

Order for the Public Worship of God

The Fourteenth Day of December, Two Thousand and Eight

Third Sunday in Advent

8:15 & 10:50 A.M. • The Sanctuary

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please assume a quiet and respectful attitude of worship.
Please turn off your cell phone.*

ORGAN PRELUDE: “Of The Father’s Love Begotten” . . . settings by Held and Peeters

Lenora Morrow, Organist

A WORD ON WORSHIP *After Darkness, Light* Sanders L. Willson

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Bill & Pat Craddock (8:15)
Tommie Simpson, Barbara Ruff, Tom Hunt (10:50)

CHORAL INTROIT: “Come to My Heart, Jesus” Matthews

Thou dost reign on high with a kingly crown, yet Thou camest to earth for me,
And in Bethlehem’s home was there found no room for Thy holy nativity:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee.

*Westminster Singers (8:15), The Chancel Choir (10:50)
J.M. Hodges, Director of Music*

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 24:7-10 Wesley H. Simmons

Lift up your heads, O you gates;

**be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is this King of glory?

**The Lord strong and mighty,
the Lord mighty in battle.**

Lift up your heads, O you gates;

**Lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

Who is he, this King of glory?

**The Lord Almighty—
He is the King of glory.**

✦HYMN OF ADVENT No. 198: “Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates” TRURO

✦PRAYER OF ADORATION

PROPHETIC LESSON Malachi 3:1-5, 4:1-6
(page 950 in pew Bible)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, Who in Your infinite holiness and justice
has promised to come to judge all the earth,
we confess that we, Your people, deserve Your wrath and displeasure,
for we have broken Your commandments and grieved Your Spirit.
We are wrong and are without excuse.
Please forgive us,
and, by Your mercy, renew us,
that we may turn our hearts to the things that please You,
and thereby honor and glorify Your Name,
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

✦HYMN OF PRAISE CANONBURY

**Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the light;
To make us, in the realms divine, like Thine own angels ‘round the throne.**

**All this for us Thy love hath done; by this to Thee our love is won:
For this we tune our cheerful lays, and shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.**

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “I Wonder as I Wander” arr. Niles and Horton

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die,
For poor on’ry people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, ‘twas in a cow’s stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God’s heaven a star’s light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God’s angels in heav’n to sing,
He surely could have it, ‘cause He was the King.

Soloist: Laura Young

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE GREENSLEEVES

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; come peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.**

✦PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION Jonathan R. Becker

✦GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15) Andrew P. Wells

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND 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.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1:52-80
(page 1013 in pew Bible)

All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;

**The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the Word of our God stands forever. Amen.** *(Isaiah 40:6b, 8)*

SERMON

Benedictus

Sanders L. Willson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦HYMN OF HOPE CAROL

**O Christ, our hope, our heart’s desire, redemption’s only spring!
Creator of the world art Thou, its Savior and its King.
How vast the mercy and the love which laid our sins on Thee,
And led Thee to a cruel death, to set Thy people free.**

**But now the bands of death are burst, the ransom has been paid;
And Thou art on Thy Father’s throne, in glorious robes arrayed.
O Christ, be Thou our lasting joy, our ever great reward!
Our only glory may it be to glory in the Lord.**

✦BENEDICTION

✦CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” arr. J.M. Cope

✦Indicates congregation standing *CCLI License #252778*

We consider it a privilege to have our children in worship with us. If your small children become restless and vocal, we invite you to the children’s room especially designed for them at the rear of the Sanctuary. They are also welcome in the nursery. Older children should also be encouraged to come to church prepared to stay in their pew throughout the service.

One of our pastors will be available after the service to pray for you or to offer helpful direction regarding your spiritual life. He will be in the Gathering Room, which is the first room on your left as you exit the southwest door of the Sanctuary (closest to the pulpit). You may also send your confidential email to pastor@2pc.org with questions about your spiritual life.

**Festival
of CAROLS** *Tonight at 6 p.m.
in the Sanctuary*

Celebrate the Advent season in song this evening at the annual Festival of Carols. The Chancel Choir and Orchestra will present family favorites old and new, with plenty of opportunities to sing along. A reception will follow in the Gathering Area outside The Bookmark bookstore and Second Cup coffee shop. We hope you’ll join us!

Weekly Focus on Mission Partners

World Missions: Bassem and Kirsi live and work in Tunisia. They praise the Lord that the number of people whom they are discipling has increased from 4 to 12! In January 2009, they will open a satellite campus of the Augustine Theological Institute, and they are hoping to begin a pre-school ministry in July 2009. Bassem and Kirsi pray that they will be able to travel to Portland, Oregon in April and May, 2009 in order to attend classes toward earning a Master’s degree in Christian communication.

MissionUSA: Please pray that God will save and deliver the many homeless men and women who seek help at the Memphis Union Mission’s Emergency Shelter, and that the Lord will bring total transformation to the men, women and families enrolled in their long-term recovery programs. Pray for the staff of pastors and counselors, that they will be encouraged and that they will have great effectiveness when ministering to the needy. Pray that He will do the same for the many volunteers who preach, teach and minister to the MUM clients. Pray that the ministry’s needs will be met throughout the year.

December Flowers

The rosebud in the Chancel of the Sanctuary today is placed in honor of the birth of: Mary McDaniel Brubaker, born November 19, 2008, daughter of La and Chris Brubaker.

The flowers in the Sanctuary for the month of December are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of: *Ann Whitten Cox* by her sons and her grandchildren; *Jean Fountain Leary* by her husband James and daughters Joan and Jennie; *Mabel L., Forrest P., and James W. Morgan* by Forrest and Joan Morgan; *Lenelle Molloy Leary* by her husband James; *Mr. and Mrs. William D. Nicholson* by their children and grandchildren; *Lillian and Thomas Patton* by their daughters, Susan Crawford and Elizabeth Holmes and their grandchildren, who have provided the Christmas wreaths on the exterior doors of the church buildings during the Advent season; *Andrew Lundy Werkhoven* by Anna Leita and Jim Werkhoven. **And in honor of:** *Bernice Flinn* by her sons George, Fred, Carl and their families.



Join us for PJ Story Night December 22!

6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Break out your footie pjs and favorite blankie and come to enjoy a special message from Pastor Sandy, along with stories, songs, cookies and milk. As a way of sharing Christmas with others, please bring canned goods for families at the Neighborhood Christian Center.



THE FAMILIES OF SECOND
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM
IN CELEBRATION OF
THE ADVENT SEASON.

DECEMBER 21

8:15 & 10:50 a.m. Services, Sanctuary
Nine Lessons and Carols, with orchestra

6:00 p.m. Worship Service, Fellowship Hall
Led by Student Ministries

DECEMBER 24

4:00 p.m. Family Service, Sanctuary
Featuring Christmas video and special
children's message

5:30 & 8:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion
Services with the Chancel Choir, Sanctuary

11:00 p.m. Midnight Christmas Communion
with the Westminster Singers, Sanctuary

Christmas Flower Order Form

I/We wish to contribute \$ _____ to the Flower Ministry of Second Presbyterian Church for use in decorating the church for the Christmas season in memory or honor of loved ones. Please acknowledge the gift (omitting the amount) in the bulletin on Sunday, December 21 as follows:

Please check **ONLY** one: In Memory of In Honor of In Gratitude for

Name: _____

Given by: _____

Telephone number of donor: _____

December 15, 2008 is the deadline for the inclusion of names in the bulletin on December 21, 2008. Please return this form with your check made out to Second Presbyterian Church and send to 4055 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38111. Clearly designate the gift for the "Flower Ministry."

Announcements

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Session has called a congregational meeting today following the 8:15 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. worship services to elect officers to begin service in January 2009 on Diaconate and Session. Those being elected have previously been nominated by the congregation and have completed a period of training and examination.

CARING MINISTRY FUND: For many years the Caring Ministry has provided financial assistance to our Second Presbyterian members and to those in our Memphis community. Today you have an opportunity to contribute to this fund. There is a Caring Ministry Fund envelope in the pew rack.

CHURCH DIRECTORY PICTURES: Annually, we update our "family portrait" by producing a supplement to our Membership Directory. If you are a new member of Second Presbyterian Church, have not previously participated, or would just like to update your picture in the directory, sign up today in the A connector hallway. Pictures will be taken January 8, 16, and 17, 2009. Every participating family will receive a free 8x10 and a Membership Directory. If you have any questions, contact Cindy Spann at cspann@2pc.org or 454-0034.

PRAYING IN CONCERT & IN COLOR: This unique women's prayer time will meet on Tuesday, December 16. Praying in Concert and in Color is a meaningful way of lifting our prayers in small groups with our "song" to pray for revival and personal needs. We spend time sharing and then a quiet meditation time praying privately "in color" and finish with small groups praying for various topics. Join us in the Salmon Room from 11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Call Mary Lawrence Allen at 756-9642 for information. The book *Praying In Color* by Sybil McBeth is in The Growing Place library and The Bookmark bookstore.

ATTENTION WOMEN OF ALL AGES: Please mark your calendars for two very important events. Redemption, a multicultural city-wide Unity Event, March 27-28, 2009, and Women's Retreat at Victory Ranch, April 24-26, 2009. More information to come on both events in January 2009.

HELP CROSSROADS SUPPORT LA MISION'S YOUTH CAMP: Crossroads will wrap Christmas gifts in the gathering area outside Second Cup coffee shop and The Bookmark bookstore Saturday, December 20, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Please bring your gifts already boxed, and we will be happy to wrap as many gifts as you bring. Proceeds will benefit the La Mision Youth Camp in January. La Mision is our partner church in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Crossroads has been on a short-term trip to La Mision for the past three consecutive years and has built relationships with many of the youth who will be helped in this effort. Thank you for your support!

GIVE THE GIFT OF HEALTH: This Christmas, give your family and friends a gift that is priceless. Choose to sponsor a loved one in their walk toward better health by giving them a membership to the Activities Building. You may join for three, six, nine or twelve months. Memberships also include the use of the 1/12 mile rubberized walking track and our well-equipped fitness room. For more information or to sign-up to sponsor another person or persons, please call Dale Brady, Life-Time Fitness and Wellness Director (454-0034) or come by the Activities Building.

JUNIOR HIGH: Three Degrees Small Groups resume January 7. Three Degrees resumes January 11.

SENIOR HIGH: True North resumes January 7. True North Small Groups resume January 11. Check out www.2pcyouth.org for more information!

KAIROS COLLEGE MINISTRY: **There are a number of activities for college students during the Christmas holidays: Christmas Party** at the home of Andy Turnage December 19, at 8 p.m. Remember to bring a creative and fun ornament for the ornament exchange at the party! **Christmas Caroling** to older 2PC folks for the afternoon on Saturday, December 20. Meet in the west parking lot of the church at 12:30 p.m. (having already eaten lunch). **Movie Night** at the home of Wes and Nancy Simmons, Sunday, December 28, at 8 p.m. **New Year's Eve Dinner** at the home of John and Antoinette Good on December 31, at 6 p.m. **Kairos College Class:** Join us Sunday mornings at 9:45 for music, fellowship, and teaching. We meet upstairs in the Activities Building.