOND PRESBYTERIAN! *commissioned May, 1992*



If you or someone you know is hurting and you would like more information about receiving Stephen Ministry care
-OR-

If you are interested in learning more about our upcoming Stephen Ministry training class, please contact any of our Stephen Leaders.

Kay Combs 501-517-5007
Cathy Crass 501-951-5890
Steve Dunnagan 501-590-9768
Laurie Stueart 501-658-7966
Jana Villemez 501-517-1474
JoAnn McQuade, Grief Care
Rev. Alisa Secrest 501-227-0000

**STEPHEN MINISTRY
GIVING COMFORT, LIFTING SPIRITS**

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.

DECEMBER WORSHIP USHER CAPTAINS

8:30 A.M.

Dan Voth

11:00 A.M.

Freddie Jolley

Scott Polk



**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.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

**Hanging of the Greens 9:00*

Worship 11:00

Young Adults Lunch 12:15

Basketball Practice 3:00

MS & HS Hanging of the Greens 5:00

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Day Ringers 12:00

PW Coordinating Team 12:30

Pastoral Care 1:30

FWYC Christmas Party 6:00

Stephen Ministry 6:00

Boy Scouts 7:00

Volleyball 7:00

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Men's Group Bible Study 7:00

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Staff Meeting 9:00

WACKY 5:00

Adult Choir 6:00

*Cheeses With Jesus 7:00

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

Dementia Caregivers Support Group

1:00

Young Adults Group 7:00

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Worship 8:30, 9:00 and 11:00

Young Adults Lunch 12:15

Praeclara Ringers 2:00

Family Dinner 4:00

Basketball Practice 6:30

* Denotes announcement in bulletin



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettias are used to decorate the Sanctuary and Second Hall during Advent. You are invited to place a poinsettia in honor and/or memory of a loved one. Funds received in excess of those purchased will be used in benevolent ways to help others during the holidays. A list of those being honored and remembered and their donors will be printed as a special insert in the Christmas Eve bulletin. The deadline to order a poinsettia is December 11. The cost is \$15.00. You may either fill out the form below and return to the church office, fill out the form online at www.secondpreslr.org or use the QR Code.



I/We would like to purchase _____ poinsettia(s).

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____.

PLEASE PRINT

In memory of

In honor of

Name(s) of donor(s)
