

**GATHERING**

*Thank you, good and gracious God, for the morning light, for another day in which to live out what it means that you have magnified my soul and the souls of those around me in this world. Show me how to trust; in Jesus' name. Amen.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**PRELUDE** Savior of the Nations, Come J.S. Bach

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

The law has only a shadow of the good things to come.

**It can never make perfect those who approach the altar.**

Instead of sacrifices, we were given a body.

**It is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

**\* HYMN 121** O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** Rose Anna Rutledge (8:30 A.M.)  
Colin, Megan, Zack, Alex, Max, & Evan Conerly (11 A.M.)

**CONFESSION AND PARDON**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. We seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**\* ACT OF PRAISE** Gloria Patri Hymn 581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

**THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 735

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** (11 A.M.)                      The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came Down                      P. Manz

**TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES** (11 A.M.)                      Evelyn Lewis  
*(Afterward, children in kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be dismissed to Kids-4-God.)*

\* **HYMN 102**                      Savior of the Nations, Come                      NUN KOMM,  
DER HEIDEN HEILAND

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**                      Hebrews 10:1-10 (NRSV)  
This is the Word of the Lord.                      NT pg. 224  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**                      Sacrifices Only Point to Forgiveness                      Rev. Mark Hults

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**RESPONDING**

\* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**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; on 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.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**                      Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming                      S. Pethel  
*Tom Chamberlain, euphonium*

\* **DOXOLOGY**                      Hymn 606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** (8:30 A.M.)                      (Gluten-Free Bread)

**SENDING**

\* **HYMN 187**                      Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us                      BRADBURY

\* **BENEDICTION**

\* **POSTLUDE**                      For Unto Us A Child Is Born                      J. Curnow  
*Tom Chamberlain, euphonium*

## TODAY IN WORSHIP

**WORSHIP LEADERS:** Mark Hults, Evelyn Lewis, Fred Lundy, Megan Poole, Scott Stuart

**ACOLYTE:** Linden Greer

**ELDER ON DUTY:** Evelyn Lewis

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST:** Mitch Rorick

**CHAPEL USHER:** Jeanne Thomas; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote, Louis Motz, Mary Lou Schubert

**A/V TEAM:** Owen Best, John Rayl, and Youth Connection students: Alex Conerly, Zack Conerly, Kim de Fretes, Dania Moreno, Elijah West

**THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Laura's parents, Jane & Eldon Stout; John's parents, Mary & John J. Netardus; and Laura's brother, Charles L. Stout; by Laura, John, and Andrew Netardus.

**CHURCH TRIUMPHANT:** We extend our sympathy and offer the prayers of our congregation to Ken McKenzie upon the passing of his sister, Elizabeth McKenzie, who joined the Church Triumphant on October 23, 2024.

**CHURCH TRIUMPHANT:** We extend our sympathy and offer the prayers of our congregation to Liana Moreno, Sarah West, and their families upon the passing of their mother, Julie Teigen, who joined the Church Triumphant on December 13, 2024.

**CHURCH TRIUMPHANT:** We extend our sympathy and offer the prayers of our congregation to Trudy Bonerba, Lauren Bonerba, James, Joey, Dylan, and Koi Tillery upon the passing of husband, father, and grandfather, John Bonerba, who joined the Church Triumphant on December 18, 2024. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 28 at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary.

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**Thank you for joining us in worship today.** We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead. Visitors are welcome to participate in the worship and the work of First Presbyterian Church. You can find a "Three Steps to Membership" card with information about how to join the church in the pew racks. If you feel a call to commit your life to Jesus Christ and His Church, please speak to the pastor or an elder after worship.

**Prayer of Belief:** *Lord Jesus Christ, I admit I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment, and offering forgiveness. I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior. Amen.* (If you are saying this prayer for the first time today, please let the pastor or elders on duty know.)

**Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence:** Marilyn Ast, Leon & Jayne Fox, and Carol Hayes-Christiansen. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Matt Gowdy, Brian Hill, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez and Paul Samala.

### Senior Pastor

Rev. Mark Hults - [pastor@1stpc.org](mailto:pastor@1stpc.org)

### Director of Music and Organist

Mitch Rorick - [music@1stpc.org](mailto:music@1stpc.org)

### Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

Fred Lundy - [youngadult@1stpc.org](mailto:youngadult@1stpc.org)

### Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry

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### Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill

Sexton - Margaret Hill

### Property Coordinator

John Rayl - [png.1stpc@gmail.com](mailto:png.1stpc@gmail.com)

# 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

## Savior of the Nations, Come 102

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's  
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to  
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows  
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish  
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this  
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.  
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.  
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

TEXT: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;  
 English trans. stanza 1, William Morton Reynolds, 1850, alt.;  
 English trans. stanzas 2-4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006  
 MUSIC: Erfurt *Enchiridion*, 1524; harm. Sethus Calvisius, 1594  
 English Trans. St. 2-4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND  
 7.7.7.7

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NRSV)

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt – a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Hebrews 10:1-10 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>Since the law has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered year after year, make perfect those who approach. <sup>2</sup>Otherwise, would they not have ceased being offered, since the worshipers, cleansed once for all, would no longer have any consciousness of sin? <sup>3</sup>But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin year after year. <sup>4</sup>For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. <sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).” <sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

<sup>10</sup>And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187



1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.  
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.  
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.  
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a - stray.  
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.





### Year-End Giving

Contributions to the church made through Tuesday, December 31, 2024 will be credited to the calendar year 2024. Contributions may be placed in the offering plate on December 29, made online by midnight on December 31, or postmarked by Tuesday, December 31. There will be limited office hours after Christmas. If you need to stop in, please plan on coming on Monday or Tuesday, December 30 or 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Christmas Eve

Worship will be held in the sanctuary at 6 p.m. with carols, candlelight, and Holy Communion. The Prelude, beginning at 5:30 p.m., will include the Chancel Choir, Jubilate Ringers, chamber orchestra, and several soloists. If you cannot attend our Christmas Eve Worship, you may join us on YouTube.

Christmas Eve Nursery opens at 5:15 p.m. and runs through the end of the worship service. Please contact Jenna Mueller ([dmueller2009@gmail.com](mailto:dmueller2009@gmail.com)) with any questions or to volunteer to help this Christmas Eve.



### Holiday Hours

The church office will be mostly closed for the holidays. We are closed Christmas Day through Friday, have limited hours the following Monday and Tuesday, and are closed again New Year's Day through Friday, January 3. Thank you for your understanding.



### Free Appliances

The church has three used appliances available on a first-come, first-served basis for anyone who can come pick them up - a washer & dryer and a refrigerator. Please contact John Rayl at [png.1stpc@gmail.com](mailto:png.1stpc@gmail.com) if interested.



### Start the New Year with Service

Many of you came out to help decorate the church for Advent. As the celebrations come to an end, please join us on Monday, January 6 at 9:00 a.m. to help take the Christmas decorations down.



### Concert for a Cause

Sunday, January 12 at 4 p.m., join the Dance Alive National Ballet, Anew, a festival chorus, and instrumentalists for a concert highlighting the struggle, freedom finding, and the journey to restoration for those impacted by human trafficking. Come to this event to be moved and engaged in our community, but also to find hope.



*Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.*


## Online Contributions



Visit our website, [www.1stpc.org](http://www.1stpc.org), to make an online donation. Click the GIVE button at the top of the page. You can contribute to the General Budget or use the drop-down menu, change to Other, and specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Contact Trudy Bonerba.



T-Coil installed in the sanctuary, and Hearing Assist devices available in the Narthex.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 **now from 9-10 a.m.** for our televised broadcast  or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts

Current Worship video and audio as well as archives at [1stpc.org](http://1stpc.org)

CCLI License #2742913 & CCLI Streaming #CSPL091568



## Ministries

At **First Presbyterian Preschool**, children are fully prepared for school in a caring, Christian environment. Classes are offered 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Early Childhood Accredited.

Our **Children and Youth Ministries** provide a multi-generational approach of Christian example as the church family comes alongside parents to lead children to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Nursery Care** during worship for children 6 weeks through pre-kindergarten. Contact: Jenna Mueller - [jdmueller2009@gmail.com](mailto:jdmueller2009@gmail.com)

Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade children are released from worship for **Kids-4-God** to spend time growing their faith. After the service, families meet in Gordon Hall. Contact: Evelyn Lewis - [citytr122@gmail.com](mailto:citytr122@gmail.com)

**LOGOS** is a mid-week ministry with worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and family dinner for students age 3 through high school. Contact Bev Vloedman to RSVP for 6 p.m. dinner at [dvoloedman@aol.com](mailto:dvoloedman@aol.com).

**Youth Connection** meets for fellowship and food with Bible study and mentoring for students in grades 6-12.

Our **College Ministry** seeks to launch students into a life of pursuing Christ, trusting in Him, and growing with others. Join us for Sunday worship & lunch and Tuesday Bible study. Bring a friend!

**Young Adult & Family Ministry (YA&FM)** is for marrieds and singles, with or without kids, in grad school or in vocation. We gather for Bible Studies and to get to know each other better and would love the chance to do life with you.

With choirs for ages three and above, our **Music Ministry** welcomes everyone to sing or ring and to dedicate their music to God. Our concert season includes Concerts for a Cause, which support local and global mission partners.

## Staff

Senior Pastor

REV. MARK HULTS - [pastor@1stpc.org](mailto:pastor@1stpc.org)

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JOHN RAYL - [png.1stpc@gmail.com](mailto:png.1stpc@gmail.com)

Head Sexton

TONY COGDILL

Sexton

MARGARET HILL

Glorify God  
Make Disciples of Jesus Christ  
Meet Human Needs



## Weekly Calendar

### Sunday, December 22, 2024

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel

9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover Christmas Party - Library

*All are welcome!*

9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School: Advent Week 3 - Rm 201

10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204

11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Rm 217

### Monday, December 23, 2024

5:00 p.m. Youth Connection Christmas Party

### Tuesday, December 24, 2024

4:00 p.m. Music Rehearsals Start - Sanctuary

5:30 p.m. Prelude with Instrumentalists and Soloists - Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary

### Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Church office closed

*Merry Christmas!*

### Thursday, December 26, 2024

Church office closed

### Friday, December 27, 2024

Church office closed

### Saturday, December 28, 2024

### Sunday, December 29, 2024

### First Sunday of Christmas

8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel

9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: John 14 - Ross Tiegen - Library

9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School: Advent Week 4 - Rm 201

10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204

11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

### Monday, December 30, 2024

10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. Limited Office Hours

### Tuesday, December 31, 2024

10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. Limited Office Hours

### Wednesday-Friday, January 1-January 3

Church office closed

*Happy New Year!*