

# First Presbyterian Church

Founded  
July 16, 1788

Organized  
September 7, 1800



***"Serving Christ and Neighbor in the Heart of Winchester and Beyond."***

Winchester, Virginia  
540-662-3824  
[fpcwinc.org](http://fpcwinc.org)

# WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WINCHESTER

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent • December 14, 2025 11:00 AM

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When this symbol (✠) precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

Ushers collect blue prayer card requests during the first hymn.

*Visitors, check-in or sign up for our Friday newsletter using the back of the blue prayer card.*

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## Worship Leaders

Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas

Richard Byess, Liturgist

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*The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together as People of God*

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

J.S. Bach

### LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Isaiah 35:1-10

Watch and wait for Christ’s coming!

Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,

Remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle in peace.

We light this candle in joy!

### CALL TO WORSHIP

God of Joy, you quench us

**You promise fulfillment in all the ways**

God you know that joy is more than happiness, it is shalom, being complete

**It is abundant gardens, full stomachs, justice and equity for all**

We rejoice that you are a God who answers when we call,

**Fill us with Joy**

### ✠ HYMN 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vv., 5-7

VENI EMMANUEL

### ✠ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, our hearts are breaking, and we don’t know whether to shout in rage or keep silent in fear. We take our rage and fear and regret and grief out on others, and we know that is wrong. We act selfishly; we consume and hoard and haggle, and we know that is not what you ask of us in this sacred time. Help us. Mend our hearts. Hear our voices. Comfort us in our grief, and open our hands so that we will share in our sorrow and joy, in our hope and despair. Come to us again, we pray, and make us ready to receive you. Amen.

*Silence for personal confession*

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### ✠ GLORIA PATRI [Hymn 581]

## **INTERGENERATIONAL MOMENT**

*Afterward, Kindergarten and younger children may leave for Wee One's Worship in Room 108.*

### **✠ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

*Friends, you are encouraged to pass the peace.*

**SERMON** Best Christmas Pageant Ever Sermon Series: "What About Mary?"

Luke 1:46-55

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

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*The People of God Respond in Faith*

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**THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES** *(leader)* Friends, our giving is an act of gratitude for what God has given us. It is also an act of worship. Just as we present our words in liturgy, song, and prayer to God, we present a portion of the fruit of our work to God.

## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

"Somebody Build a Manger"

The Chancel Choir, Brian Hobbs Directing

Joel Ramey

### **✠ THE DOXOLOGY, HYMN 606, AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **INVITATION**

#### **✠ HYMN 100**

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks  
to the Lord our God.

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

*The Thanksgiving continues. . .*

Leader: *[...the petitions conclude...]*

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

**All: 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.

THE DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of the one in whom we live, move, and have our being, Jesus Christ, our Lord, amen.

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*The People Depart to Serve*

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✦ HYMN 82	“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”	HYFRYDOL
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BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE	“Threefold Amen”	Danish
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POSTLUDE	“You Shall Go Out with Joy” {Hymn 80}
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USHERS & GREETERS	Ed and Terry Ransom, Mary Hester, Fred Gall
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Office Announcements

- If you’ve recently made or plan to make a stock transfer or IRA distribution, please notify Jennifer White to ensure your gift is credited accurately.
- Offering envelopes are available in the Gathering Hall on the table below the name tags.
- If you haven’t turned in your pledge card yet, please do so soon. Extras are available in the pews and common areas.
- 2025 offerings need to be dropped off at the church office by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> at noon or postmarked by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> in order to be included in your ’25 Tax Statements.

Poinsettia Dedications – Due today!

You can submit the dedication(s) and payment securely online at [fpcwinc.org/poinsettia](http://fpcwinc.org/poinsettia) or with a paper form and payment in the offering basket.

Facility Council needs your help!

Please lend a hand on December 20th as we change filters throughout the building. We’ll meet in Loudoun Hall at 1:00 pm on Saturday. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Cress, Facilities Moderator.

Helper Fund Concert today

Join us today at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a joyful Christmas Concert featuring MiKayla and Amy, celebrating the season and supporting the Helper Fund. Free to attend!

Advent Sermon Series & Movie Night

Pastor Amanda’s Advent sermon series will be inspired by *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson, inviting us to consider how God’s grace appears in the most unexpected places. To complement the series, FPC will host a movie night on Dec. 22 - pizza & snacks provided!

Called Meeting of the Congregation | Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>

The Session has called a Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 11th, at noon in the Sanctuary. The purposes of the meeting are: 1) To vote as a congregation to dissolve the call between Pastor Amanda and First Presbyterian Church. 2) To vote to accept the nominee from the Pastor Nominating Committee to serve as the next installed pastor of First Presbyterian.