FALLS CHURCH
PRESBYTERIAN

November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m.

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



We Gather to Praise God

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel — arr. George Lachenauer (b. 1933)

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

ONE: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

ALL: The Word was in the beginning with God. Through the Word, all things came into being.

ONE: The Word of God was a person, a flesh-and-bone human who lived and walked among us.

ALL: The Word is Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, Prince of Peace and Word Made Flesh.

***** *Please rise in body or spirit*

ONE: Come together, children of God, and worship the one who dwelt among us.
ALL: Let us worship the Word through whom all things have life!

*** ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING** *Steve and Nanette Rutsch*

The season of Advent reminds us of the hope we have in the humanity of Jesus. God came to us, leaving behind the glory of heaven to be a person feeling pain, joy, loss, and love. Today, we light the candle of hope, because in Jesus, heaven came to earth.

*** GATHERING HYMN 85** (v. 1) *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

CALL TO CONFESSION Whitney Owen

ONE: Confident in God's promise to forgive and renew, let us confess our sins before God and neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Word of God made flesh, long before stories were told or books were written, the Word was with God and the Word was God. But we have worshiped other words. We have mistaken the Word made flesh for printed words, for words in our own language, for cruel words, and for words that divide and dehumanize us. We repent and return to the beginning, to the Word through whom all other words came into being. Forgive us, God. Amen.

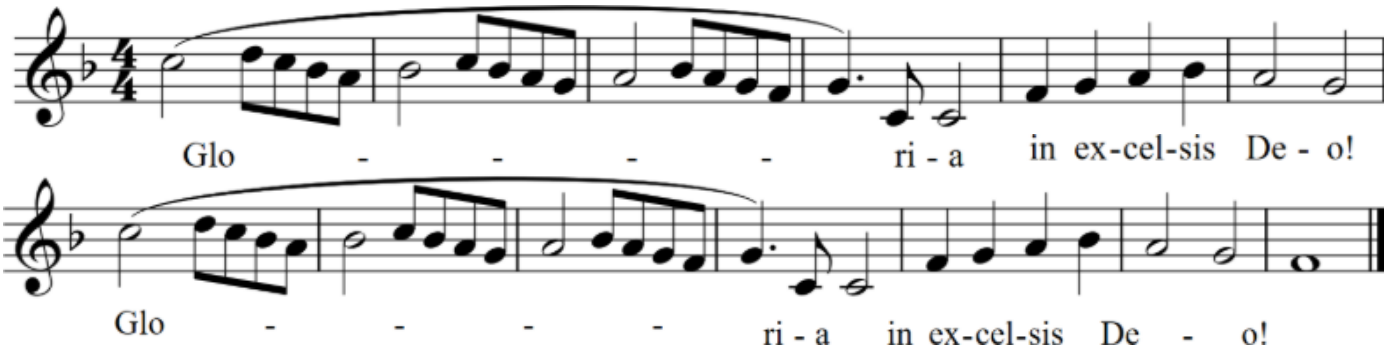
Personal Prayer in Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Yena Hwang

ONE: God's forgiveness is deeper than the deepest valley and wider than the widest plain. Our sins are forgiven and our guilt relieved. Receive this pardon with hope and assurance.

ALL: We receive this pardon with gratitude and joy!

*** SING GLORY TO GOD**



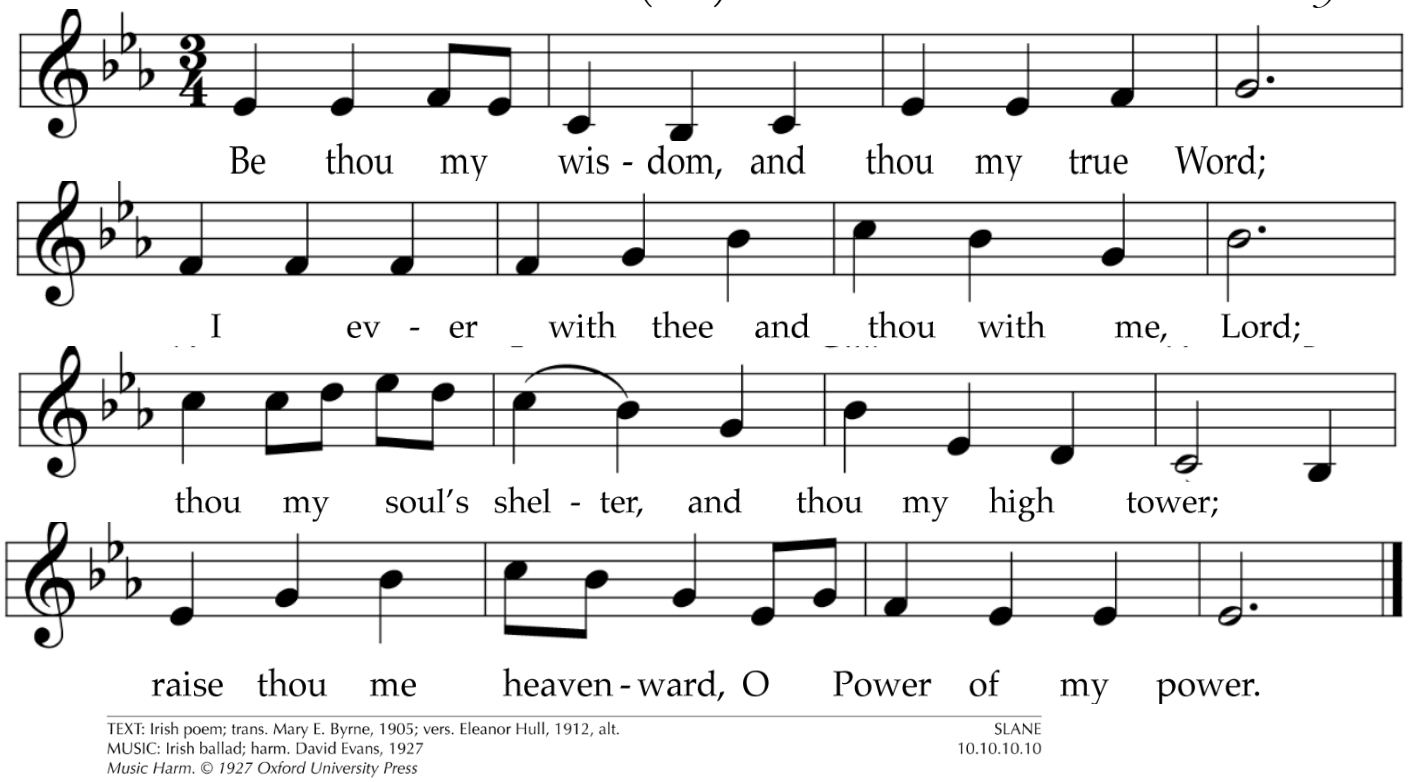
*** PASSING THE PEACE** Yena Hwang

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*



TEXT: Irish poem; trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt. SLANE
MUSIC: Irish ballad; harm. David Evans, 1927 10.10.10.10
Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 64:1-9 Whitney Owen

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SENSES OF SCRIPTURE Megan Klose

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 13:24-37 Yena Hwang

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Apocalypse Now* Yena Hwang

We Respond to God's Word

*** SERMON HYMN 92** *While We Are Waiting, Come*

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Adapted from the words of Kate Bowler) Megan Klose

We trust in the story you are telling, Lord, about the way that time itself bends toward you. How a baby being born shone a light that set wise men on their course and kings wringing their hands and calling for blood. You are changing the world. But first we must understand the present time, that the hour has come for us to wake from our slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. We must understand that our hope is a force set in motion at the dawn of time itself. It was you who began that long descent from the heights of heaven as creator, as love, as a promise come down to us at Christmas. Jesus, we are ready to learn hope.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Whitney Owen

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:

Beatrice, neighbor of Karen Rasmussen, diagnosed with Alzheimer's
Charlotte Volpe, recovering from gender-affirming surgery
Anne Mugler, recovering from shoulder surgery
Yogita Jasani, friend of Frank Burdette, for healing
Piyali Das, friend of Frank Burdette, as she begins a new job

Ongoing prayer concerns:

FCPC members: Tobi Brock; Avery Burns; Winnie Harris-Zoellner; Mike Hugo; Ruth Mileham; Ken Waugh. *Relatives and friends:* Lisa Bales, Pete Kelly's sister; Owen Bollinger, great-nephew of Kirk and Mary Salpini; Jack Moore, Scott Moore's father

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.

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY *Generosity & Capital Campaign Update* Dawn Lenert

OUR LIFE TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST Megan Klose

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

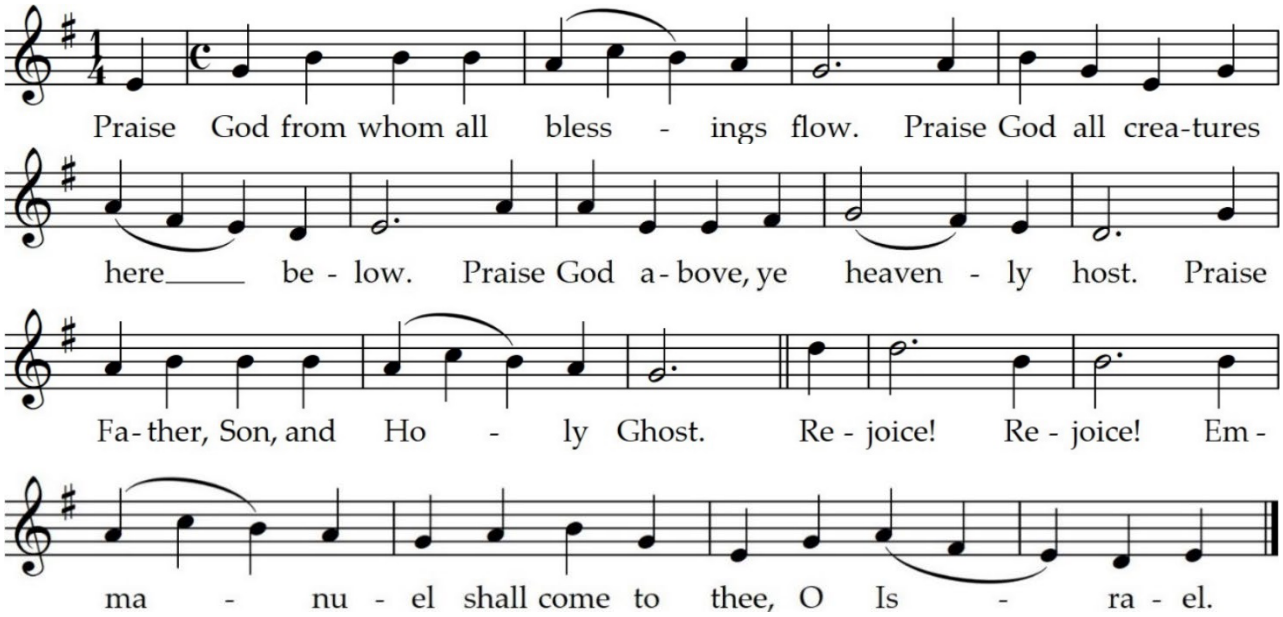
People, Look East arr. Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Chancel Choir

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.
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, 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.
And when to Jordan's floods, we are come, we are come, And when to Jordan's floods, we are come;
Jehovah rules the tide, And the waters he'll divide, And the ransomed host shall shout,
we are come, we are come, And the ransomed host shall shout, we'll go on.

* DOXOLOGY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** Megan Klose

We Are Sent into the World

*** SENDING HYMN 354** *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

*** CHARGE AND BLESSING** Yena Hwang

*** CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Advent Amen (traditional)

POSTLUDE

Praise Canon Paul Taylor (contemporary)

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***** *Please rise in body or spirit*

Supporting Us in Worship

Worship Leader	Whitney Owen
Ushers	Jay Campbell, Gail Warner
Audio/Video	Rick Choi
Sexton	Whitney Owen

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

Fellowship Hour

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

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 or from an usher.

An ADA-compliant, gender-neutral restroom is located at the rear of the Conference Room.

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. **The Cozy Corner** along the right wall has sensory toys and headphones. **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.

Announcements

Holiday Hangout & Three Kings Market, Dec. 6. This year, the Holiday Hangout & Three Kings Market will take place immediately following worship. Join us in Fellowship Hall for holiday fun and fellowship with games and carol singing! **Please bring a main or side dish to share** (dessert will be provided). **Please also bring a canned food item** for Knox Food Pantry. Be sure to visit the Three Kings Market in the Fellowship Hall Loft for some great deals on new and gently used Christmas gifts. Proceeds from the Market support our Welcome Table program.

Queerly Gathered Advent Service, Dec. 6. Join Queerly Gathered for a special worship service led by queer clergy and faith leaders on Dec. 6 at 5 p.m. at Clarendon Presbyterian Church. Cali Bronkema-Green will be preaching. Together, we will gather for prayer, reflection, music, and community, celebrating God's love and the sacred worth of every person. All are welcome, including allies, friends, and family members.

NVFS Toy Drive: Deadline for donations is Dec. 6. Mercy Ministry is seeking donations of new, unwrapped toys, games, puzzles, books, and gift cards for our 14th annual Northern Virginia Family Services Toy Drive. Donations can be left in the big, gift-wrapped box near the entrance to Fellowship Hall. Pick up a copy of the wish list at the big donation box or view it online through the link in the Friday egram.

The Promise Draws Near: A Service of Advent Music, Sunday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. Join us for a special service of Advent music featuring the Chancel Choir of Falls Church Presbyterian Church, accompanied by flute, cello, and organ. Beautiful works by Mendelssohn, Gibbons, MacMillan, and others will offer a meaningful celebration of the season as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. All are warmly invited to worship with us!

Nourish Our Neighbors (Holiday Edition). During the next couple of months, food pantries will be stretched to provide food for families during school holidays. Donations of high-protein items such as canned meats, peanut butter, dried beans, and shelf-stable milk are needed at Knox Food Pantry. Check the QR code for other needed items. Simply drop items off at the white pantry in the main hallway anytime and they will be delivered to Knox.

Toiletry donations needed. As the holidays near and we enter the cold-weather season, please know that guests at our local shelters and our own Welcome Table are in need of individual, full-size toiletries. Most shelters do not provide these, so we ask that you consider picking up items such as toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo and conditioner, body lotion, and bars of soap, and drop them off at the white pantry in the main hallway for distribution.

Welcome Table served 488 guests in November. Thank you to all who signed up to set up, chop vegetables, cook food, serve food, greet our guests, and clean up! Our December Welcome Table meals are Dec. 2 and 16. Please sign up to help through the link in the Friday egram or church website.

Flowers for Worship. The 2027 flower calendar is available for those who would like to donate flowers in honor, memory, or celebration of loved ones or special events. Choose a Sunday that is special to you, reserve it before the calendar fills up, and add the beauty of nature to the beauty of our worship service. Once you sign up, you can sit back and wait for the Flower Committee to contact you and handle all the details. The link to the flower calendar is in the Friday egram and on the FCPC website under the Members tab.

Calling all candle makers. If you know the fun of making candles—melting the wax, scenting, and coloring it—we have a deal for you: **Free wax!** And sanctified wax at that. The partially-burned candles from last year's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service are yours for the taking—first come, first served, until they run out. There is still plenty of time to create the glow of candlelight for Christmas 2026, and beyond. A box containing the used candles is in Fellowship Hall. Please help yourselves.

Notary services available. We are pleased to let you know that we now have a notary on staff. FCPC Financial Administrator Renee Rumingan is available to provide notary services to members of our congregation. Renee is available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Email rrumingan@fallschurchpresby.org to schedule an appointment.

A note about online giving fees. Thank you for your faithful generosity and continued support of our church and its ministries. Your contributions make it possible for us to serve our congregation, our community, and those in need. While online giving through Breeze is a convenient way to support the church, associated processing fees reduce the amount meant to directly support our mission and ministries. These processing fees are as follows:

- **ACH (Bank Account):** 1%
- **Credit/Debit Card:** 2.9%
- **American Express:** 3.5%

When making a gift through Breeze, **you have the option to click on a checkbox to cover the processing fee** yourself. This allows the church to fully utilize the intended amount of your gift. If you choose to not cover the processing fee, we kindly encourage you to use the ACH option (direct bank transfer) when making online donations through Breeze. With a lower processing fee of just 1%, more of your generous contribution can go directly toward supporting the mission and ministries of our church.

Longest Night Service, Monday, Dec. 21, 5:00 p.m. This contemplative service is designed to provide comfort, peace, and hope for individuals who may find the holiday season difficult due to grief, loss, or personal struggles.

Christmas Eve Family Service, Thursday, Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m. A family-friendly Lessons & Carols Christmas Eve Service with Honey & Locusts will be held in the sanctuary at 4:30 p.m.

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

City of Falls Church Watch Night Events at FCPC, Thursday, Dec. 31. Stop by the church on New Year's Eve between 7 and 11 p.m. FCPC is once again hosting several Watch Night activities including the Northern Lights Big Band Orchestra, a Victorian photo parlor, and children's activities. Sponsored by the Falls Church Village Preservation & Improvement Society.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has stepped forward and pledged their support to our annual Generosity Campaign, which sustains FCPC's ongoing ministry and operations, and our Capital Campaign, which invests in our church home to support ministry for generations to come.

Generosity Campaign: The Heart of Our Ministry

To date, we have received 66 pledges toward our Generosity Campaign, **Deep and Wide: Digging Deeper**, totaling $516,000, which is 63% of our budget goal. This annual commitment directly powers every facet of our daily ministry, supporting worship services, spiritual growth programs, outreach initiatives, and pastoral care across our community. Your support reflects a belief in what we can accomplish together: deepening our roots, extending our reach, and making a wider impact in our community. Through our collective commitment, we can nurture a thriving congregation, reach more people, and bring God's love to life in meaningful ways. Thank you for investing in what sustains us today!

Capital Campaign Update: Over Halfway There!

Thanks to your extraordinary generosity, the **Sustaining Our Future** Capital Campaign has officially crossed the half-million-dollar mark! To date, 55 households have come together to pledge **$701,226**—and new commitments continue to arrive every week. Through your faithful participation, we can ensure that FCPC will continue to be a vibrant hub for mission, equipping our congregation to serve both within and beyond our walls.

As we look ahead, we want to share a clear picture of what your gifts will accomplish across the Capital Campaign's two financial targets:

- **Our Primary Goal ($900,000):** Grounded in our feasibility study and conversations with members and friends, this milestone ensures we can complete essential repairs and safeguard our church home for today's ministries.
- **Our Stretch Goal ($1,115,000):** Reaching this target unlocks transformative facility upgrades and expands our community outreach initiatives for years to come.

We are closer than ever, and every single gift moves us forward. If you have not pledged yet, please prayerfully consider how you can join those 55 households supporting the Capital Campaign. If you have already pledged, thank you! We invite you to consider an additional gift to help push us toward our stretch goal. Pledge forms are available in the narthex and at www.fallschurchpresby.org/campaign/. Thank you for your leadership, your prayers, and your enduring commitment to the future of FCPC.

Calendar

Sunday, November 29 – First Sunday of Advent
Nourish Our Neighbors – Drop off donations for Knox Food Pantry
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 8:15 a.m., Choir Room; 9:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Worship Service, 10 a.m., Sanctuary and online
Monday, November 30
Prayer & Pose Yoga, 5 p.m., Third Floor
Tuesday, December 1
Tuesday Morning Prayer Group, 8:30 a.m., Zoom
Building & Grounds Team, 7 p.m., Conference Room
Community Building Ministry Team, 7 p.m., Library
Wednesday, December 2
First Wednesday Welcome Table – food preparation, serving, and cleanup, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Fellowship Hall and Kitchen
Worship Ministry Team, 7 p.m., Zoom
Thursday, December 3 – *No scheduled events*
Friday, December 4
The Bridge Christmas Party (grades 3-6), 5:30 p.m., Third Floor
Saturday, December 5
Bible Banter, 8:30 a.m., Parlor
Silent Witness for Racial Justice, noon, Broad Street in front of FCPC
Sunday, December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent
Hunger Offering Received
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 8:15 a.m., Choir Room; 9:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Congregational Nominating Committee, 9 a.m., Library
Newbies Class, 9 a.m., Room 303
Worship Service, 10 a.m., Sanctuary and online
Bagels & Bibles (grades 7-12), during worship, Third Floor
Holiday Hangout & Three Kings Market, 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall & Loft
Card Ministry Sunday during Holiday Hangout
Queerly Gathered Advent Service, 5 p.m., Clarendon Presbyterian

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-Green, Director of Children & Youth Ministry
Dr. Don Armstrong, Director of Music
Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

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