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

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

8:30 AND 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.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

Please provide us a record of your attendance. At 11:00, take the red friendship pad, sign your name, and pass it down the pew and back, noting the names of those worshipping with you. At 8:30, complete the yellow card and place it in the offering plate. We encourage our guests to share your information that we might be aware of your presence with us.

PRELUDE Noel X L. Daquin

* CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

We come to prepare the way;

The way for Christ -

the hope of Christ, the peace of Christ –

to enter our world.

to enter our hearts.

We cry out together in the wilderness:

The kingdom of heaven has come near.

We come to be part of the light-

the light that shines in the darkness.

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (RESPONSIVE)

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming.

CANTOR:

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

CONGREGATION:



We are preparing ourselves for the days when 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 anymore.

O come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

* HYMN No. 93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates TRURO

CALL TO CONFESSION (RESPONSIVE)

In Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ, full of grace and truth.

Trusting in God's unfailing grace, let us tell the truth about ourselves, joining in our prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

We give thanks, O God, that you are unchanging, that your concern for justice and righteousness was so strong that you came in human form to share that concern with us, in person. We confess that all too often we hesitate to speak or act when we see people being treated unjustly.

Forgive us, O God, for the times when we have been happy

to hear the gospel without truly living it.

Forgive us for uncaring attitudes

when we base our opinion of another person's worth on what they own, or how they look, on what they say, or how they live,

rather than accepting them for who they are-

people made in your image.

Forgive us when our longing to live simply and with humility is defeated by selfish desires—

for pursuing profits before seeking your will.

Forgive us for placing our hope in anything other than the Christ child born in a poor stable.

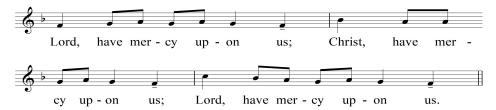
Our hope lies in the promise of your mercy,

O God, extending to those who fear you

from generation to generation. Heal, restore and bless us, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

(Silent confession)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



ASSURANCE OF PARDON (RESPONSIVE)

May the God of peace cleanse you through and through.

The promise is that our whole being—spirit, soul and body—will be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rejoice, then, and give thanks as we receive forgiveness and healing in Christ's name. **Amen.**

* PASSING OF THE PEACE (RESPONSIVE)

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

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

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

Rev. Lindy Vogado

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (8:30)

Matthew and Allie Smith present their daughter, Margaret Sophia Smith, to receive the Sacrament this morning.

PRESENTATION

* THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE BAPTISM

WELCOMING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Jesus Loves Me Hymn No. 188, Stanza 1

OLD TESTAMENT READING JEREMIAH 33: 14-16 OT, P. 738

ANTHEM E'en So, Lord Jesus Quickly Come P. Manz

SPC Adult Choir

GOSPEL READING *LUKE 1:5-25, 39-45* NT, PP. 56-7

SERMON The Perfect Christmas Tree Elizabeth Cahoon

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

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,

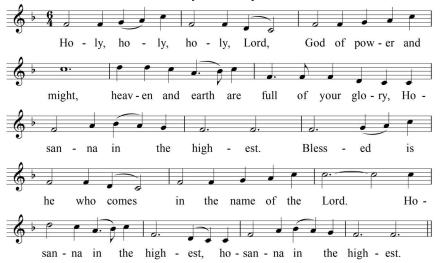
you did not reject us.

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.



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.



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.



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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY Interlude W. S. Lloyd-Webber

* 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.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

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

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

* HYMN No. 2

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel

Traditional

* POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J.S.Bach

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Elizabeth Cahoon, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell Rev. Lindy Vogado Rev. Alisa Secrest

> Dr. Bevan Keating, Director of Music and the Arts Adam Savacool, Organist Clint Brockway, Interpreter

Liturgists: (8:30) The Hankins Family (11:00) The Moore Family

Cantors: Jenna and Lana Lasater

Communion Servers: (8:30) Jo Paulus, Diane and Bob Skinner, Ruth Shepherd, Ralph Wilcox (11:00) Claudia Stallings, Alicia and Sam Byrd, Dan Lovelady, Jane Markham, Ann Owen, George Keck, Somerset Sea, Gwin Cunningham

Elders of the Day: (8:30) Barry McVinney (11:00) Joseph Yancey Ushers: (11:00) David and Landon Kirkland, Cody, Amber, Kennedy and Deckard Griffin

> 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 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. 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.

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



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2024

You may have seen the question our Stewardship Team is asking in this Stewardship Season on the table in the narthex or heard it at one of our *Home*



Gatherings. The question is this: What will it take for Second Presbyterian to meet Christ on the mountain? We'd love to hear your answer as we

believe it will take all of us to meet Christ on the mountain as a church. 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 OR code.

OUTREACH TREES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON: Join us as we help make the season brighter for our partner organizations in the community. Our Outreach trees in the narthex (main lobby of the sanctuary) are decorated with ornaments listing donation requests that will help our community members in need. This year we will be supporting *Women and Children First, Youth Home*, and our *Afghan Welcome Project*. Visit the organizational tree that you are interested in supporting, take an ornament with the donation request listed, and return it to the church with your donation. Please contact Lindy Vogado (lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org) with any questions or for more information.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN AT VERA LLOYD PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY SERVICES: Each year our congregation helps provide Christmas presents for youth in foster care living on the campus of Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services in Monticello, Arkansas. For the last few years, Vera Lloyd has created an Amazon gift registry to streamline the purchasing and delivery of



these presents. If you'd like to contribute, please visit their gift registry at https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3M0A1CFQOCZ42 or use the QR code. If you need help purchasing online, please Lindy Vogado in the church office, and she would be happy to assist you.

TORNADO RECOVERY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: The Pulaski County Long Term Recovery Committee is seeking volunteers to do door-to-door assessments of the emotional and spiritual health of people impacted by the March 31, 2023 tornado in Pulaski County. The date will be **Saturday, December 9**. Compassion and active listening skills are required; professional training and/or disaster response experience are extremely helpful. Schedule for the day: training in the office building at Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, 6400 Kavanaugh, Little Rock 72207, on Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Enjoy pizza lunch at noon and go out to assigned neighborhoods from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. For information, contact Liz Branch at erbranch@comcast.net.

TOUR OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: Are you a visitor or new member who would like to know your way around our church campus? Are you a long-time member interested in how our building is currently being used throughout the week? If so, we'd love for you to join us for a tour of the church! Associate Pastor Lindy Vogado will be giving a tour of the church next Sunday, December 10 at 9:50 am (during the Sunday School hour). We will meet at the Welcome Center to begin the tour and will finish in plenty of time to attend 11:00 worship. For more information or to arrange a tour at another time, contact Lindy Vogado (lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org). We hope to see you there!

CALLING ALL SECOND PRES VEGANS AND VEGETARIANS! The Environmental Stewardship ministry is creating a Vegan/Vegetarian supplement to our Second Pres cookbook, and we would love to share your vegan and vegetarian recipes. By consuming less or no meat in our daily lives, we can make a significant difference in our care for the planet by reducing agricultural waste and pollution. Please send your recipes and/or questions to lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org.

SECOND HALL SHORT SERIES FOR DECEMBER **SUNDAYS, 10:50 A.M.**

Join us for An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story, an Advent book and video study by Rachel Billups. Live into the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace through the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, and the Magi, as each unexpected character teaches us about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas.

December 3 What if I missed it? Elizabeth and Zechariah

December 10 Playing the Villain, King Herod

December 17 A Curious People, the Magi

FREE ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: Deepen your spiritual practices during the short-but-busy season of Advent on a daily or weekly basis. Would you enjoy a daily Advent calendar of activities and readings? Or contemplative coloring pages for a reflection on Christ's birth? Perhaps a daily or weekly booklet of meditations, printed or online? Check out our table in the narthex and pick up what you need to welcome the Christ Child. Try the Advent Text Devotional delivered directly to your phone December 3-25 by signing up in the narthex or using the QR code.



FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will meet on Monday December 4 and 18 at 9:30 a.m. in Second Hall to finish our study of Eat This Book by Eugene Peterson. Set aside some time to practice lectio divina in your personal practice, so we can confer on the experience!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: Faith and Grief support group meets the third Tuesday of the month in Second Hall at noon. This is a monthly community gathering of support and comfort. Join at any time. We will be praying for you and look forward to our next gathering on December 19. Please register through faithandgrief.org or in the church office so we will have enough boxed lunches.

CARE FOR CAREGIVERS: Our Dementia Caregiver Support Group gathers for support, resources and sharing of experiences. Please join us Thursday, December 7 at 1:00 p.m. in person or on Zoom. For more information, contact the church office or Sandra Rogers.

TUESDAY MEN'S GROUP MINISTRY: Each Tuesday at 7:00 a.m., men gather in Second Hall and on Zoom for encouragement, support, and Bible study. Free donuts and coffee! Men of all ages are invited to visit or join. Contact Vic Fleming (judgevic@gmail.com) or Vernon Markham (vmarkh3@gmail.com) further details.

INTERNATIONAL DRINKS AND DISCIPLESHIP celebrates Christmas on December 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Malinda and Larry Kirchner. We will explore the new Bless the Advent We Actually Have devotional, along with delicious food - please bring a side, dessert, or drink to share! Childcare provided at the church; please RSVP with Pastor Marie at mariemo@secondpreslr.org.

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. Within the intimate sanctuary of a private residence, we transcend the ordinary, embarking on a journey of profound 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 **December 13**, we will meet at the home of Philip and Leah Shell (5 Berwyn Drive, LR). We'll be decorating Christmas cookies! Wednesday, December 27, will meet at Catherine Allsbury's home, 32 Kanis Creek Place. Contact Catherine Allsbury or Justin Villines if you want to join us: villinesjustin@gmail.com. ALL are welcome.

YOUNG ADULTS: JOIN US FOR OUR WEEKLY GATHERINGS! First and Third Thursdays – Bible Study | 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Youth Building Second and Fourth Thursdays – Trivia Night | 7:00-9:00 p.m. at American Pie Pizza (9709 Maumelle Blvd, North Little Rock, AR 72113) Sunday Lunch (every week) | 12:00-2:00 p.m. Gather in the narthex to discuss location.

A NEW NATIVITY ARRIVED! Last year the church received a charming donated ceramic nativity, and it is now lovingly installed in the south/chapel entrance to the church with a classic wooden stable. It features three large camels and matching magi... but the eagle-eyed will spy that Joseph is missing! We would love to meet the donor of this charming set, and learn more about its history and story - and possibly find Joseph!

ONGOING ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:50 A.M.

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 will reconvene in Room 62-63.



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

Lauric Student 501-050-7500

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. (12/10) Dan Voth (12/17) Christin Hankins

11:00 A.M. (12/10) Jo Paulus (12/17) Johanna Lewis (12/24) Joseph Lloyd, Emma Ryall (12/31) Johanna Lewis

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Worship 8:30, 11:00 Sunday School 9:50 Praeclara Ringers 2:00

Children's Ministry 5:30

Middle School SPY 5:30

SPY Dinner 6:30

High School SPY 7:00

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

First and Third Monday Morning Bible

Study 9:30

Day Ringers 11:30 Pastoral Care 1:30

Personnel Committee 4:30

Stephen Ministry 6:00

Volleyball 7:00

Boy Scouts 7:00

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Men's Group Bible Study 7:00

Staff Meeting 9:00

Pastoral Care Ministry 5:00

Property Ministry 5:30

Outreach Ministry 7:00

Worship Ministry 7:00

Youth Ministry 7:00

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

W.A.C.K.Y. 5:00

Adult Choir 6:30

Youth Basketball Practice 7:00

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

*Dementia Caregiver Support Group

1:00

Young Adult Trivia 7:00

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Our House Cook Team 3:00

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Worship 8:30, 11:00

Sunday School 9:50

Praeclara Ringers 2:00

Youth Basketball Practice 4:20

Middle School SPY 5:30

SPY Dinner 6:30

High School SPY 7:00

* Denotes announcement in bulletin

VISION STATEMENT



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

> YOUTH ELDER Lena Nelson

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

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

YOUTH DEACON Joseph Lloyd

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



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 poinset	tia(s).
Enclosed is a check for \$	
PLEASE PRINT	
In memory of	
In honor of	
Name(s) of donor(s)	