

SUN
December 29
2024

Welcome TO WORSHIP



**Claiming A New
Story in Advent:**

HOW GOD REORIENTS OUR LIVES

First Sunday of Christmas



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

† CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

All the shining stars praise you, O God, for you commanded and they were created.

Praise the Lord from the earth, old and young together!

Let everyone praise the name of the Lord, for your glory is above earth and heaven.

Let us worship God!

Let us worship God indeed!

† HYMN 143

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Responsive)*

Living God, Love Incarnate, we confess that we are not perfect.

You who are everything, we acknowledge that we are lacking.

Child of the manger, we admit that we prefer to be sentimental rather than sacrificial.

Hear us now as we confess our faults and admit our frailties.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Responsive)*

Lord of Christmas, we have done wrong.

We have tarnished the gift you gave freely.

We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see you.

We have not followed Christ; we have ignored your teachings. We have lived lives of apathy.

Against your love, we have built fences and fortresses to push people away,

and we have silenced the cries of those in need.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin.

Free us to a life lived in joy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(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)*

The Lord is near to all who call on God in truth.

The Lord fulfills the desires of all who seek the Divine;

God also hears their cry, and cares for them.

Friends, hear and believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven!

Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Let us share signs of Christ's peace with one another.

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.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

Doug Barr

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:12-17

NT p. 201

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
SPC Chamber Choir

Traditional

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:41-52

NT p. 59

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

They All Grow Up, Even Jesus

Rev. Alisa Secret

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.

EUCCHARIST

The proclamation of God's Word invites responses of faith.

† HYMN 159

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

KINGSFOLD

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.

OFFERTORY

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

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 136**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

✦ **BENEDICTION**

Traditional

✦ **CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Threefold Amen

✦ **POSTLUDE**

Learn More About Second Pres
www.secondpreslr.org

Christmas Preaching Series Continues

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

God’s Christmas stories reorient our lives around the truth that God wishes to be with us and to save us.

- Dec. 29: Luke 2:41-52** *They All Grow Up, Even Jesus* – Rev. Alisa
- Jan. 5: Matthew 2:1-12** *Showing Up for God* – Rev. Elizabeth

Second Spotlight and Monthly Newsletter

Grab a copy of our monthly announcement sheet and newsletter at Second Presbyterian! These publications highlight 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!



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.



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

Calendar for the Week

SUN DEC 29

11:00am Worship only

MON DEC 30

10:00am Marion Looney memorial service

1:30pm Pastoral Care

7:00pm Volleyball

TUES DEC 31

New Year’s Eve

WED JAN 1

New Year’s Day

Church office closed

SUN JAN 5

8:30&11:00am Worship

9:45am Sunday School

4:30pm Middle School SPY

6:00pm High School SPY

6:00pm SPY Dinner

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.

Worship Leaders

- Rev. Alisa Secrest
- Rev. Dr. Benjamin E.E. Kane
- Doug Barr, Director of Children and Families Ministry
- Jón Stevenson, conductor
- Adam Savacool, organist
- Elder of the Day: Ruth Shepherd

Dec and Jan Usher Captains

- 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

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!



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