

SUN  
**December 22**  
2024

**Welcome** TO WORSHIP



**Claiming A New  
Story in Advent:**

HOW GOD REORIENTS OUR LIVES

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
*Children's Christmas Service*



**Second**  
PRESBYTERIAN LITTLE ROCK

The Congregation will speak aloud the **bold print readings**.

✦ *Please rise in body or spirit*

## GATHERING

*Worship begins with God. God takes the initiative and calls the Church into being.  
In the name of Christ, we heed God's call and gather as the community of faith.*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

#### PRELUDE

*My Christmas Tree*

Mark Hayes

#### ✦ CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*

Why do we drag a tree into our house for Christmas?

**The evergreen reminds us that our God is a living God and will not forsake us.**

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. *(Isaiah 41:10)*

Why do we take the light from inside our house and put it on the outside of our house?

**The light reminds us of the light of Christ shining in the darkness.**

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life. *(John 8:12)*

Why do we light purple candles in a green wreath?

**The living eternal God, creator of all living things, came to live with us in times of darkness.**

**This is the good news of Jesus.**

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but in order that the world might be saved through him. *(John 3:17)*

What is the meaning of this?

Why am I here?

**Why are we here? We are here to worship God, together.**

#### ✦ HYMN 88

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

Verse 6- June Cross, cantor

Refrain - congregation

#### ✦ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*The congregation is invited to participate in the motions presented by the readers.  
As each candle is lit, we respond together what is written in bold.*

Advent means "coming..."

We light the candle of Hope.

As we look at this light, we celebrate the hope we find in Jesus Christ.

**Hope is like a light shining in the darkness.**

We light the candle of Peace.

As we look at this light, we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

**Peace is like a light shining in the darkness.**

We light the candle of Joy.  
As we look at this light, we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.  
**Joy is like a light shining in the darkness.**

Love. The Love of God gives us everything...  
We light the candle of Love.  
As we look at this light we celebrate the love we find in Jesus Christ.  
**Love is like a light shining in the darkness.**

Thank you God for the joy you give us.  
We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true,  
and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us.  
Help us today, and every day to worship you, to hear your word,  
and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other.  
We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

✦ **HYMN**

*The Holly and The Ivy*

TRADITIONAL

Verse 1: Children **only**  
Robert Lindsey, soloist

The holly and the ivy  
when they are both full grown,  
of all the trees that are in the wood  
the holly bears the crown.

**Refrain:**

The rising of the sun  
and the running of the deer,  
the playing of the merry organ,  
sweet singing in the choir.

Verse 2: Congregation

The holly bears a blossom,  
white as the lily flower,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,  
to be our sweet Saviour. **[Refrain]**

Verse 4: Congregation

The holly bears a prickly,  
as sharp as any thorn,  
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ  
on Christmas day in the morn. **[Refrain]**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (*Responsive*)

I don't get it! Why can't I WEAR what I want?  
Why can't I DO as I want?  
Why can't I HAVE what I want?  
Why did I get socks for Christmas?

**I don't get it!**

God's grace is enough for all our questions, "Why?"  
Let us go to God with our questions,  
trusting that God will guide us to faith beyond understanding.  
Join in our prayer of confession.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*)

**Light of the World, help us to see where you are guiding us.  
When the questions are many, and the answers are few,  
cause your light to shine out of darkness in the advent of Jesus.  
We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways.  
We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others,  
and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace.  
We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us,  
that our hearts be stirred to glorify the nativity with acts of compassion and service.  
Amen.** (*Time for silent confession.*)

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer -  
 cy up - on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING OF THE PEACE** *(Responsive)*

Do not be afraid. The God who chose to draw near to us in our most vulnerable, the child of the most high, born in Bethlehem, joins us in our weakness and our questions to show us the way. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven**

Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us show one another the sign of Christ’s peace.

*You are invited to stand and greet one another with a handshake, fist-bump, hug, or wave — all of which remind us that Christ’s peace is for each of us.*

**WORD**

*Gathered in God’s name, we now open ourselves to God’s life-giving Word.*

**GOSPEL READING**

*Luke 1:46-55*

NT p. 57

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

✦ **HYMN 92**

*While We Are Waiting Come*

WAITING

**SERMON**

*Atypical Christmas*

Doug Barr

*Following the sermon, there will be a time for meditation to consider what God might be saying to you after hearing God’s word read and proclaimed.*

**ANTHEM**

*Away in a Manger*  
Junior Artist Ministry (JAM) Children

William J. Kirkpatrick  
James Ramsey Murray

**EUCCHARIST**

*The proclamation of God’s Word invites responses of faith.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.**

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

*Our response to God’s love and grace is one of gratitude for what is and hope for what will be. In this time of Offering, our gratitude is a tangible response back to God with our gifts and resources. We invite you to give generously to the Second Pres offering as it helps us do the ministries God’s called us to enact.*

## ✦ DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

OLD HUNDREDTH

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SENDING

*The God who calls us together in worship now sends us out in service.*

## INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*The Pastors and Session of Second Pres invite anyone interested in knowing more about this church, especially those interested in becoming members of Second Pres, to come forward after the Benediction to learn more about this community of faith, and, if ready, to join the church.*

## ✦ HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

## ✦ BENEDICTION

## ✦ POSTLUDE

*Rise Up Shepherd and Follow*  
Junior Artist Ministry (JAM) Children

Traditional

*There's a star in the East on Christmas morn, Rise up, shepherd and follow!  
It'll lead to the place where the Savior's born, Rise up, shepherd and follow!  
Rise, shepherd, and follow.*

## Advent Preaching Series December 1 2024-January 5 2025

*Claiming A New Story in Advent: How God Reorients Our Lives*

God's Advent and Christmas stories reorient our lives around the truth that God wishes to be with us and to save us. The scriptures for Advent and Christmas will reveal how God prepares God's people to reorient their lives to welcome a child that will further reorient our lives. Our call this Advent and Christmas Season is to claim a different story and we've got a preaching series that will offer guidance on how best to claim God's story – but beware, it'll completely change your life!

**Dec. 1: Luke 21: 25-36** *This Story Will Change Everything* – Rev. Ben

**Dec. 8: Luke 3:1-6** *The Localness of God's Transformative Story* – Rev. Ben

**Dec. 15: Luke 3:7-18** *A Pencil in the Hand of God* (Big Music Sunday) – Rev. Ben

**Dec. 22: Luke 1: 39-56** *Why? The Question of Advent* – Children and Doug Barr Leading

**Dec. 24: Luke 2:1-20** *Expectations Meet Reality* – Rev. Ben

**Dec. 29: Luke 2:41-52** *They All Grow Up, Even Jesus* – Rev. Alisa (11:00am service only)

**Jan. 5: Matthew 2:1-12** *Showing Up for God* – Rev. Ben

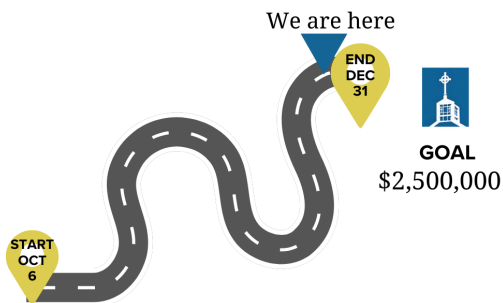
## Second Spotlight

Introducing Second Spotlight—our new announcement sheet at Second Presbyterian! It highlights key upcoming events and activities to keep you informed. Pick up a copy in the narthex or at the back of the sanctuary, or scan the QR code for the digital version!



# Ways to Get Involved

## A Ministry Only Christ Could Build



We're almost to the end of the road: Just a few more pledges will help fund our 2025 ministries! We are grateful to God for all those who have given and invite those who haven't to complete our Estimate of Giving card. To do this you may use a card from the pew rack and put in the offering plate, mail to the church office, or use the QR code.



## Sunday School and Fall Programming

**All Sunday School classes meet at 9:45 a.m.** To access the Fall Brochure with all class options and descriptions, scan the QR code or check out the link at [secondpreslr.org](http://secondpreslr.org).



## All Hands Say Hello: Usher and Greeter Sign Up

We all have hands. Hands can wave. Hands can shake other hands. Hands can hand out bulletins...or pass offering plates, making for a hospitable worship experience for all. *All Hands Say Hello!* Use the QR code for the Usher and Greeter Sign Up!



*Celebrate Christmas Eve*  
AT SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**FAMILY SERVICE 3:30 PM**  
**CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION SERVICES**  
**5:30 & 7:30 PM**

5:30 PM LIVESTREAMED AT  
[WWW.SECONDPRESLR.ORG](http://WWW.SECONDPRESLR.ORG)

600 PLEASANT VALLEY DR.  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72227

## New to Second Pres?

If you are a guest, we are grateful you have joined us in worship and we hope you are well taken care of and feel at home. Feel free to stop by the Welcome Center in the narthex or say hello to a staff member or greeter. Check out the bulletin insert and *Second Spotlight* for more on Second Pres and things that may be of interest to you. We're glad you're here.

**Christmas Eve  
Special Offering**

Pastors' Discretionary Fund  
December 24, 2024

# Statement of Welcome & Inclusiveness

As one part of the church of Jesus Christ, we are inspired and guided by Christ’s vision of God’s realm—one that includes all who seek to love God and neighbor. Second Presbyterian Church welcomes all people.

As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we invite those who respond in trust and obedience to God’s grace in Jesus Christ to become part of the membership and ministry of the church. We would be pleased to have you join us in our journey of faith, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic or family status, ethnic background, mental or physical abilities.

## Giving to Second Pres

Your generosity is a meaningful expression of your faith in God and your commitment to Christ’s work in the world. Contributions can be made to the Annual Budget, Memorial Gifts and the Birthday Fund.



### OFFERING PLATE

You may place your offering in the offering plate



### BY MAIL

Church Office, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72227



### ONLINE

Scan the QR Code or visit [secondpreslr.org/give](http://secondpreslr.org/give)

# Calendar for the Week

## SUN DEC 22

*Children’s Christmas Service*

8:30 & 11:00am Worship

9:45am Sunday School

4:30pm Middle School SPY

6:00pm Family Ministry Christmas Party *offsite*

6:00pm High School SPY

6:00pm SPY Dinner

## MON DEC 23

6:00pm Cub Scout Meeting YB

7:00pm Boy Scout Meeting YB

7:00pm Volleyball

## TUES DEC 24

*Christmas Eve*

7:00am Men’s Group Ministry SH

3:30pm Christmas Eve Family Service

5:30 & 7:30pm Christmas Eve Candelight and Communion Services

## WED DEC 25

*Christmas Day*

Church office closed

## THURS DEC 26

Church office closed

## SUN DEC 29

11:00am Worship *only*

9:45am Sunday School

# Dec and Jan Usher Captains

12/22 (8:30) David Eifling (11:00) Judy Johnson

12/29 (11:00) Judy Johnson

1/5 (8:30) Dan Voth (11:00) Freddie Jolley

1/12 (8:30) Dan Voth (11:00) Ann Owen

1/19 (8:30) Diane Karlson (11:00) Ann Owen

1/26 (8:30) (11:00) Cayce Jennings

# Worship Leaders

Doug Barr, Director of Children and Families Ministry

Rev. Dr. Benjamin E.E. Kane

Junior Artist Ministry (JAM) Children

Melanie Hanna Ezell, Interim Assistant Director of Music

Ben Abraham, Maggie Kirchner and Ethan Ezell,

Junior Artist Ministry Leaders

Laura Dunnagan, accompanist

Adam Savacool, organist

Clint Brockway, interpreter

Elders of the Day: (8:30) Steve Dunnagan

(11:00) Mary Helen Henry

# Junior Artist Ministry (JAM)

Hudson Barr

Samuel Rule

Thomas Rule

June Cross

Rosie Hankins

Abby Hudson

Olivia Imhoff

Ellie Imhoff

Mary Jennings

Will Jennings

Phoebe Kane

Robert Lindsey

Peyton McMillan

Grace Moldoveanu

Jack Moldoveanu

Jon Mainard O’Connell

Isaac Poot May

Liam Poot May

Claire Reasbeck

Helen Reasbeck

Knox Wright

Rosalie Yancey

# Church Officers

## Session

**Moderator: Rev. Dr. Ben Kane**

**Clerk: Philip Shell**

**Assistant Clerk: George Keck**

**Treasurer: Kenneth Rich**

### **Class of 2025**

Alicia Byrd  
Cotten Cunningham  
Kate Franks  
George Keck  
Vernon Markham

### **Class of 2026**

Mary Helen Henry  
Leslie McCormack  
Ruth Shepherd  
Alan Solomon  
Justin Villines

### **Class of 2027**

Laura Connor  
Elaine Eubank  
Steve Dunnagan  
Edwin Hankins  
Allison Pickell

### **Youth Elders**

Ezra Voth  
Beckett Wright

### **Diaconate**

**Moderator: Lauren Gann**

**Vice Moderator: Amy Lloyd**

### **Class of 2025**

Lauren Gann  
Freddie Jolley  
Diane Karlson  
Johanna Lewis  
Jo Paulus  
Ashton Pickell  
Scott Polk  
Margo Shoffner  
Becky Talmadge  
Dan Voth  
Galen Wenger  
Bradley Wright

### **Class of 2026**

Matt Christenson  
Cindy Downs  
David Eifling  
Judy Johnson  
Amy Lloyd  
Ann Owen  
Emma Ryall  
Matthew Smith  
L.B. Vaught  
Zachary Ward

### **Class of 2027**

Doug Barton  
Ken Cook  
Cayce Jennings  
Matt Lindsey  
Jane Mages  
Lindsey Taylor  
Amara Yancey