



"...the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!"

Matthew 2:9b-10 (The Message)

Sunday, December 28, 2025

1st Sunday of Christmas

*Please be seated, silence all devices, and prepare yourself for worship.
All are welcome in this sacred space, including the wiggles and giggles!*

◆ **PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT**

PRELUDE

Silent Night arr. by Hayes

Mary Dailey

PRELUDE HYMN 143 (vs. 1-2) *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* Congregation

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Murray

◆ SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

~~~ GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE ~~~

◆ CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 8)

Jeff C

*In the days of old, wise ones looked to the heavens  
and followed a star that promised hope.*

**We, too, gather seeking the Light that leads us to Christ.**

*Isaiah reminds us of God's steadfast love –  
the God who lifted us and carried us all our days.*

**We remember, we rejoice, and we rise to follow.**

*Come, let us join creation's chorus —*

*A nowell, a "good news," echoing through the world.*

**Let us worship God, the One who still guides our way.**

◆ HYMN 123

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Congregation

***Children are invited forward as we sing the final verse***

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Winslow

~~~ LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD ~~~

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Christmas Dreams

Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jeff C

SCRIPTURE Exodus 3:9-15

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*we begin in silent confession and then pray together*)

God of light and love, we confess that we do not always follow the light you set before us. We cling to familiar paths, ignore the signs of your presence, and resist the journeys that lead toward justice and peace.

When fear overshadows faith, forgive us.

When comfort outweighs compassion, renew us.

When we fail to see Christ in the stranger, the seeker, and the vulnerable, open our eyes again.

Lead us, O God, as you led the magi, so we may return by a new road, more faithful, more courageous, and more alive in your love. Amen.

HYMN 551

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Congregation

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

Jeff C

...Believe the Good News: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and restored.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

◆ HYMN 113 (Refrain)

Angels We Have Heard on High

Congregation

~~~ PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD ~~~

◆ GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:1-12 (The Message)

Pastor Murray

*This is the Word of the Lord. **God is still speaking.***

MESSAGE

The First Nowell

Sermon Series *Caroling the Christmas Story*

HYMN 147 (vs. 1-4)

The First Nowell

Congregation

~~~ RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD ~~~

OFFERING

Pastor Murray

OFFERTORY 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Congregation

◆ HYMN 606 A Christmas Doxology

***Praise God for gifts of hope and peace,
Praise God for gifts of joy and love,
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
On earth for us – Emmanuel. Amen.***

◆ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Murray

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (John 1- Selected)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing was created. The life that was in him became light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

To all who receive him, who believe in him, he gives power to become children of God. The Word became flesh, a man named Jesus. He lived among us, full of grace and truth. From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace. In his name God has sent the Holy Spirit to teach us and to remind us of all that he has said. We believe that because he lives, we shall live also, to the glory of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (page 35)

Pastor Murray

◆ HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

Congregation

~~~ **CARRYING GOD'S GOOD NEWS INTO GOD'S WORLD** ~~~

◆ BENEDICTION

Pastor Murray

POSTLUDE

*Sing We Now of Christmas* arr. by Hayes

Mary Dailey

**Where did you notice the “light of Christ” in your own life’s journey recently — and what new road might God be inviting you to take now?**

## Sunday Bible Study **January 4**

Bible Study is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, following worship. Bring a 'brown bag' lunch and join us as we discuss God's Word to us. Both children and Adult Sunday Bible Study will meet, starting in Ficklin Hall for lunch.

### Today's Service

Director of Music

Mary Dailey

Liturgist

Jeff C

Trustee

Paul P

Usher

Gary G

Cover Image

*Beyond These Stone Walls*

### Worship Plans

#### *Sermon Series Caroling the Christmas Story*

January 4: *We Three Kings*----Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12 Epiphany & Communion

#### *A NEW SERMON SERIES QUESTIONS GOD ASKS*

January 11: *Where Are You?* Genesis 3

January 18: *What Have You Done?* Genesis 4

A Service of Ordination and Installation of our New Officers

January 25: *What Are You Doing Here?* 1 Kings 19

February 1: *What Are You Looking For?* John 1

Communion

### ***December's RightNow Media picks***

**Here is FPCL's Christmas gift to you!!**

**All content from RightNow Media is accessible for you to conveniently enjoy from your computer or mobile device--absolutely free! Your account is already paid for through FPCL, so all you have to do is sign up**

**If you have any trouble creating your account, or accessing content, please contact Pastor Blakeley for assistance!**

**For children "The Story of Christmas":** Squiggles the Caterpillar leads children through this animated retelling of the age-old Christmas story.

**For general audience "Advent":** Join well-known Pastor JD Greear in this fascinating Advent study that will help prepare your heart to celebrate Christmas as you take a deeper look at some of the Title of Jesus as revealed through the Old Testament prophets.

**For general audience "God came near":** Best-selling author and pastor Max Lucado is your guide to a deeper appreciation for the miracle of Christmas in this study, filmed on location at a beautiful and historic English church.



**Open Door Circle** will be meeting every 3rd Thursday, at 10:30.

All women are welcome. Please call Hedy L with any questions.



### **WINTER ACCESSORIES DRIVE**

The mission committee will be collecting new hats, gloves and scarves during the month of December. Collection bins will be placed at the Windermere entrance and in Chandler Hall.

**Office Hours 9am-2pm Tuesday-Thursday**

**Office Phone Number 303-798-1389**

**Office Email** [fpcl@fpcl.org](mailto:fpcl@fpcl.org)

**Pastoral Care Emergency Line 720-662-7277**

**Staff Members**

**Pastor Jonathan Murray**, Minister of Word and Sacrament

**Pastor Blakeley Winslow**, Pastor of Christian Discipleship

**Lydia Cooper**, Office Manager

**Mary Dailey**, Director of Worship Arts

**Karen A. Meersman**, Director of Handbells & Children/Youth Music

**Joan Lund**, Financial Secretary

**Tracy Eidson**, Child Care



**Church Office Hours**

The office will be closed from December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, until January 1st, 2026  
The phone and email messages will be monitored during this time.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR**

**Mission Statement:**

***We Believe the Good News that all of Littleton is called Beloved by Jesus  
Christ and together we Belong to God's Kingdom.***

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**Church of Littleton** [www.littletonpresbyterian.org](http://www.littletonpresbyterian.org) » [fpcl@fpcl.org](mailto:fpcl@fpcl.org)