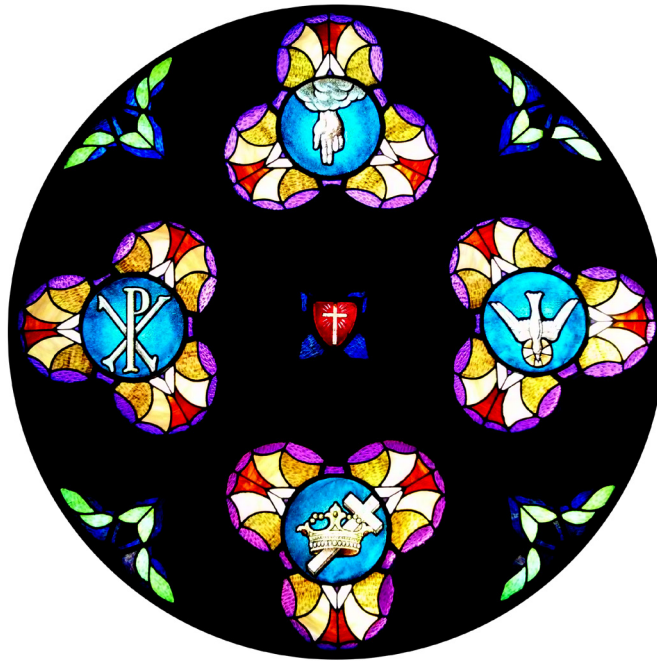


December 31, 2023

# First Presbyterian Church

First Sunday after Christmas



## Following Jesus, Transforming Life

***Mission Statement:***

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington is transforming life by glorifying God, following Jesus, and loving our neighbor.

Preaching: Adrian Rodriguez

Serving in Worship: Christian Women's Fellowship

Organists: Cheryl Harris, Shina Heo

# *The Worship of God*

Words in bold are spoken by the congregation.

§ Invites all who are able to stand.

*Please silence all phones and devices.*

*Please fill out the Friendship Pad in your row.*

## *Gathering*

Prelude

Ding Dong Merry Bells

Christian Women's Fellowship

The Light of Christ

Annabelle Ellis, acolyte

Prayer for Preparation

*Saving God, the prophet Anna and righteous Simeon sang your praise and proclaimed Jesus our Lord to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. Let us who redemption in this day prepare our hearts, that we may believe the good news of Jesus, receive the light of salvation and live according to your word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Adrian Rodriguez

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord!

**Praise God from the heavens.**

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**Let us praise the name of the Lord, whose name alone is exalted above earth and heaven. Alleluia!**

§ Hymn 147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

§ Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as youthful faithful children.**

**We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred.**

**We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice.**

**We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory.**

**Forgive us, Merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

§ Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel! **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

§ Gloria Patri

MEINEKE

**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.**

## *Proclaiming*

Psalter Reading

Psalm 148

Old Testament page 582

Children's Time

Children, age 3 to fourth grade, are invited to go to Kids For Christ (KFC) in the 200 hallway.



## *Sermon Notes*

147

The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be - yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

“Nowell” is the English form of the French “noel,” a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer’s “Franklin’s Tale”), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to “born” (*natus / nē*) as well to “news” (*nova / nouvelle*).

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

The musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the upper staff, with lines of music above and below the words.

- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord  
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
 and offered there in his presence, that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 their gold, and myrrh, and and with his blood our life hath bought.  
 frankincense. *Refrain*

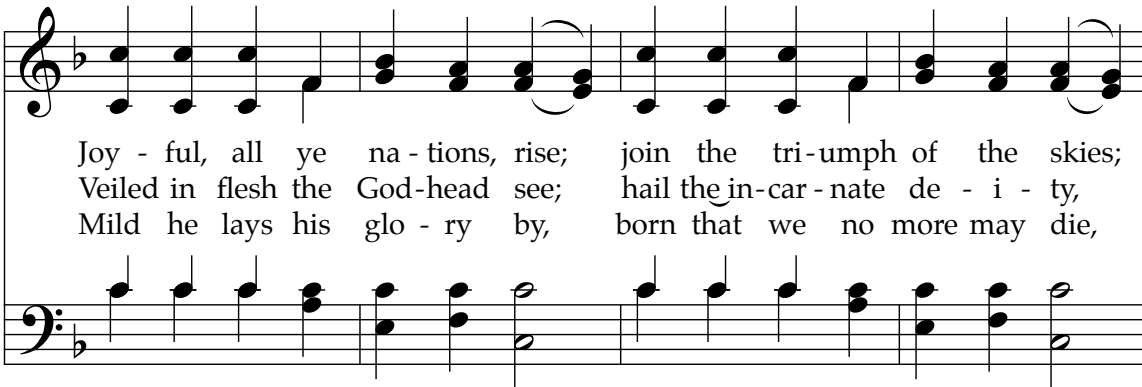
# 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

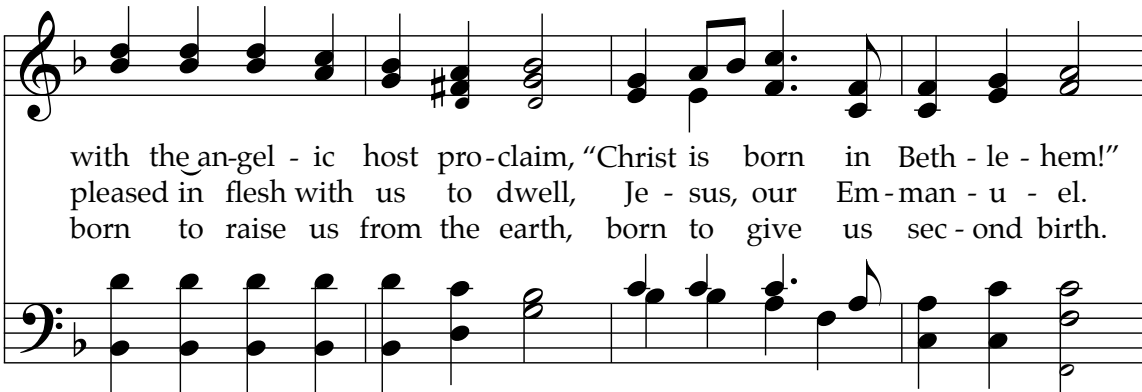
The musical score is in 4/4 time and has a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a treble staff and a bass staff. The lyrics are placed between the two staves, with musical notation above and below the text.



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, risen 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 the in - car - nate de - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

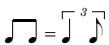


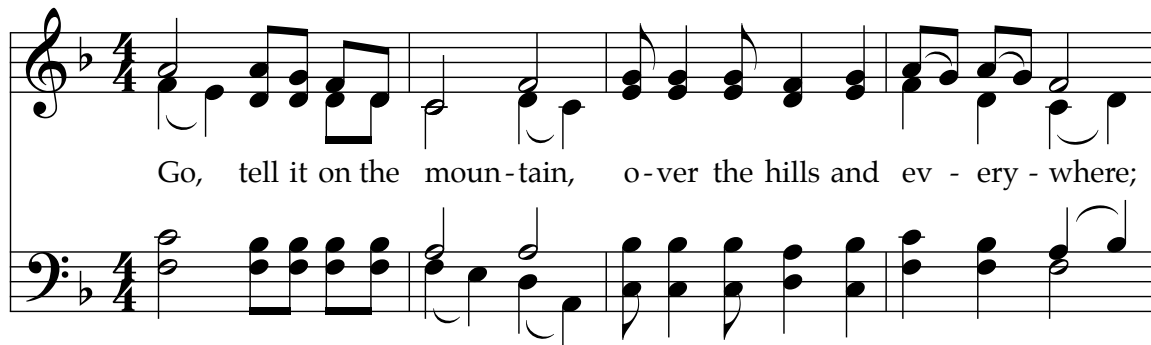
with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

# 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

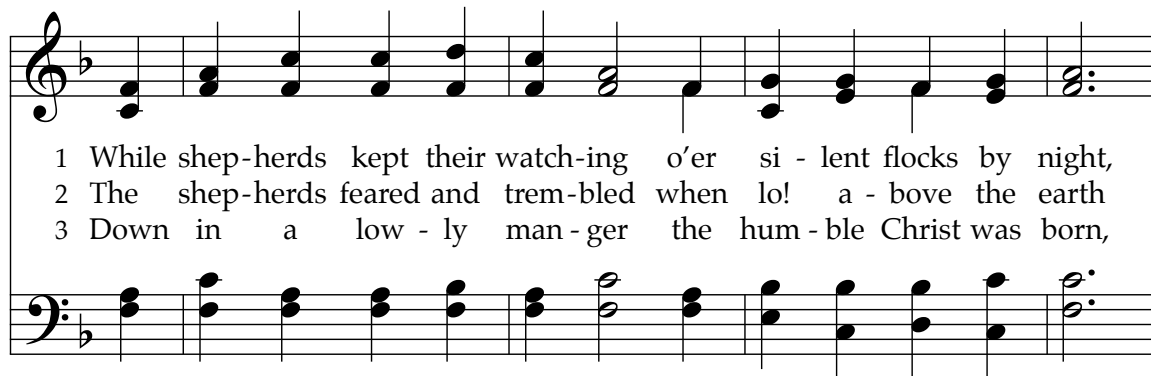
Refrain 



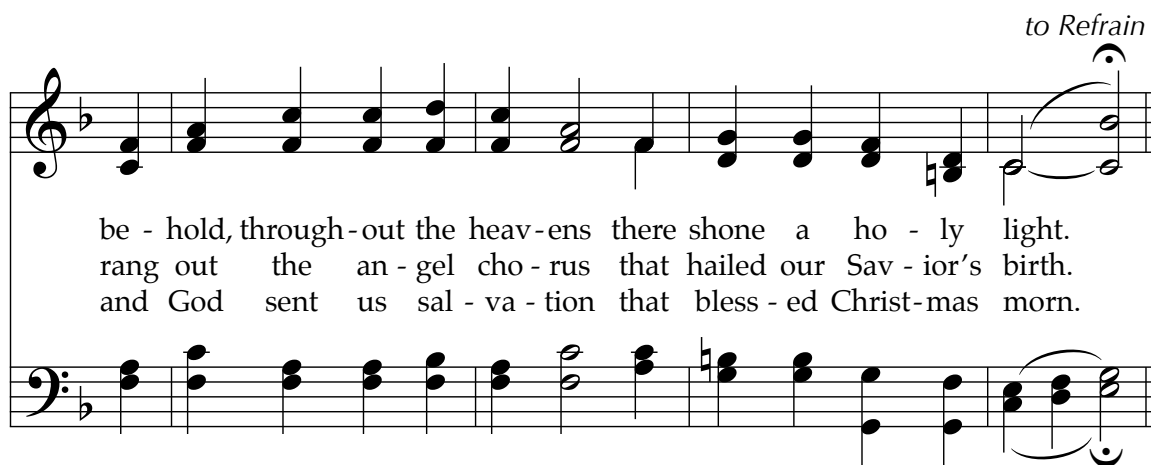
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born! Fine



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn. to Refrain

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.



## 2023 Annual Reports

It's that most wonderful time of year when our teams and groups submit their reports for the year. Team leaders and staff are asked to please send your reports to [info@firstprestexas.org](mailto:info@firstprestexas.org) by January 12. Thank you!

### End-of-Year Giving

As the calendar year draws to a close, we want to thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the ministries of FPCA this year.

Also, we want to share a hopefully, helpful reminder regarding giving as it relates to taxes. We are allowed to give credit to any gift that is received or postmarked on. Of course, you can always give online up to 11:59 pm tonight through our church website. Other ways to give are described here.

Again, thank you for your prayerful generosity!

### **GIVE a RIDE to those who NEED a RIDE to and from Church and/or Sunday School**

The Deacons are compiling a list of drivers by zip code and phone number to provide to members (in the same or near zip code) who can no longer get to and from FPCA! The deacons will supply the member with the list from their geographical area. It will be up to the person who NEEDS a RIDE to contact the person who can GIVE a RIDE. Please call the church office or email Kathy McCoy at [jkmccoy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkmccoy@sbcglobal.net) with your information to GIVE a RIDE or NEED a RIDE.

Personally I need to be on both lists because you never know when the car won't start or has a flat. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy McCoy at [jkmccoy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkmccoy@sbcglobal.net).

## Weekly Calendar

Sunday 12/31	
Sunday School	9:45 am
Worship Service	11:00 am
Monday 1/1	
Church office Closed	
Tuesday 1/2	
Senior Flexibility Class	9:30 am
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	10:30 am
Wednesday 1/3	
Men's Bible Study	8:00 am
CWF Bible Study	7:00 pm
Thursday 1/4	
Friday 1/5	
Senior Flexibility Class	9:30 am
Saturday 1/6	

## Prayer Ministry

### *Prayers for those with health and other concerns:*

The family of Carol Moody, Eleanor Schernbeck, Ken Floyd, Jerry Tees, Harold Thomlinson, Sherry Wolfe, Sheri Quick, Charlie Nieman, Jack Bos, Carol Browning, Bettye Burdett, Edna Collins, Cyprian Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ivone Franzolin, Mary Lou Garrison, Joe and Lila Glenn, Jo Ann Hanson, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Graciela Lopez Montero, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Tina Paulk, Aileigh Rodriguez, Tonya Scrabeck, David Spencer, Alecia Street, Susie Thurston, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welborne, Danny Womble, Carlos and Jennyfer Zamora

### *Prayers for family in the armed forces:*

Amie Murtha, Colin A. Peden, Christopher Young

### *Prayers for our home-bound members:*

Polly Baugh, Madge Casselman, Lucy Cleaver, Barbara Hughes, Betty Snowden, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight

### *Prayers for those who do not know Christ*

If you have any congregational care needs, contact Parish Associate, Jim Shroyer at 682-445-0155 or [jim@firstprestexas.org](mailto:jim@firstprestexas.org)

## Staff Directory

Chris Campbell	Lead Pastor	<a href="mailto:chris@firstprestexas.org">chris@firstprestexas.org</a>
Russell Farnell	Minister of Music	<a href="mailto:russell@firstprestexas.org">russell@firstprestexas.org</a>
Jim Shroyer	Parish Associate	<a href="mailto:jim@firstprestexas.org">jim@firstprestexas.org</a>
Reggie Manuel	Facilities Manager	<a href="mailto:reggie@firstprestexas.org">reggie@firstprestexas.org</a>
Shina Heo	Organist	<a href="mailto:shina@firstprestexas.org">shina@firstprestexas.org</a>
Adrian Rodriguez	Director of Youth Ministry	<a href="mailto:adrian@firstprestexas.org">adrian@firstprestexas.org</a>
Kyle Terwilliger	Director of Children's Ministry	<a href="mailto:kyle@firstprestexas.org">kyle@firstprestexas.org</a>
Eric Gottmann	Director of Social Media	<a href="mailto:eric@firstprestexas.org">eric@firstprestexas.org</a>
Cheryl Harris	Music Ministry Associate	<a href="mailto:cheryl@firstprestexas.org">cheryl@firstprestexas.org</a>
Jeanne Chin	Finance Manager	<a href="mailto:jeanne@firstprestexas.org">jeanne@firstprestexas.org</a>
Jane Leathem	Finance Assistant	<a href="mailto:jane@firstprestexas.org">jane@firstprestexas.org</a>