
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

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

R. Fisher Boyce (1887-1968)

Honey & Locusts

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Yena Hwang

CALL TO WORSHIP & ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Andrea, Darryle, and Avery Brown

ONE: Hope is:

ALL: Trusting that there is light, even in the dark.

ONE: Peace is:

ALL: The wolf lying down with the lamb.

ONE: Joy is:

ALL: Contagious sounds of Alleluia!

ONE: Love is:

ALL: Never-ending, born in a manger, here today.

ONE: Christmas is:

ALL: A love song to the world; the light that shines in the darkness. Let us make a joyful noise! Let us worship God.

* OPENING HYMN 133 (v. 1, 3, 4)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;

O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

* KINESTHETIC OPENING PRAYER

** Please rise in body or spirit*

*** SUNG RESPONSE 113** (v. 1)

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

The Christmas Story

LESSON I

An Angel Appears to Mary

Luke 1:26-38

HYMN 105 (v. 1, 4, 5)

People, Look East

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall
brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon
together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.
Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to
earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is
coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

LESSON II

Travel

Luke 2:1-7

HYMN 115 (v. 1, 3)

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

LESSON III

Shepherds

Luke 2:8-16

HYMN 119 (vv. 1, 2)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

LESSON IV

The Word Became Flesh

John 1:1-14

* HYMN 134

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

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

Children, Go Where I Send Thee

(traditional)

Honey & Locusts

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray the prayer our Lord taught us to say:

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Candlelight Carols

*During the singing, we invite you to crack your glow sticks,
and raise them whenever Jesus is mentioned.*

* HYMN 122

Silent Night

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
'Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

The Light Shines in the Darkness

As we celebrate the light that shines in the darkness, God incarnate given to us at Christmas, we also remember that we are called to be light for the world. The Church is the living body of Christ, and as individuals, we are each joined to Christ. And so, together and individually, we can carry the light of Christ into the darkness of our world. Let us walk in the light of the Lord and bring that light to the world.

*** HYMN 136**

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Refrain: **Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]**

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]**

*** CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Cali Bronkema

POSTLUDE

Angels from the Realms

arr. Colin Hand (1929-2015)

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Supporting Us in Worship

Ushers/Greeters

Stacey Cruse, Nancy Butt Packard

Music

Honey & Locusts (Sue Armstrong, Kevin Ayers,
Tam Ayers, Gary Ewart, Jen Root, Bonnie Seklecki,
Alan Shankle)

Audio/Video

Xander Burdette

*Thank you to Marnie Sarver, Shelly Skomra, and others for decorating our church
for the Advent and Christmas season.*

A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this Christmas Eve. Please sign the red welcome pad which can be found at the end of the pew, then pass the pad along to your neighbor. 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. Children's bulletins and coloring sheets are available for children of all ages. Child care is available for infants and toddlers in Room 201 during this service.

Announcements

The Christmas Joy 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.

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

Welcome Table served dinner to 552 guests in December. Our next dinners will be Jan. 7 and Jan. 21, 2026 (first and third Wednesdays). New volunteers are always welcome! Sign up using the link in the Friday egram or contact the church office at office@fallschurchpresby.org or 703-532-6518.

Want to learn more about Falls Church Presbyterian Church? Pastor Yena is holding a class for those who are considering becoming a part of this community of faith, those who are new to the community, or those who would simply like to explore what it means to follow Jesus in the Presbyterian tradition. Class will meet Sunday, Feb. 1, 2026, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., in the Conference Room. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

Church Calendar

Thursday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day – Church office closed

Sunday, Dec. 28 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

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

Wednesday, Dec. 31 – City of Falls Church Watch Night events at FCPC,
7:00-11:00 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 1 – New Year's Day – Church office closed

Sunday, Jan. 4 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas/Epiphany of the Lord

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

Sunday, Jan. 11 – Baptism of the Lord

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

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

225 East Broad Street, Falls Church, VA 22046

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