

The time draws near to celebrate our Savior's birth! Welcome to worship, which is part of our preparation. It's good to be here together.

This worship service can be watched live on YouTube, as it happens, anywhere you have an internet connection. Additionally, past services will be archived so you can stay up-to-date or relive your favorite Sunday morning moments. You can find the link on our website or check it out at <https://bit.ly/FPClive>

Worship Assistant: Sally Heimbach
Ushering: Jim Pantano
Deacon Greeter: Pam Mongi
Nursery: Ginnie tietjens

Audio: Beth Folio
Video: Andy Ingram
Fellowship: Tracey Gill

NOTE: Sheet music for the hymns can be found on the next page or pages.



***Order of Worship
December 14, 2025***

Faith Presbyterian Church of Emmaus

3002 N. Second Street, PO Box 507
Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049
610.967.5600

office@faithchurchemmaus.org
www.faithchurchemmaus.org



Did You Know?

You can support the mission and ministry of our church by donating online at <https://bit.ly/39QO3dQ>. You can scan this QR code, which will take you directly to the donate page on our website. We deeply appreciate your generosity and are so thankful for each of you!

**THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

10:00 AM

DECEMBER 14, 2025



THE FIRST NOTE OF THE PRELUDE begins our worship.

Please use the prelude time to turn your attention to God's presence and help. Nurturing our relationships and friendships in fellowship is essential to our life as a congregation, so please continue to do so following our time of worship.

** Those who are able are invited to stand.*

FOCUSING UPON GOD'S PRESENCE AND VOICE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"O Come, Emmanuel"* from *"A Child, A King"*

***CALL TO WORSHIP & CANDLE LIGHTING**

One: Take a deep breath. We are not speeding into the season of Advent. We don't want to sprint so fast that we cannot catch our breath. This is a season to breathe. It is a season to remember. It is a season to wait.

All: In this season of joy, we wait with joy.

One: Joy is a muscle we must exercise. The candle is pink to remind us that joy stands out in the midst of a darkening world. Pink is the color of joy in the Advent season - different from the rest so we are sure to notice it.

All: We want to notice more joy so that we can experience true joy more fully.

Reader: The prophet Isaiah dreamed that every part of creation would join the joyful chorus. The desert would rejoice and bloom. The crocus would blossom abundantly.

Creation would rejoice with joy and singing.

All: Today we worship with joy and singing.

Reader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy. We light all three candles so that we remember each is important, and we keep striving to live in the light of them all. We strive to live with hope, peace, and joy in this season and always.

He came down that we may have hope,* he

This system of musical notation is in G major and 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the melody with lyrics underneath. The bass clef staff provides harmonic accompaniment. Chords G and D7 are indicated above the treble staff. Triplet markings are present over the notes 'down' and 'hope,*' in both staves.

came down that we may have hope,* he came down that we may

This system continues the melody and accompaniment. Chords G and G7 are indicated above the treble staff. Triplet markings are present over the notes 'down' and 'may' in both staves.

have hope.* Hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

This system concludes the piece. Chords C, Cm6, G/D, D7, and G are indicated above the treble staff. Triplet markings are present over the notes 'jah' and 'more.' in both staves. The final chord is G, with the lyrics "(Why did Christ come?)" written above it.

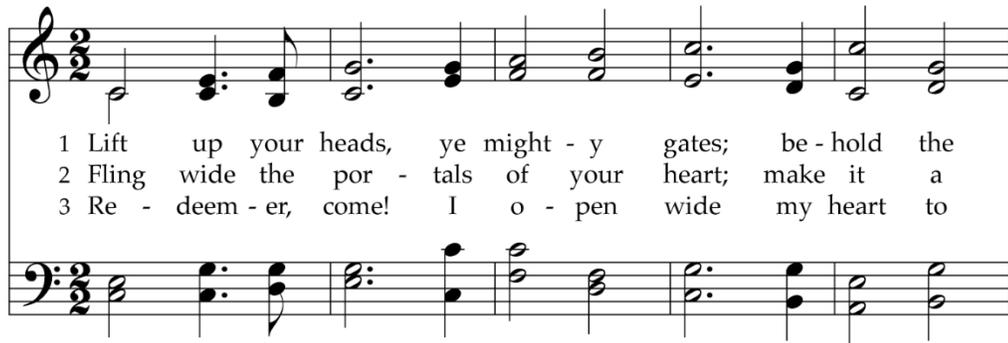
* peace, joy, love, life

Reader: The word of the day is joy.

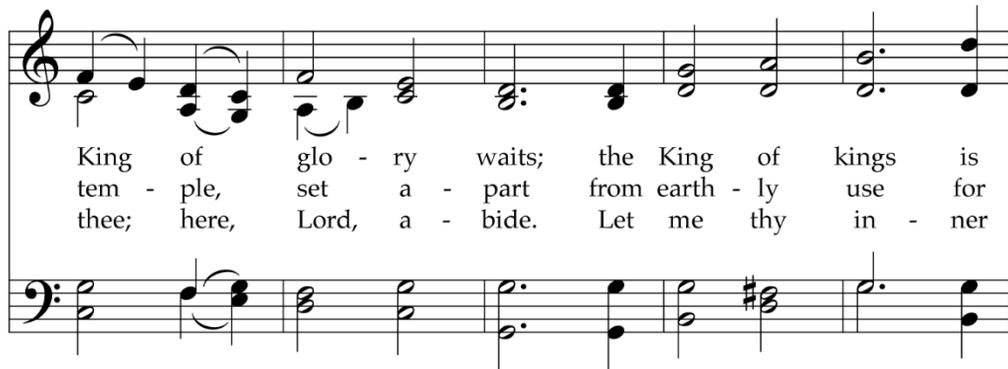
All: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

***OPENING PRAYER**

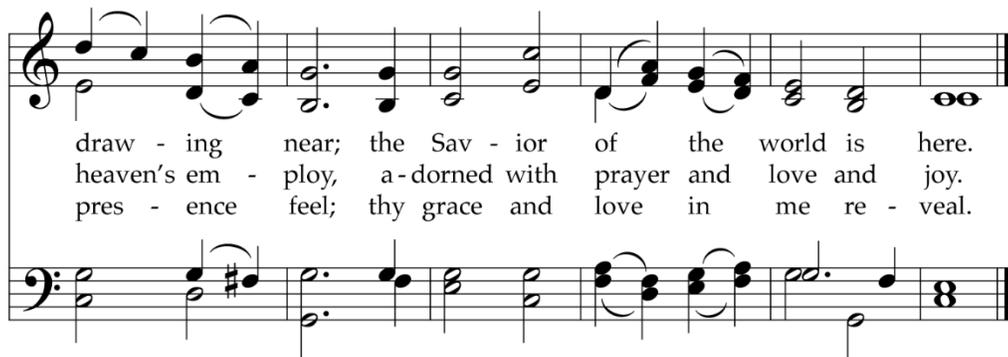
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner



draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

LITANY OF AFFIRMATION

One: Friends, the joy of God is not something we earn or manufacture; it comes as a gift—unexpected, unmerited, and often arriving right in the middle of our weariness. Because God delights in restoring us, we can come honestly, without fear or pretense. Trusting in the mercy that meets us with joy, let us confess our sin together.

All: Gracious God, you promise good news of great joy for all people, yet we confess that we do not always welcome your joy. We cling to our anxieties, protect our routines, and resist the newness you bring. We let cynicism dull our hope, and we forget the wide embrace of your love. Forgive us, Lord. Refresh our spirits. Open our hearts to the joy that comes from you alone— a joy that heals, restores, and sets us free to live with gratitude and generosity. In Christ we pray.

One: Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayers.

(A moment is given for silent confession to God.)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*SHARING THE PEACE

One: Since God has forgiven us, let us also forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share our forgiven joy with one another.

***HYMN OF ASSURANCE**

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el,

his name is called Em - man - u - el.

God with us, re - vealed in us,

his name is called Em - man - u - el.

SHARING THE STORY: The Christmas Cantata

Faithful Harmonizers present *"A Child, A King"*

Marty Parks, OneLicense.net

Narration 1 This is a story of hope and love. This is a story of peace and joy. More than just a legend, this is an account of how God, over 2,000 years ago, invaded the earth at just the right time, in just the right place. This is the saga of a people crying out for a Messiah, a Redeemer. This is Israel's story. This is our story. Only an omniscient God could clearly see our desperate need. Only a compassionate God could provide an answer. And only a loving God would send His Son, a Savior.

"Son of the Father's Love"

Narration 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord chose to make His entrance among us in the most unlikely way. He was born to peasants and first announced to the lowly and the outcast...simple shepherds. In time, inquisitive seekers from a distant country would be compelled to search diligently for Him, led only by a brilliant star. And it was their recognition of Him as King of the Jews that rightly proclaimed His authority and His deity. And so, they came - the neglected and the esteemed, the poor and the wealthy, all to marvel at this incredible sight. They came to behold the mystery of the incarnate God now among them. And just like them, we join their proclamation: Noel! Born is the King!

"The First Noel"

Narration 3 And so, as all of heaven watched in amazement, the only begotten Son of the Father's love stepped into the realm of space and time. Not accompanied by a regal fanfare or a noisy decree; and not with a royal procession in the bustling cacophony of Jerusalem. But quietly, and barely noticed, in the tiny village of Bethlehem.

"Bethlehem Song"
"As Lately We Watched"

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS
INTERCESSIONS AND PETITIONS
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Glory to God Hymnal - Pg. 35
(Please use "debts & debtors".)

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

CALL FOR OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY

Narration 4, 5, 6 How mysterious are the ways of God; how unsearchable His thoughts and how miraculous His plans. But on the night when Christ was born, His arrival was a straight-forward declaration to ancient Israel. And even today it is an unmistakable message to us: "I have seen you, I have heard your cry, and I have come to rescue you, walk among you, to be one of you." A pronouncement such as this - a promise, now fulfilled - was not intended for the religiously satisfied or the spiritually indifferent. Then, and now, it is a message of hope and redemption for the poor, the humble, all those whose hearts are wounded, and whose spirits are broken.

Jesus. To the aimless and confused, He is a Wonderful Counselor. To the weak and powerless, He is a Mighty God. To the orphan, all alone in the world, He is an Everlasting Father. And to those at war with their surroundings - or with themselves - He is a Prince of Peace.

So come, all who are poor and humble. Come joyfully and triumphantly. Come see a simple manger that cradles the King of heaven and the Lord of the earth. Gloriously impossible and beautifully indescribable. Come with celebration and rejoicing! Come, behold and adore him - Jesus, the Son of the Father's love!

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

My Soul Gives Glory to My God 99

Song of Mary

1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God; my
 2 My God has done great things for me: yes,
 3 From age to age to all who fear, such
 4 Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -
 5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -

heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
 ho - ly is God's name. All peo - ple will de -
 mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice
 motes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spir - its
 ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past

low - li - ness in man - y mar - vel - ous ways.
 clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
 far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
 sat - is - fied; the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
 prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Joyful, Joyful to the World"

Please feel free to sit and reflect during the postlude or depart and join us in Fellowship Hall.



Faith Life

December 14, 2025

We hope you'll stay after worship to connect with others and enjoy some fellowship. We'll have beverages and snacks ready for you!



Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will be held after worship this morning, to vote on the Nominating Committee's report and the pastor's Terms of Call. Details are listed in this morning's bulletin insert

Cookies, Cookies, Cookies!!

Who doesn't love cookies? Especially Christmas Cookies!! **Come treat yourself today in Fellowship Hall!** Our Work Campers have been busy baking up a storm, and they can't wait for you to enjoy (and buy!) their delicious creations. Every purchase helps support their next adventure to Lincoln, Illinois—and every bite makes a difference! Thank you for generously supporting this life-changing opportunity to share God's love in real, hands-on ways with those who need hope and help.



DEACONS MEETING

Immediately following this morning's Congregational Meeting, the deacons will meet in the Brick Room. Incoming/new deacons are asked to join as well.



Virtual Advent Prayer Gathering

JOIN US ON ZOOM SUNDAYS AT 8:45-9 FOR A VIRTUAL ADVENT PRAYER GATHERING. WE WILL GATHER, PRAY, READ SCRIPTURE, AND SPEND TIME IN SILENCE FOR THIS SEASON. WE WILL MEET NOV 30 AND DEC 7, 14, AND 21.

<https://bit.ly/FPcadventprayers>



Christmas Joy Offering: THE PERFECT GIFT

Leadership: Past, Present and Future

Prepare the Way - Isaiah 40

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing financial assistance for our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial/ethnic schools and colleges.

The Christmas Joy Offering provides opportunities for deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools, such as Menaul School in New Mexico and Stillman College in Alabama.

In 2024 \$800,000 was used to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian-related racial/ethnic schools and colleges.

The **Christmas Joy Offering** will be received and dedicated on **December 21, 2025**.

Faith Presbyterian Church received **\$3,315.00** in 2024 for the **Christmas Joy Offering**.

We hope you will prayerfully consider supporting this important ministry.



Free Luminaria

Pick up one or more while supplies last! You'll find them on a table in the narthex—please help yourself.

Faith Presbyterian Church

3002 N. Second Street, PO Box 507 Emmaus, PA 18048
610-967-5600 office@faithchurchemmaus.org
www.faithchurchemmaus.org

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Closed Fridays



Worship Assistants Needed



Helping during worship is easy, meaningful, and makes a real difference! Everything is prepared in advance for you—we provide clear step-by-step instructions and all the materials you'll need.

- Christmas Eve, December 28,
- Every Sunday in January

☞ Be part of creating a meaningful worship experience. Sign up on the whiteboard in the narthex or contact Sally Heimbach.

The Nursery Needs You!



Our youngest members are a treasured part of our church family—and we need caring volunteers to help care for them during worship. If you don't yet have your clearances, don't worry—we'll guide you through the process!

- Every Sunday in January

☞ Sign up today by adding your name to the whiteboard in the narthex or by contacting Sally Heimbach. Your presence makes a difference!

Fellowship Hosts Needed



Fellowship time after worship is one of the best ways we grow together as a church family. Hosting is simple—clear instructions are provided—and your warm hospitality blesses everyone who gathers!

- December 21, Every Sunday in January

☞ Sign up on the whiteboard in the narthex or contact Sally Heimbach to bless our church family with your hospitality.

Ushers/Greeters Needed



A warm welcome makes Sunday worship extra special. Our ushers help everything run smoothly by greeting worshipers, sharing materials, and offering a friendly smile. It's easy to do—and we provide all the reminders and instructions you need!

Thank you to all who have volunteered to usher.

December 21, 24 (5 p.m.)

☞ Sign up on the table in the narthex or speak with Anne Laubach for more details. Your welcome matters!



December 21 - "Make the Nations Prove: Peaceful Joy"
Isaiah 7:10-16

December 24 - 5:00 pm, Family Christmas Eve service
7:30 pm, "The Lord is Come: Incarnate Joy!"

December 28 - Hymn Sing



SUNDAY
Morning
TOGETHER

SCHEDULE

TODAY—Congregational meeting, Work Camp cookie sale, Fellowship, Children's music

Dec. 21—Christmas songs, Fellowship, Children's music

Dec. 28—Fellowship

Jan. 4—Potluck (Ministry to the Congregation), Pizza

Jan. 11—Listening Circle on Leadership, Fellowship, Children's music

Jan. 18 —Decorate Daybreak snack bags, Fellowship

Jan. 25—Annual Meeting, Fellowship, Children's music

Feb. 1—Potluck (Pam & Phil Martin), Taco bar

Feb. 8 —Fill Daybreak snack bag, Fellowship, Children's music

Feb. 15—Talent Show, Fellowship

Feb. 22—Lenten Bible Study, Fellowship, Children's Music



Teachers' Closet

Faith Church's Teachers' Closet offers local educators a free and welcoming place to gather the classroom supplies they need—items they would often otherwise purchase out of their own pockets. Our local teachers, especially those working in elementary and middle schools, have expressed deep gratitude for this support.

- The Teachers' Closet is open on the **1st Saturday from 10-11:30 am** and the **3rd Wednesday from 3:30-5:00 pm**.
- The list of remaining dates for the 2025-26 year is listed in the Winter issue of The Faith Flyer.
- There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers on the table in the narthex.
- There is an Amazon wish list with items needed for the Teacher's Closet. Scan this code or go to <https://bit.ly/46Pjb7L>



Scan me



Stewardship Update

There's still time to make your pledge! Though we'll continue to accept pledges through year's end, early responses would be greatly appreciated as we prepare the church budget. You'll find pledge cards in the pews, or you can pledge online through our website.

As of today, the pledge amount is **\$229,846**.

Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who pitched in to make last weekend's Craft Fair such a wonderful success! From setting up to welcoming guests, from sharing your talents to lending a helping hand wherever it was needed—you all made it possible. It's truly inspiring to see what we can do when we work together as a church family, and your dedication and generosity brought so much joy to everyone who attended. We couldn't have done it without you!

Have Your Paid Your Per Capita?

The per capita payment has portions sent to the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly to help pay for the operating expenses of those organizations.

As of today, we have received **\$4,298** toward our yearly total amount due of \$9,450. The apportionment per member is \$50 for 2025. You can pay your per capita online, or by check made payable to Faith Presbyterian Church. **Have you paid yours?**

2026 Church Directory

Preparations are in full swing for next year's directory. Please locate the proof copy in the green binder on a table in the narthex and verify your information. Feel free to update, correct, or add any necessary info or details.



Conversations

Conversations is a gathering of women that meets on the second Thursday of the month, and all are welcome!

If you have any questions, please speak with Anne Laubach or Donna Call. Thank you!



221 Cans!



Well Done!

Wrapping Up Your 2025 Giving

To make sure your generous giving is counted on your **2025 giving statement**, please ensure we **receive** your donation no later than **Sunday, January 4**. Donations that arrive after January 4th—even if they have a 2025 date on them—will need to be recorded on your **2026** statement. Thank you so much for your continued partnership and support of Faith Presbyterian Church!



Two Weeks of Faith

This calendar is prepared a few days ahead of distribution.
Please see the church [website](#) for the most up-to-date information.



Key
BR Brick Room
FH Fellowship Hall
MR Music Room
P Parlor
PL Parking Lot
S Sanctuary
Z Zoom

This Week

Sunday, December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service
11:00 a.m. - Congregational Meeting (S)
11:00 a.m. - Work Camp Cookie Sale (FH)
11:15 a.m. - Deacon Meeting (immediately following
the congregational meeting) (BR)
5:00 p.m. - Youth Group

Monday, December 15

Tuesday, December 16

9:00 a.m. - Growing with Grace Academy (3)

Wednesday, December 17

8:00 a.m. - Rotary Food Program (FH)
9:00 a.m. - Growing with Grace Academy (3)
9:30 a.m. - Women of Faith (BR)
Noon - WOW (P)
5:30 p.m. - Faithful Ringers (MR)
7:00 p.m. - Faithful Harmonizers (S)

Thursday, December 18

9:00 a.m. - Growing with Grace Academy (3)
7:00 p.m. - Narcotics Anonymous (FH)

Friday, December 19 - Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 20

9:00 a.m. - Zumba (FH)

Next Week

Sunday, December 21- Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service: Christmas Joy Offering
11:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Together
5:00 p.m. - Youth Group

Monday, December 22

Tuesday, December 23

9:00 a.m. - Growing with Grace Academy (3)

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

8:00 a.m. - Rotary Food Program (FH)
5:00 p.m. - Family service
7:30 p.m. - Candlelight service
11:30 p.m. - Outdoor Worship (Emmaus Triangle)

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas

Church Office Closed Pastor on Vacation thru Jan. 4

7:00 p.m. - Narcotics Anonymous (FH)

Friday, December 26 - Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 27

9:00 a.m. - Zumba (FH)

WE ARE INVITING YOU TO:

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 pm - Traditional Family Service

7:30 pm - Candlelight Service

11:30 pm - Outdoor Service @
the Emmaus Triangle



Snow Cancellation Policy

If snow falls enough to make you wonder if worship will be held, check WFMZ for cancellation information:
(<https://www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter/>).



Dec. 25..... Christmas
Dec. 25-Jan 4..... Pastor's vacation
Dec. 31..... Annual Report Submissions Due
Jan. 25..... Annual Congregational Meeting
Feb. 15..... Talent Show
Mar. 29..... Easter Egg Hunt
Apr. 5..... Easter
Apr. 19..... Clean-Up Day

Nominating Committee Nominations

Sally Heimbach-Elder chair

Doug Boyd- Deacon representative

Cathy Weise- Class of 2025

Julie DePhillips- Class of 2025

Linda Kennington – Class of 2026

Elder nominations

Elder Class of 2028- Anne Greenwood (1st term)

Elder Class of 2028 – **vacancy**

Deacon nominations

Deacon Class of 2026- Carolyn Benner (1st term)

Deacon Class of 2028- Anne Laubach (2nd term)

Deacon Class of 2028 – Elaine Smits (1st term)

Deacon Class of 2028- Anita Krause (1st term)

Nominating Committee nominations

Nominating Class of 2026 – Joe Smits (1st term)

Nominating Class of 2027 – Cathy Wiese (2nd term)

Nominating Class of 2027 – **vacancy**

2026 Pastor Terms of Call

Pastor:	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
Pastor- Gross Salary	\$ 57,778	\$57,778
Housing Allowance	\$ 20,383	\$20,383
Social Security Offset	\$ 5,977	\$5,979
Pastor Travel & Other (FPC)	\$ 1,000	\$1,000
Study Leave & Books	\$ 1,200	\$2,000
Pension/Health	\$ 30,471	\$33,609
Professional Expenses	\$ 750	\$750
Pastor - Subtotal	\$ 117,559	\$ 121,500
Vacation	5 Weeks	5 Weeks
FPC Salary & Housing Allowance Increase		0%
Lehigh Presbytery Recommendation		3%
Social Security 2026 COLA		2.80%
Corporate Forecast 2026 Pay Increases		3.5%

2026 Proposed Budget Summary

	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
Income	\$285,847	\$273,356
Expenses	\$295,936	\$301,400



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



LYNN BLEDSOE



The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

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WAYS TO GIVE



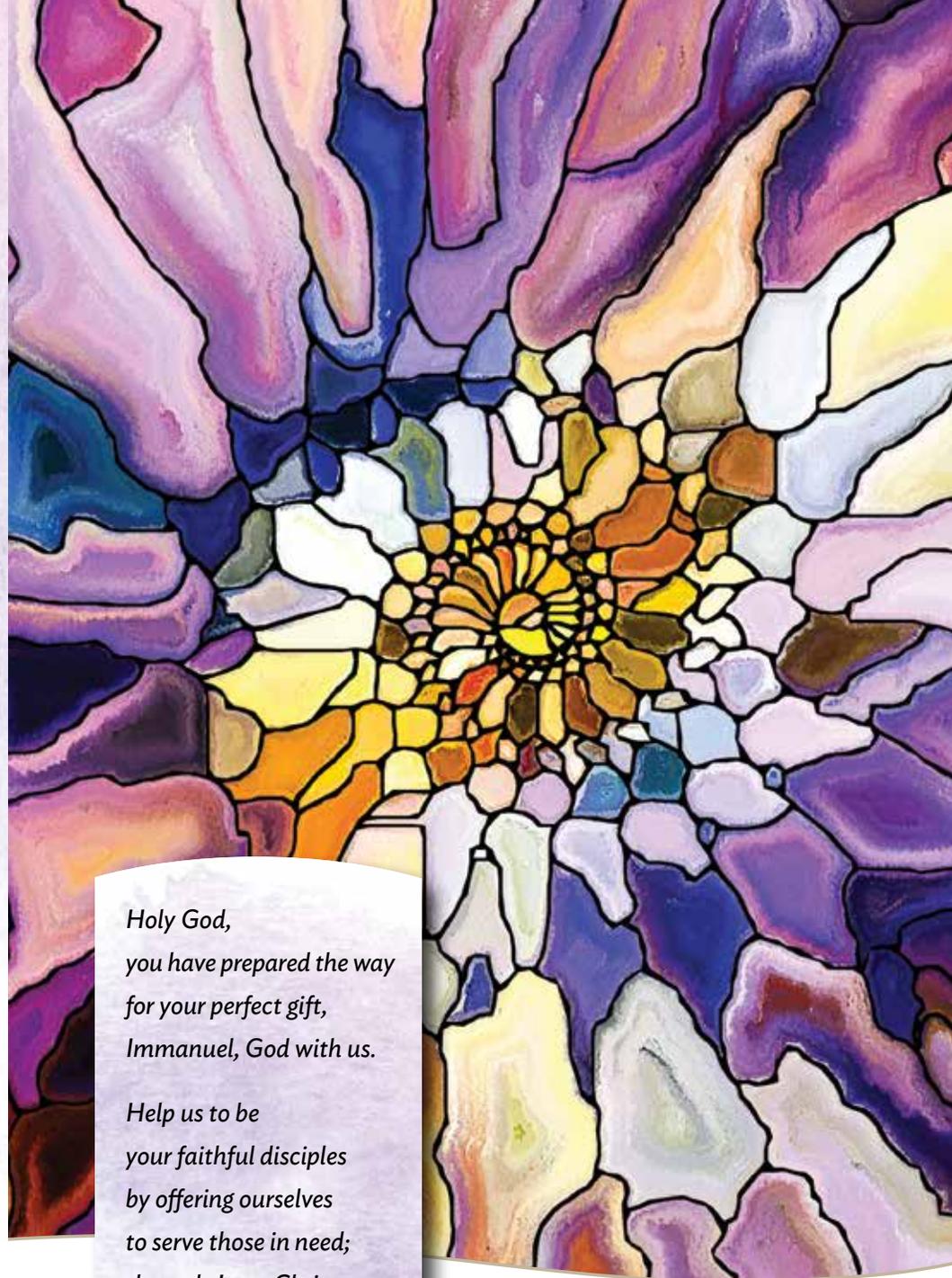
Through your congregation



Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Text **CHRISTMASJOY** to 91999 to give or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy



*Holy God,
you have prepared the way
for your perfect gift,
Immanuel, God with us.*

*Help us to be
your faithful disciples
by offering ourselves
to serve those in need;
through Jesus Christ,
your Word made flesh.*

Amen.



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Through the Christmas Joy Offering,
we reflect God's perfect gift to us.

50% of our gifts smooth the path for current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need.

Born and raised a Presbyterian in South Korea, Rev. Jinho Kim's life was changed when he met a missionary in the 1970s whose ministry focused on campus and youth evangelism with Spirit-filled worship and discipleship training. A few years later, his youth group was going to sing Christmas carols to marginalized unwed mothers. He was inspired "by faith," to create a melody for the verse from Psalm 117, "The steadfast love of the Lord is great toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever," which is still being sung a generation later. After retirement, having earned only a modest income throughout his years of service, Jinho felt the Psalmist's love upon receiving help through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, made possible by gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering.



"The Lord said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive. I thank all my brothers and sisters in the PC(USA), whose generosity through the Christmas Joy Offering made the gifts I now receive possible.'"

—Rev. Jinho Kim

50% of your gifts prepare students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

High school senior Søren Briggs is the youngest ruling elder to be ordained at First Presbyterian Church in his hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico. His love for both his home church and the Presbyterian-related Menaul School, supported by gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, fuels his passion. Building on the school's historic emphasis on ministry as a potential career path, a new class, titled "Called to Serve," will help students appreciate the Reformed understanding of "vocation" as they explore together how their faith can be lived out in everyday life. Søren sees the class as helping him continue to cultivate good values: how to live your life as a kind person and how to practice your faith.



"To be able to motivate young people into the church through schools like Menaul is why people should give to the Christmas Joy Offering."
—Søren Briggs

**PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY...
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**

