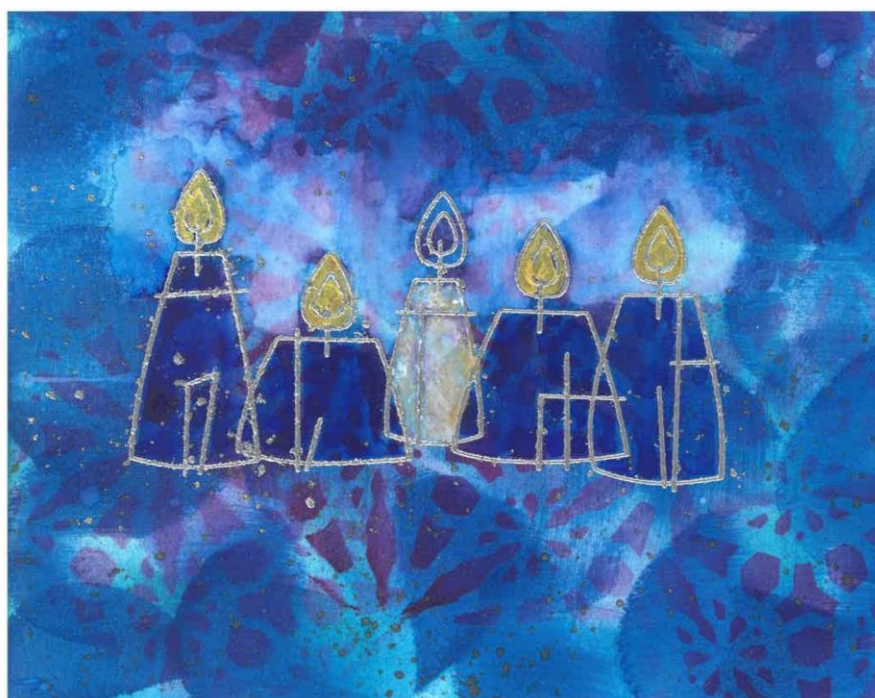

Gathering those who fear they are not enough,
so we may experience grace, wholeness, and renewal as God's beloved.



Advent artwork by Megan Klose, 2025

We Gather to Praise God

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

RINGING OF THE BELL & INTROIT

O Come, Lord Jesus!

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

O come, Lord Jesus! Bring your light! Come down in love Emmanuel.

We wait for your birth. Come, Lord Jesus.

WELCOME

Megan Klose

CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Jack and Marnie Sarver

ONE: We light this candle as a symbol of God's love for us and our love for one another.

ALL: For the Lord rejoices over us with gladness, and renews us in the love of God.

ONE: We come to worship the one who came to bring hope, peace, joy, and love.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

* GATHERING HYMN 85

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

CALL TO CONFESSION

Carolyn Bruce

ONE: Assured that God hears our repentance, let us turn our minds to the truth, confessing our sins to God and one another.

ALL: God of hosts, we have turned away from your way, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, trampling on your creation, taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have been selfish in so many ways. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us, restore us, and give us peace, we humbly pray.

Personal prayer in silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Yena Hwang

ONE: God who fulfilled God's promise to us by sending Jesus, who died, and was raised from the dead, forgives all our sins. Receive God's grace and be at peace.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen!

* SING GLORY TO GOD



** Please rise in body or spirit*

* PASSING THE PEACE

Yena Hwang

ONE: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

We Listen for God's Word

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION 450 (v. 2)

Be Thou My Vision



2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.

TEXT: Irish poem; trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt.
MUSIC: Irish ballad; harm. David Evans, 1927
Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

SLANE
10.10.10.10

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Carolyn Bruce

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SENSES OF SCRIPTURE

Cali Bronkema

Children ages 3 and up are invited to continue their worship at Godly Play in Room 204.

POEM

A Palestinian Refugee Story

by Anne Mugler

SERMON

Miracles

Yena Hwang

We Respond to God's Word

* SERMON HYMN 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*)

Megan Klose

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire. We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity. We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place; into action, into vulnerability and into the streets. We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Hypothermia Shelter

Tom Koger

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Carolyn Bruce

ONE: Lord in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

The Prayers of the People are offered on behalf of and with the congregation, usually by an elder who is currently serving or has previously served on Session. Prayer requests can be sent to Pastors Yena and Megan at prayers@fallschurchpresby.org.

Please keep in your prayers:

Matt Klaus, colleague of Frank Burdette, recovering from an assault

Kevin Ogle, undergoing ankle surgery on Dec. 23

Steve Schwartz on the death of his 102-year-old grandmother

Anne Marie Growney, mother of Karen and Chris Growney, following surgery on Dec. 18

Helen Waugh, following hip replacement surgery on Dec. 5

Ongoing prayer concerns:

FCPC members: Doug Ammons, Andrea Brown, Avery Burns, Winnie Harris-Zoellner, Ruth Mileham, Ken Waugh

Relatives and friends: Carolyn Armstrong, Scott Armstrong's mother; Jim Cardinal, Theresa Brown's father; Vincent DiPerno, Paige Whitlock's nephew; Cynthia Hintze, Carol Kercheval's sister; Ansley McCraw, Shawn Sledge's niece

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 OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Please support the mission and ministry of the church with your financial contributions. Offerings can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church office, given online through our secure giving portal (fcpc.breezechms.com/give/online), texted to give at 7037751355, or scanned using the QR code.



OFFERTORY

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Stephen Cleobury (b. 1948)

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for, with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.
King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.
Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.
At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"*

* DOXOLOGY (tune: *The First Nowell*) *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God__ from whom all__ bles - sings flow. Praise God, _ all crea - tures
here__ be - low. Praise God__ a - bove, ye__ heaven - ly
host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, _ and Ho - ly Ghost. No - well, _ No -
well, No - well, No - well__ Born is the King_ of Is - ra - el!

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We Are Sent into the World

*** SENDING HYMN 104**

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

*** CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Yena Hwang

*** CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Advent Amen

(traditional)

POSTLUDE

I Saw Three Ships

arr. Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

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Supporting Us in Worship

Worship Leader	Carolyn Bruce
Ushers	Jay Campbell, Noah Clymer
Audio/Video	Xander Burdette
Sexton	Carolyn Bruce

A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. Please sign the red welcome pad which can be found at the end of the pew, then pass the pad along to your neighbor. There are nametag boards outside of the sanctuary side entrance. Please make a nametag and wear it as a sign of hospitality.

Large-print bulletins are available at the sanctuary entrances. Portable electronic hearing devices are available in the narthex.

A recording of today's service can be found at www.fallschurchpresby.org/sermon.

If you would like to learn more about our family of faith, talk to one of the pastors or email Pastor Yena (yhwang@fallschurchpresby.org) or Pastor Megan (mklose@fallschurchpresby.org). Please visit our website for more information.

Children in Worship

Children are always welcome in our services. **The Kids' Corner** at the front right side of the Sanctuary is where children and their grownups can play, read, or color quietly while in worship. **Children up to age 4:** Child care is offered in Room 201 by paid nursery staff. **Children age 3 and up:** Godly Play is offered in Room 204 following Senses of Scripture.

Fellowship Hour

Please join us in Fellowship Hall after worship to greet your neighbors and enjoy some light refreshments. Hosted by the Community Building Ministry Team.

Announcements

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received today. This PC(USA) offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need, and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Special Offering envelopes are in the pews.

Christmas Eve Family Service, Wednesday, Dec. 24, 5:00 p.m. A family-friendly Lessons & Carols Christmas Eve Service will be held in the sanctuary at 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service, Wednesday, Dec. 24, 8:00 p.m. Join us for a traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service with the Chancel Choir and guest string and brass musicians.

Nourish Our Neighbors. Knox Food Pantry is a lifeline for our neighbors who struggle to put food on the table. Loss of grant funding for Knox means that the needs are greater than ever. You can help by taking an empty grocery bag today, and filling and returning it by next Sunday, Dec 28. Many thanks for your kindness!

City of Falls Church Watch Night at FCPC, Dec. 31, 7-11 p.m. Activities include: Northern Lights Big Band Orchestra, Victorian photo parlor, and children's activities. Sponsored by the Falls Church Village Preservation & Improvement Society.

FCPC Christmas Crèches. Stop by the library during the Advent season to see our collection of crèches from around the world. There are 23 crèches on display throughout the room. Also featured are Advent and Christmas books for all ages to peruse or borrow.

Thank you, Santas! FCPC's Mercy Ministry elf delivered 140 toys, games, puzzles, and books to Northern Virginia Family Services, thanks to your generous donations. These gifts will bring much joy to children and families in need in our area.

New Cozy Corner. We are excited to introduce a new "Cozy Corner" in the sanctuary—a welcoming, sensory-friendly space designed to support children's worship. As we outgrow our current children's area, this space will provide room for wiggles, sensory tools, and comfy seating, helping children—and neurodiverse people of all ages—regulate without leaving worship. Our desire is for children to learn how to worship in developmentally appropriate ways by participating alongside the congregation. We ask for the congregation's grace and understanding as children grow in their worship skills, and as we continue to shape a community where every child—and every person—knows they are loved, included, and valued in the life of the church.

Project 66/52. The congregation has been reading the entire Bible this year and has two more weeks to go! Week 51 reading plan:

Sun 12/21 Hebrews 1, 2, 3

Mon 12/22 Hebrews 4, 5, 6

Tue 12/23 Hebrews 7, 8, 9

Wed 12/24 Hebrews 10, 11

Thu 12/25 Hebrews 12, 13

Fri 12/26 James 1, 2, 3

Sat 12/27 James 4, 5

Calendar

Sunday, December 21 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Serendipity Class, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room

Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 a.m., Choir Room

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, in person or online

Monday, December 22 – Prayer & Pose Yoga, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall Loft

Tuesday, December 23 – *No scheduled events*

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Family Service, 5:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Candlelight Worship Service, 8:00 p.m., Sanctuary, in person or online

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day – *Church Office Closed*

Friday, December 26 – *Church Office Closed*

Saturday, December 27

Bible Study & Fellowship Group, 8:00 a.m., Parlor

Sunday, December 28 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

Nourish Our Neighbors – Drop off food donations in main hallway

Serendipity Class, 9:00 a.m., Conference Room

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, in person or online

Card Ministry Sunday, 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Falls Church Presbyterian belongs to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, “working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.”

Falls Church Presbyterian is also a Matthew 25 church seeking to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty.

The Rev. Yena Hwang, Pastor | The Rev. Megan Klose, Associate Pastor

Cali Bronkema, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Dr. Don Armstrong, Director of Music | Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

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