

# First Presbyterian Church

Founded  
July 16, 1788

Organized  
September 7, 1800



Winchester, Virginia

540-662-3824

[fpcwinc.org](http://fpcwinc.org)

# WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WINCHESTER

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent • December 22, 2024 11:00 AM

When this symbol (⌄) precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.  
Ushers collect blue prayer requests during the first hymn.

## Worship Leaders

Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas

Rev. Michael Hafele

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

## PRELUDE

“Vom Himmel Hoch” (From Heaven Above)

Pachelbel

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O First Presbyterian Church of Winchester, from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

**Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Give ear to our cries, O Shepherd of your people;

**let your face shine, and save us.**

Though we’ve been fed the bread of tears,

**let your face shine, and save us.**

Though our enemies rise up,

though we feel consumed and surrounded,

**let your face shine, and save us.**

Awaken your might; lead us gently in your light.

**Restore us, O God, so that we might be saved. Amen.**

### ⌄ HYMN 121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

### ⌄ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Shepherd, as we draw closer to the feast of Christmas, remind us again how to heed your will. Help us to hear when you call. Help us to follow where you lead. Help us to trust your rod and staff. We confess that we have fallen short of the loving trust you call us to. We have not loved you with all we are and we have not loved our neighbors and ourselves in the

fullness you call us to. Forgive us, we pray and renew our hearts to the lovingkindness you call us to. Hold us closely in your care as we anticipate the coming gift of Christ. Amen.

*Silence for personal confession*

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

### GLORIA PATRI [Hymn 581]

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*God Speaks to Us in Scripture, Preaching, and Song*

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### ✠ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

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

*Children Kindergarten and younger may leave for Wee One's Worship in Room 107.*

**MUSIC FOR WORSHIP** "No Golden Carriage, No Bright Toy" The Chancel Choir Gilbert Martin

**SCRIPTURE** *Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:39-55*

**SERMON** "The Love Song of the Humble" by the Rev. Michael Hafele

## 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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### ✠ HYMN 646

"Sing Out, My Soul" 3x

MAGNIFICAT (Taizé)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*[...the petitions conclude...]* And now as Christ taught us, we are bold to pray... 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 OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

Friends, our giving is an act of gratitude for what God has given us. 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

"Bethlehem Light"

arr. Martin

Tune: Trad. Irish Fare Thee Well

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

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*The People Depart to Serve*

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✠ **HYMN 119**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

**BENEDICTION**

**RESPONSE**

“Go Now in Peace”

Besig and Price

**POSTLUDE**

“From Heaven Above”

Paul Manz

**USHERS**

Barb Strite, Charles and Kathy Uphaus, Mark Schroeder

## **Poinsettia Dedications**

Today is the final day to submit your Poinsettia dedications. Paper forms can be placed in the offering basket or left at the office. The online form can be found on the homepage of [fpcwinc.org](http://fpcwinc.org) on the top menu bar and will close tonight, December 22, at 9 pm.

## **Office Announcements**

- If you’ve recently made or plan to make a stock transfer or IRA distribution, please notify Jennifer in the church office 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. Cards are in the pews and common areas.
- 2024 offerings need to be dropped off at the church office by Dec. 31 at noon or postmarked by Dec. 31 in order to be included in your ’24 Tax Statements.
- All 2024 expense reimbursements must be submitted to the office by Friday, January 3.

## **Christmas Eve Services**

**4pm Children’s Service:** Offerings will be evenly split between Froggy's Closet and Healthy Families.

**7pm Youth Led Service:** Offerings will go to the Henry and William Evans Home for Children.

**9pm Candlelight Service:** Offerings will go to the Helper Fund.

## **Single Service Sundays!**

**Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>** *One Service in the Sanctuary at 11am*

**Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>** *One Service in the Fellowship Hall at 11am*

Please note there is no Sunday School for either Sunday.

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## **Watts Week Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**

It’s that time again to think about how we can serve the Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS)! We are hosting February 8–15 and will need volunteers, meals, food, and donors. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for the Sign-Up Genius, which will be posted on the homepage of [fpcwinc.org](http://fpcwinc.org). Sunday morning sign-ups will also be available.

## **CCAP | Thank you!**

Thanks to the generous members of the First Presbyterian Church the holidays will shine brighter for the people who are served by CCAP. Your generosity this holiday season was unmatched as well as throughout the year. Please remember that need does not stop at Christmas so I look forward to seeing your donations in the blue bins throughout 2025. May you all have a blessed Christmas.

- Lynn McCauley, CCAP Rep.

## **Let’s Be Friends**

You can find us on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram at [@fpcwinc](https://www.facebook.com/fpcwinc). We’d love for you to like our Facebook page or leave a review on Google to help others find us!