

**Large Print Bulletins, Large Print Hymnals and Hearing Devices are available.  
Please ask an usher.**

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
CHRISTMAS EVE**

**DECEMBER 24, 2023**

**5:30 P.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.*

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**WELCOME**

*Please provide us a record of your attendance. 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 our guests to share your information that we might be  
aware of your presence with us.*

**PRELUDE**

*Toccata on ANTIOCH*

C. Phillips

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

Holy are you, Lord  
**and greater than our best thought,**  
deeper than our most profound experience,  
**and closer than our next breath.**  
Holy are you, Lord,  
**High above the universe, accompanied by an angelic choir.**  
In the mystery of your kindness,  
**sometimes we feel summoned and sometimes we stumble,**  
into that holy ground where earth vibrates with heaven  
**and the hardest of hearts softens,**  
the most resistant will bends,  
**and the soul long dormant cries glory.**  
Lord, meet us here for we gather in your name  
**and claim Jesus' presence in the world. Amen.**

**\* HYMN NO. 140**

*Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

Verse 1 Blythe Keating, soprano

Verse 2 SPC Adult Choir

Verse 3 Congregation

Verse 4 Congregation

**\* LITANY OF ADORATION (RESPONSIVE)**

O God, give us such love and wonder that with shepherds, and magi, and  
pilgrims unknown, we may come to adore the holy child.

**O come let us adore him.**

Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence,  
that we may clearly see  
the way, the truth, and the life that is Jesus Christ.

**O come let us adore him.**

Allow us to join the shepherds and run with haste to greet the newborn King,  
Emmanuel, God with us.

**O come let us adore him.**

Like the angels, we have Good News to share. Join our voices with the  
heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high.

**Glory to God in the highest.**

You came to be one of us to deliver all of us. Guide us, Messiah, so we can bear  
witness to your mercy and love.

As we live each day may we know more of the hope, peace, joy, and love  
given to our world in the Christ Child.

**Glory to God in the highest.**

\* LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Refrain of Hymn No. 113  
**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE (*RESPONSIVE*)

On this day we celebrate and share the light and love  
that comes to us in the Christ Child.

**Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

**PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

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

ANTHEM *Gesu Bambino* P. Yon  
SPC Adult Choir  
Janette Robinson, soprano  
Satia Spencer, mezzo soprano

GOSPEL READING *LUKE 2:1-20* NT, P. 58

SERMON *Lighting the Christmas Story* Rev. Ben Kane

SOLO *O Holy Night* A. Adam  
Melanie Hanna Ezell, soprano

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

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

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

*We invite everyone to bring forward their offerings and place them in the baskets in the front of the sanctuary. One basket is for monetary offerings that will support the Pastor's Discretionary Fund (to meet emergency needs of community and church members), and the other basket is for the cold weather gear that we are collecting for Our House.*

OFFERTORY *Jesus Child* J. Rutter  
SPC Youth Ensemble

\* DOXOLOGY OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*RESPONSIVE*)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

You are our God,

and we are creatures of your hand.

You made us from the dust of the earth,

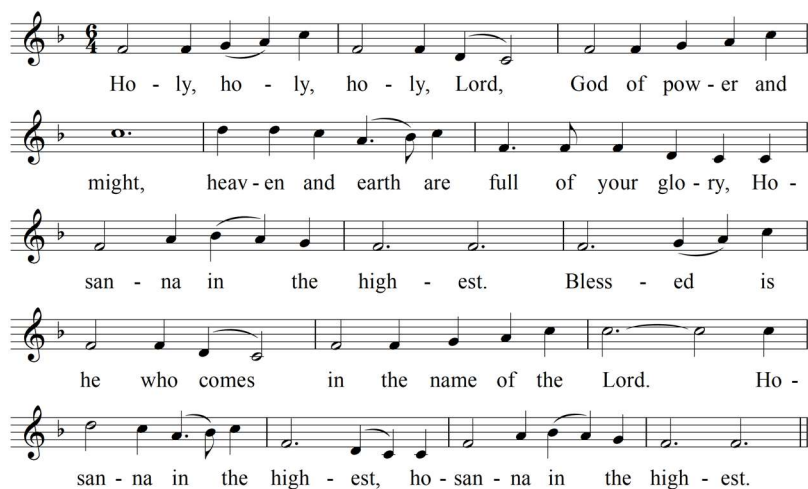
breathed into us the breath of life,

and set us in your world to love and serve you.

When we rejected your love and ignored your wisdom,  
you did not reject us.

You loved us still  
and called us to turn again to you  
in obedience and in love.

Therefore, we praise you,  
joining our voices with the heavenly choirs  
and with all the faithful of every time and place.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is  
he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are holy, O God of majesty,  
And blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.  
Out of your great love for the world,  
you sent Jesus among us  
to set us free from the tyranny of evil.

He lived as one of us,  
sharing our joys and sorrows.  
By his dying and rising,  
he releases us from bondage to sin  
and frees us from the dominion of death.



Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain.

Gracious God,  
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and cup,  
that the bread we break  
and the cup we bless  
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
By your Spirit, unite us with the living Christ  
and with all who are baptized in his name,  
that we may be one in ministry in every place.  
As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
Send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER (*UNISON*)

**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

*We have two means by which to receive communion. As you come forward you may receive communion by intinction or you may receive a prepackaged individual serving of a gluten-free wafer with grape juice.*

*You are invited to come forward, then return to your seat. We ask those with prepackaged servings to dispose of your kit as you exit the sanctuary. If you are our guest, 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

*Candlelight Carol*

J. Rutter

SPC Adult Choir

*\*Following Candlelight Carol, the congregation is invited to join the choir in the singing of the following carols:*

- #147 The First Nowell
- #123 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
- #133 O Come, All Ye Faithful
- #115 Away in a Manger
- #119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### THE SERVICE OF LIGHTS

#### SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*We shall all receive light from the Christ Candle, remembering Jesus, who said,  
"I am the light of the world."*

\* **HYMN NO. 122**                      *Silent Night, Holy Night*                      STILLE NACHT

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

\* **BENEDICTION**

\* **CHORAL BENEDICTION**                      *Joy to the World*                      Traditional

\* **POSTLUDE**                      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*                      arr. L. Larson

**TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Dr. Benjamin E.E. Kane

Rev. Alisa Secrest

Rev. Lindy Vogado

Dr. Bevan Keating, Director of Music and the Arts

Austin Lallier and Adam Savacool, organists

Liturgist: Carrie Johnson

Welcome Center: Freddie Jolley and Vivian Henderson

Communion Servers: Nancy Hamlin, Cotten, Gwin and Blaine Cunningham,

Carol Young, Mary Helen Henry, Alfred Williams, Kay Combs,

Marie and Ryan Holder

Ushers: Emma and Austin Ryall, Schelle, Steve, Sarah and Dylan Fike

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.

**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.

**OFFERINGS TO 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 2023 Annual Budget, Memorial Gifts and the Birthday Fund. You may support the ministries of our church by placing your offering in the offering plate, through online giving at [secondpreslr.org/giving](https://secondpreslr.org/giving) or mailing a check to the church office, **600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72227**.



**DID YOU MISS ONE OF THE SERMONS?** If so, you can watch past worship services on the church website at [secondpreslr.org](https://secondpreslr.org). To receive a copy of a sermon either by e-mail or regular mail, contact Karin Howze, [karinhowze@secondpreslr.org](mailto:karinhowze@secondpreslr.org) or (501) 227-0000. Printed copies are available in the narthex and the church office.

**WHAT ARE THE COLORFUL SWAGS AT OUR FRONT ENTRANCE?** Advent is a season of hopeful waiting AND a concept that isn't well understood by many of our unchurched neighbors, so how do we share our practices like the Advent Wreath and candles? This year, we decided to go big! Inspired by Bruce Rentz and assisted by Roxanne King, J. Dyke, Gary Mertins, Joseph Yancey and staff members Marie Mainard O'Connell and Guy Howze, we crafted huge, bright, welcoming fabric swags in colors that match our oversized outdoor Advent wreath. We hope the sweeping visuals will draw the eye not only to our front doors, but also towards our Advent wreath and the candles lit each evening as we eagerly await Christ's birth. Like any outdoor art installation, we've had to contend with the weather, but we're excited to expand our welcome and evangelism. If you hear folks ask, "what's that all about?", we hope you can share about our Advent practices and excitement for our Christmas Eve services.

**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**

**OUTREACH TREES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON:** Many thanks to all of you who helped to make the season brighter for our partner organizations in the community. Our Outreach trees in the narthex (main lobby of the sanctuary) were decorated with ornaments listing donation requests that will help our community members in need. This year we chose to support Women and Children First, Youth Home, and our Afghan Welcome Project. It is not too late to turn in your contribution. Please return any remaining donations to the church office with your ornament attached, and contact Lindy Vogado ([lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org](mailto:lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org)) with any questions or for more information.

#### STEWARDSHIP 2024 UPDATE



Prior to launching the *Joining Christ on the Mountain* Stewardship campaign, the team and I decided not to create a numerical goal as we weren't exactly sure what the needs of the church would be (plus I didn't want to aim too low!). We are excited to announce that we are well on our way to increasing our 2023 pledging numbers and would like to increase it more. Last year

we had a total of 419 giving units pledge \$2,175,000 and this year we are aiming to increase both. So far, our pledging units are increasing, and we are aiming to raise \$2,500,000. That seems like a big leap, but we are God's people, and our God believes in taking big steps! Thank you to those who've pledged and for those who haven't, would you consider making a pledge to Second Presbyterian Church? You can do so online or by filling out an Estimate of Giving Card in the sanctuary or main office. And, just as importantly, would you pray for Second Pres. and all the faithful members and friends as well as the ministries inside and outside our church walls as we seek to be God's people today, tomorrow, and in 2024. To make your 2024 Estimate of Giving, complete the Estimate of Giving card located in the pews, go to the church website or use the QR code.



**MIRIAM PROJECT TRAINING:** On January 7, following the 11:00 a.m. service and our church-wide lunch, the Children and Family Ministry will host a Miriam Project Training. The Miriam Project is the name of our protection policy to keep children and vulnerable persons in our congregation safe. We would love to have all of our Sunday School teachers, WACKY volunteers, Stephen Ministers, and those who work with our Afghan refugee families participate. If you have done Miriam Project training before, this will be a great refresher as you volunteer your time to serve our church. Please reach out to Maggie Kirchner, (501) 352-3245, or Leslie McCormack, (870) 391-6790, if you have any questions.

**THERE'S ROOM AT THE TABLE!** We've had such great feedback from recent all-church meals that we'd like to start offering ways for our larger church family to share meals together on a regular basis! Beginning January 7, the Belonging Ministry will be hosting a church-wide lunch after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on the first Sunday of every month. We will gather at the Lord's Table during worship and then gather round our Great Hall tables to enjoy a delicious meal together. Our lunch for January 7 will catered by Moe's Southwest Grill. The cost will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Please make a reservation using the QR code or by calling the church office. For more information, contact Lindy Vogado ([lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org](mailto:lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org)).



**RECEPTION FOR MARY IBIS:** Please join us on January 14, following the 11:00 a.m. service, in Second Hall, to celebrate Mary Ibis, her family, and her twenty-two years of service to Second Presbyterian Church. We are very appreciative of all the hard work that Mary has done for us over the last twenty two years and she will be missed. Mary has played an integral role in the life of our church and she will be difficult to replace, as we begin the process of looking for our next member of the Music Ministry team. I would personally like to wish Mary the best of success in all future endeavors as a music educator for the LRSD board of education. Come join us January 14 and celebrate Mary and her music ministry here at Second Presbyterian Church.

## JANUARY PREACHING SERIES

### *Claiming Our Identity: How Christ's 'I Am' Statements Form Us*

What shapes your life? Was it a person, a place, or maybe an experience? How was God involved? What is shaping your life now? These are big questions we'll be exploring at Second Presbyterian Church in our initial 2024 Preaching and Worship Series in January and early February. Using the 'I Am' statements from the Gospel of John, we'll discover how Christ's proclamations help form our identities and make who God has called us to be. If you are asking the big questions about who you are and who God is, this series is for you. Join us at Second each Sunday in the new year at 8:30 or 11:00 a.m. for worship and Sunday School at 9:50 a.m.

January 7: "I Am the Light of the World: Christ's Light Lights our Path"

John 8:12 (*Epiphany Sunday*)

January 14: "I am the Bread of Life: Being Fed by Christ"

John 6:35 (*Baptism of the Lord Sunday*)

January 21: "I Am the Gate and the Shepherd: Will You Trust Christ?"

John 10:7 and 11

January 28: "I Am the Resurrection: Salvation Through Faith"

John 11:25 (*Kirkin' of the Tartans*)

## ONGOING ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:50 A.M.

*Sunday School classes will not meet December 24 and 31.*

The *Seeking More Light* class meets in room 67. We are discussing Lost & Found: Reflections on Grief, Gratitude, and Happiness by Kathryn Schulz. The *Bible Study Class* on Zoom and in the Library at 9:30 a.m. remains focused on studying The Fall Uniform Series on "God's Law is Love" and moves through key passages of Luke, John, Romans, Galatians, Acts and First Corinthians to explore how Love Completes, Faith Triumphs and Christ Frees. Curriculum available digitally or printed free of charge. *Spiritual Nourishment* is reading Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers by Anne Lamott. Join them at 9:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room or online Sundays. Newcomers always welcome as we slowly digest these wise, funny words from one of our favorite modern writers. *The Connections Class* meets in Room 62-63.

**CHEESES WITH JESUS:** We are a dynamic community, bridging the gap between 'young adulthood' and retirement with grace and zeal. Our doors swing wide to welcome newcomers seeking spiritual enlightenment and treasured long-time members alike. We start our meetings with a time of fellowship and libations/food followed by study. Meeting in a member's home, we transcend the ordinary, embarking on a journey of connection and spiritual growth. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. We will finish up our study of The Walk on Wednesday, **December 27**. We will meet at Catherine Allsbury's home, 32 Kanis Creek Place. We will start the new year with a new study: Six Themes in the Bible Everyone Should Know by Barry A. Ensign-George and Eva Stimson. CWJ will meet on Wednesday, **January 10** at 4009 Ridge Road in NLR, 72219. This is also a housewarming for Diane, proud new homeowner. Members are encouraged to bring a little something for the house. During our gathering time we will tackle Chapter 1 of Six Themes of the Bible Everyone Should Know. Contact Catherine Allsbury or Justin Villines if you want to join us: villinesjustin@gmail.com. ALL are welcome.



**CELEBRATING 31 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, 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.**

**11:00 A.M.**

(12/31) Johanna Lewis

**CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

***Christmas Eve***

"Big Music Sunday" 11:00

Children and Families Service 3:30

Traditional Candlelight Service 5:30

Youth-Led Service 11:00 p.m.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25**

***Christmas Day***

Church Office Closed

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26**

Church Office Closed

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

Adult Choir 6:30

Youth Basketball Practice 7:00

\*Cheeses With Jesus 7:00

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**

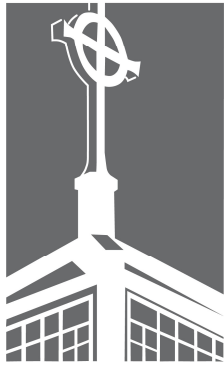
***New Year's Eve***

Worship 11:00

\* Denotes announcement in bulletin



## VISION STATEMENT



INVITED  
BY CHRIST  
IMPACTING  
THE WORLD  
INCLUSIVE  
OF ALL

### CHURCH OFFICERS

#### SESSION

Moderator: Ben Kane  
Clerk: Philip Shell  
Assistant Clerk: George Keck  
Treasurer: Kenneth Rich

#### CLASS OF 2024

Marge Anna Luttrell  
Barry McVinney  
Somerset Sea  
Joseph Yancey  
Carol Young

#### CLASS OF 2025

Alicia Byrd  
Cotten Cunningham  
Kate Franks  
George Keck  
Vernon Markham

#### CLASS OF 2026

Mary Helen Henry  
Leslie McCormack  
Ruth Shepherd  
Alan Solomon  
Justin Villines

#### YOUTH ELDER

Lena Nelson

#### DIACONATE

Moderator: Chris Boggs  
Vice Moderator: Marsha Taylor  
Secretary: Jamie Gomez

#### CLASS OF 2024

Chris Boggs  
Amber Griffin  
Christin Hankins  
Diane Holt  
Kathryn Hyde  
Katie King  
Ann Norwood  
Shannon Rookey  
Marsha Taylor

#### CLASS OF 2025

Lauren Gann  
Jamie Gomez  
Freddie Jolley  
Diane Karlson  
Johanna Lewis  
Jo Paulus  
Ashton Pickell  
Scott Polk  
Margo Shoffner  
Becky Talmadge  
Dan Voth  
Galen Wenger  
Bradley Wright

#### CLASS OF 2026

Matt Christenson  
Cindy Downs  
David Eifling  
Judy Johnson  
Amy Lloyd  
Ann Owen  
Emma Ryall  
Matthew Smith  
L.B. Vaught  
Zachary Ward

#### YOUTH DEACON

Joseph Lloyd