



ORDER FOR THE
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

December 19, 2021 · 8:15 & 11:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

A SERVICE OF Nine Lessons and Carols

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus in nine Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and choral music.

The format was based on an order drawn up by Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve 1880. Tradition says that he organized a 10:00 p.m.

service on Christmas Eve in a temporary wooden shed serving as his cathedral and that a key purpose of the service was to keep men out of pubs on Christmas Eve.

The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. The best-known version has broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve since 1918. It features carols sung by the College's famous choir. Our tradition at Second Presbyterian Church is based on this service.

PRELUDE: "Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich" J.S. Bach

*O hail this brightest day of days, all good Christian people!
For Christ hath come upon our ways, ring it from the steeple!
Of maiden pure is He the Son; for ever shall thy praise be sung,
Christ's fair mother Mary! Ever was there news so great?
God's own Son from heaven's high state is born the Son of Mary!*

Samuel Metzger, organ

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" Patricia Hurlbutt

*Second Ringers
Phil Chandler, director*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE . . . Kathryn Barry, Norfleet Thompson, Courtney Ward (8:15)
Howard and Libby Pritchard (11:00)

CALL TO WORSHIP Barton Kimbro

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Once in Royal David's City" IRBY

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander / Music: Henry J. Gauntlett; arr. David Willcocks / Luke 2:12

Carrington Ellis, soloist:

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.

♠ *Congregation stands and sings:*

2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
 3. And through all his won - drous child - hood he would hon - or and o - bey,
 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
 5. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall:
 love and watch the low - ly maid - en in whose gen - tle arms he lay:
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove,
 we shall see him, but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

with the poor, and mean, and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 Chris - tian chil - dren all must be mild, o - be - dient, good as he.
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
 when like stars his chil - dren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

♠ INVOCATION

THE FIRST LESSON

God announces that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis 3:8-19..... Amanda Coop (8:15)
Mary Nease (11:00)

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust

you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL: "Remember, O Thou Man"..... Thomas Ravenscroft

Words: Melismata 1611 / Music: John Ravenscroft / Genesis 3

Remember, O thou man, O thou man, O thou man,
Remember, O thou man, thy time is spent.
Remember, O thou man, how thou art dead and gone,
And I did what I can. Therefore repent.

Remember Adam's fall, O thou man, O thou man,
Remember Adam's fall from heaven to hell.
Remember Adam's fall, how we were condemned all
In hell perpetual, there for to dwell.

Remember God's goodness, O thou man, O thou man,
Remember God's goodness and His promise made.
Remember God's goodness, how He sent His Son doubtless,
Our sins for to redress. Be not afraid.

The angels all did sing, O thou man, O thou man,
The angels all did sing upon the shepherds' hill.
The angels all did sing praises to our heavenly King,
And peace to man living with a good will.

*The Chancel Choir
Calvin Ellis, director*

THE SECOND LESSON

Abraham's Son shall be a blessing to all the nations.

Genesis 22:15-18..... Rong Guo (8:15)
 Virginia Wynn (11:00)

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply

your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: "Creator of the Stars of Night"CONDITOR ALME

Words: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale / Music: C. Winfred Douglas / Philippians 2:10-11

Choir:

Creator of the stars of night, Your people's everlasting light,
 O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray You hear us when we call.

♣ *Congregation stands and sings:*

2. When this old world drew on t'ward night, you came, but not in
 3. At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
 4. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,

splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 Three - in - One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be

of Ma - ry, vir - gin moth - er mild.
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

THE THIRD LESSON

God promises a Child King who liberates from terrorizing darkness.

Isaiah 9:2-7 Ethan Knight (8:15)
Ben Lomo (11:00)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as

fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL: "O Come, Emmanuel" Elaine Hagenberg

Words: Latin, trans. John M. Neale, Henry S. Coffin / Music: Elaine Hagenberg / Isaiah 59:20

O come.

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

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine Advent here,
And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind;
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease, and fill the world with Heaven's peace.
O rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

Ruthie Burgess, cello

THE FOURTH LESSON

The prophet speaks of One who is capable of changing the world.

Isaiah 11:1-4 Jauna Ellis (8:15)
Haley Overcast (11:00)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear

of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

♣CAROL: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" ES IST EIN ROS'

Words: German Carol, 15th Century / Music: Michael Praetorius / Isaiah 11:1

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in
 5. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, as men of
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who dost our

old have sung, It came, a flow'r - et bright, a -
 moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right she
 weak - ness know, bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 the bright courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

THE FIFTH LESSON

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary.

Luke 1:26-38 Kelsie Ellison (8:15)
Caroline O'Hare (11:00)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne

of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

CAROL: "Joys Seven" Stephen Cleobury

Words and Music: Trad. English Carol; arr. Stephen Cleobury

The first good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of one;
To see the blessed Jesus Christ when He was first her son:
When He was first her son, good man: And blessed may He be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of two;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the lame to go:
To make the lame to go, good man: and blessed may He be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of three;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the blind to see:
To make the blind to see, good man; and blessed may He be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of four;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to read the Bible o'er:
To read the Bible o'er, good man: and blessed may He be,
Both Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of five;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to bring the dead alive:
To bring the dead alive, good man: and blessed may He be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of six;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, upon the crucifix:
Upon the crucifix, good man: and blessed may He be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of sev'n;
To see her own son, Jesus Christ, to wear the crown of heav'n:
To wear the crown of heav'n, good man: and blessed may He be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke recounts the birth narrative of our Lord.

Luke 2:1-7Audrey Hurst (8:15)
Lizy Wegener (11:00)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem,

because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

CAROL: "See Amid the Winter's Snow"Dan Forrest

Words: Edward Caswall / Music: John Goss; arr. Dan Forrest / Philippians 2:5, 8

Alleluia. Alleluia.

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies,
He, who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn, hail, redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn, hail, redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Jill Peak, piano

THE SEVENTH LESSON

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-11..... Elle Snyder (8:15)
Don Batchelor (11:00)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod summoned

the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

HANDBELL CAROL: "Joy to the World" G.F. Handel; arr. Sandra Eithun
Words: Isaac Watts / Music: G.F. Handel; arr. Sandra Eithun / Psalm 98:4

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Behold the glory and receive the grace of our incarnate Lord.

John 1:1-14..... Grace Knight (8:15)
Blanche Tosh (11:00)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to

everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

Boxes at Exits: We will not pass the offering plate. Boxes are available at the Sanctuary exits.

Give Online: 2pc.org/give

Give by Text: Text SECOND followed by the gift amount to (901) 410-9500 to give to the General Fund. To give to World Missions, text WORLD followed by an amount to the same number.

Give by Mail: Second Presbyterian Church, 4055 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111

SOLO OFFERTORY: "What Child Is This"..... arr. Mack Wilberg

Words: William C. Dix / Music: Trad. English Melody; arr. Mack Wilberg / Matthew 2:2

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds worship and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him praise, the Babe, the Son of Mary.
So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him!
The King of kings salvation brings: let loving hearts enthrone Him!
Raise, raise the song on high! The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy! Joy! For Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Emily Hale, soloist

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✦PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

THE NINTH LESSON

A multitude of angels proclaim God's eternal plan of peace.

Luke 2:14-19

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"
When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
"Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with

haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Revelation 14:13

And I heard a voice from heaven saying,
"Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the

Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the Word of our God will stand forever. (Isaiah 40:8)

HOMILY: The Promised Peace.....George Robertson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

♠HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"..... MENDELSSOHN

Words: Charles Wesley / Music: Felix Mendelssohn / Luke 2:13-14

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of the vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

✦BENEDICTION

✦BENEDICTION RESPONSE..... GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

✦POSTLUDE: Toccata on “He Is Born the Divine Christ Child”..... Denis Bédard

✦Indicates congregation standing

CCLI License #252778

Second Ringers: Becki Albert, Jim Cantrell, Jennifer Chandler, Brooke Happ, Alissa Heirigs, Fred Flinn, Mary Lawrence Flinn, Donna Lee, James Ryan, Emily Taylor, Christy Young; Phil Chandler, director

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

4:00 p.m. Family Service

5:30, 8:00 & 11:00 p.m.

Candlelight Communion Services

*Nursery is available by reservation only
for the 5:30 p.m. service (ages 3 and under).*

*Limited space is available;
visit 2pc.org/adorment to register.*

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**To sign up for Pastor George’s
daily Advent devotionals
text ADVENT to (901) 410-9500.**

A Gospel Christmas

Tonight at 6:00 in the Sanctuary

This evening, we will be led in worship by our Sunday Night musicians in a variety of gospel and contemporary settings of Christmas carols.

PJ Story Time

December 21, 6:00 p.m.

Family Fellowship Hour

December 26, 9:30 a.m.

All are invited to the Fellowship Hall next Sunday for coffee and scones. Sunday School classes will not meet; the nursery will be closed.

The Messenger

The best way to find out what’s going on at Second is to subscribe to our weekly email newsletter. To subscribe, simply scroll to the orange box at the bottom of our homepage (2pc.org) and enter your name and email address—then watch for it to arrive in your inbox on Friday afternoons!

Mask Policy

Masks are optional for vaccinated individuals on our church campus. Those not vaccinated (including children above age 2) are asked to wear masks to help protect those who cannot be or have not yet been vaccinated. Social distancing between family units continues to be recommended.

Caring Ministry Fund

Each December, a special collection is taken to benefit the Caring Ministry’s mercy fund that provides financial assistance to those in need within our church and in our community. To give to this fund: visit 2pc.org/caring or write a check (*designate “Caring Fund” in the memo line*) and place it in an offering box at the Sanctuary exits.

Christmas Flowers

The following is a list of donations to the Floral Guild Fund, given to the glory of God.

In Memory of: *Wilton Hazelwood* by Sandy Hazelwood; *Mr. Fred Tarkington, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Anderson, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tarkington, Sr.* by Ferrin T. Mavar; *Russ Billings, Sara Misner, Tim Russell, and Lawanna Ingram* by Janet Misner; *Ruth and Buddy Morrison* by their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; *Henry C. Pitts, Jr.* by his family; *Tim Russell* by Smoky Russell; *Carolyn Russell* by Smoky Russell; *Tim Russell, Carolyn Russell, and Sharon Luck* by Katherine Russell; *Dorothy Davis and Skip Sharp* by Glenda Davis Sharp; *Carlton Cook* by Lavinia Skinner; *Bettye and Lewis Taliaferro* by their daughters, Elizabeth, Margaret, and Mary; *Marilee Williams* by Cliff Williams; *Catherine Zampini* by Ron Zampini; *My son, Robert Tipton, Jr.*, by Deborah Dunklin Tipton; *Edward and Mae Frances Dougherty* by Patsy Dougherty; *Bucky Shappley* by Pat Shappley (Mother); *Deloss Walker* by Ceil, Deloss, and Cecilia; *Charlie Laragione, Ray Newcomb, Fred S. Smith III, and Molly Norfleet Ross* by Jay Good; *Courtney and Daniel Shores* by The Wepfer Family; *John Arthur Newton* by The Wepfer Family; *Joy and Bill Wepfer* by The Wepfer Family; *Robert Tipton* by The Wepfer Family; *Wilton Hazelwood* by Lucy and John Wepfer; *Sharon Bellott Luck* by Lucy and John Wepfer; *Debbie Flanagan, John, and Geraldine Flanagan* by Kevin and Annette Campbell; *Elizabeth Leigh Fiedler Marek and Thomas Charles Kimbrough* by Allie, Paul, and Doug Marek; *Christian Howard Charles Fiedler, Jr.* by the Marek Family; *Lee*

Ragland, Jr. by Carolyn Ragland; *S. Herbert Rhea and Stephen H. Rhea, Jr.* by The Rhea Family; *George and Elaine Walker, Burns and Nan Landess, and Charlie Cash* by Dee Walker; *John D. Glass and Bebe and Sam Sorrels* by Dotsie Graham; *Dr. D. Shelby and Christine Daniel Counce* by Shelby, Daniel, and Kathryn Counce Black; *Dr. Jack Sanford* by Barbara Huggins Sanford; *Stanley Huggins* by His Girls.

In Honor of: *Gene and Kathy Cashman on their 57th wedding anniversary* by Elizabeth, Robert, and McRae Dickinson; *Dial Boyle Jackson* by her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; *Lee and David Bowen and The Caring Ministry* by Janet Misner; *George Robertson* by Chuck and Scottie Cobb; *Our Missionaries* by Rev. and Mrs. Ron Sallow; *Dr. Nicholas Gotten, Jr.* by his wife, Pamela Gotten; *Shepherd Group 4* by Lucy and John Wepfer and Donna and Bob Roten; *Peg and Sam Stringer* by their granddaughters; *Mr. and Mrs. Kelton Morris, Sr.* by Hailey, Courtney, Hale, and Kelton Williamson.

In Gratitude for: *Our Parents* by Janie and Michael Lowery; *Mary Lynn Bellott and Sallie B. Berry* by Lucy Wepfer; *Wednesday Night Table 5* by Dee Walker; *Rick and Carey Moore* by The Nelson Family; *Laura and Jay Cofield and Growing in Grace Shepherding Elders and Shepherd Group Leaders* by Debbie and Mark Perkins; *Leigh's Legion and Hutchison '81 Book Club* by The Marek Family.

December Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of: *the bride's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Young; the bride's aunt, Dr. Joan Stanton; and the groom's grandparents, Mr. Danny Gibbs, Ms. Sandra Clements, and Mr. Jerry Reed* by Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Reed who were married yesterday. Mrs. Reed is the former Lizzie Young.

The flowers in the Sanctuary this month are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of: *Bernice and George Flinn* by their sons George, Jr., Fred, Carl, and their families; *Mr. and Mrs. William D. Nicholson* by their children and grandchildren; *Lillian and Thomas Patton* by Susan and Claude Crawford, Elizabeth and John Holmes, and their grandchildren; *their son, Benjamin, and their parents, Madge and Charles Smith and Diantha and Carl Weber* by Vicki and Bill Weber.

Caring Ministry Update

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. RJ Thorne, Jr. who were married on December 11, 2021. Mrs. Thorne is the former Avery Franklin.

Sympathy to:

The family of *Jeanne M. Rose* on her death, December 8, 2021.

Dow McVean on the death of his mother, *Katherine (Kay) Gardner McVean*, December 11, 2021.

David Bowen on the death of his mother, *Jean Anderson Bowen*, December 12, 2021, in Knoxville, TN. The family of *Mildred Jeanne Williams* on her death, December 13, 2021.

In the Hospital (as of 12/15/21):

Eva Miller, Allen Morgan Rehab
Paul Brown, Baptist Rehab
Rebecca Schmidt, Baptist Rehab

Weekly Prayer Focus

World Missions–Tezar & Tatiana: Tezar continues to pastor Covenant City Church in the largest city in Southeast Asia. He has trained and deployed new staff so they will be positioned to evangelize, disciple, and lead the members and visitors of CCC. His wife Tatiana has been a great support in this ministry, leading mothers' groups, engaging in counseling, and focusing on raising their two young children. They have been encouraged by the growth the church has experienced and feel that CCC is positioned to consider planting a new church in the local language. Please pray that the Lord would direct their steps as they work to transition the church from online to in-person worship services after 19 months. Pray also that God would give the church great influence in their city and draw many seekers to their doors as they reopen for worship.

Domestic Missions–Economic Opportunities: Economic Opportunities seeks to equip ex-offenders with spiritual mentoring, GED training, financial literacy, and the skills and resources needed to obtain stable employment. They praise God for His provision of new client partners. Please pray that God will continue growing their recruitment networks in Memphis, Mississippi, and Arkansas, and that He will strengthen existing relationships with client companies. Additionally, pray for the physical healing, spiritual renewal, material provision, and overall flourishing of their staff, volunteers, program participants, and their families, especially in light of Covid.

2PC Ministry–Senior Adult Ministry: Led by David Bowen, Second's senior adult ministry serves the senior saints at 2PC. Our senior adults lead our congregation with wisdom and serve one another and our younger members as Elders, Deacons, and leaders in ministries both within our church and around the city. Please pray that our senior adult members would not feel alone or forgotten but, instead, remembered, valued, and pursued by their church family. Pray for a few more younger Elders and Deacons to come forward to shepherd and care for our oldest members. Pray also for the Lord to compel some of our younger members to join our "Senior Varsity" initiative, where they can "adopt" a few of our senior saints who are no longer able to participate physically in our worship services and Sunday School classes. Finally, pray for God to guide each senior adult member to the ministry that He has for them and for these members to experience a fruitful return on their joyful service.

Support Tornado Relief Work Through the Salvation Army

Our mission partners at The Salvation Army are working to support those affected by the series of tumultuous storms in our neighboring states of Arkansas and Kentucky on December 11. They are serving locally on the ground to supply needed water and food, clothing, and shelter, and to offer emotional support in the name of Christ to those suffering.

To aid in their efforts, we encourage you to visit 2pc.org/relief and donate directly to The Salvation Army Disaster Relief Fund.

Year-end Giving Reminder

Per IRS regulations, year-end gifts not mailed to the church must be placed in the offering boxes at the Sanctuary exits or delivered to the church office no later than Friday, December 31, 2021, in order to qualify as a charitable gift for the 2021 tax year.

The church office will close at 5:00 p.m., but you can give online at 2pc.org/give until midnight on December 31. Contributions mailed to the church must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service by December 31, 2021, in order to qualify as a charitable gift for the 2021 tax year.

Mailed envelopes postmarked after December 31, 2021 must be reported as a 2022 gift, regardless of the date on the enclosed check.

General Fund Giving Update

	This Year Budget	This Year Actual	Variance	Last Year Actual
November	\$ 817,656	\$ 808,107	\$ (9,549)	\$ 845,918
YTD 7/1/21–11/30/21	\$ 3,239,115	\$ 3,494,148	\$ 255,033	\$ 3,381,456



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