



A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

Isaiah 11:1-4a

Communion Sunday December 7, 2025

2nd Sunday of Advent

*All of God's children are welcome, including their wiggles and giggles!
Please be seated, silence all devices, and quiet yourself for worship.*

◆ **PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT**

PRELUDE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* Memorial Handbell Choir

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Rick and Tina W

*...We light the candle of peace to remember that God draws near, still our hearts,
O God, and quiet our fears.*

This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Peace that calls us to listen, to forgive, and to follow.

Christ is coming. Come, Lord Jesus.

ADVENT WREATH HYMN *Light the Advent Candle*

Light the Advent candles in the wreath of green.

Let them be an offering fit for a King.

One for hope and one for love,

one for joy and peace, glowing in the darkness,

shine for all to see.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Murray

◆ **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

◆ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Alexandra H

*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,*

**and a branch shall grow out of his roots.**

*The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him;*

**the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,**

*the Spirit of counsel and might,*

**the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**

*In Jesus, God's promise takes flesh –*

*a child of peace in a world of struggle,*

*a Savior born to bring new life.*

**Come, let us worship the One who comes among us.**

◆ HYMN 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Congregation

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Winslow

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

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Ukrainian Bell Carol

Memorial Handbell Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Alexandra H

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 11:1-10 (NRSVUE)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Merciful God, you come to us in surprising ways — in vulnerability, in silence, in a child. Yet we confess that we look for you elsewhere: in power, in certainty, in control. We are quick to judge and slow to listen, eager to defend our own ways rather than seek your peace.

Forgive us, Lord. Open our hearts to receive your presence in unexpected places — in others, in ourselves, in the world you so love. Teach us to welcome you as Joseph welcomed your Son — with courage, obedience, and 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

Alexandra H

...Believe the Good News: Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made whole.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia and Amen.

◆ HYMN 113 (Refrain)

Angels We Have Heard on High

Congregation

~~~ PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD ~~~

◆ GOSPEL READING Matthew 1:18-23 (NRSVUE)

Pastor Murray

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

MESSAGE *What Child is This?* Pastor Murray  
Sermon Series *Caroling the Christmas Story*

HYMN 145 *What Child is This* Congregation

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

CALL OF THE OFFERING Pastor Murray

OFFERTORY *Fantasy on French Carols* Memorial Handbell Choir

◆ HYMN 606 DOXOLOGY Congregation

**Hope in the God who reigns above;
Who holds us all in steadfast love.
Whose spirit blows across the earth;
Preparing us for second birth. Amen.**

◆ PRAYER OF DEDICATION Pastor Murray

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by
the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the
third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from
thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the
body; and the life everlasting. Amen**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is truly right to give God thanks and praise!

...lived among us, lifting up humanity, to heal our brokenness and redeem us.

**We give you thanks for Jesus Christ,
our Lord, who by his life, death,
and resurrection opened to us
the way of everlasting life.**

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation bread and grapes and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. We believe that in sharing these elements of bread and grapes that our faith will grow as we are united with Christ.

**Send your Holy Spirit upon us
that the sharing of the bread we break
and the cup we drink
may be for us Christ's real presence.**

For we remember that Jesus took bread, blessed, broke, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"This is my body, given for you."

So also we remember that Jesus took the cup, saying,

"This is the new covenant poured out for you.

Do this in remembrance of me." For every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving death of our risen Lord,

Until he comes again.

Nourish us with your brokenness, O Christ. Renew us with your life, that we may take root in your risen life and bear fruit in your world. You are our joy and we praise you, Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

GIVING GOD THANKS FOR GOD'S GIFTS

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

Pastor Winslow

◆ HYMN 134

Joy to the World

Congregation

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

◆ BENEDICTION

Pastor Murray

POSTLUDE

*For Unto Us a Child Is Born*

Memorial Handbell Choir

### Today's Service

Director of Handbell Choirs & Children/Youth Music  
Director of Music  
Music  
Liturgist  
Trustee  
Usher  
Cover Image

Karen A. Meersman  
Mary Dailey  
Memorial Handbell Choir  
Alexandra H  
Don M  
Connie S  
Worshiphousemedia.com

*\*Prayer cards may be placed on the offering plate or in the box in Chandler Hall.*

*Joseph saw what God was doing in an unexpected way and chose to trust.*

***Where might God be doing something surprising  
in your life or in our community —  
and how might we respond with faith rather than fear?***



**The Giving Tree** in Chandler Hall will once again be adorned with ornaments for our Whiz Kids and their families. Gift wishes or ideas will be listed on the back of the ornaments. Please be sure to let one of the Mission Committee members know which ornament you have adopted.

Gifts need to be wrapped and labeled with the ornament attached and returned to the church no later than **Sunday, December 14th**. The gifts will be distributed at the Whiz Kids Christmas party on December 18th. Your gifts are such a blessing to these families and help to make their Christmas special. Thank you!

A congregational meeting has been called on December 14 following worship in the sanctuary to elect new church officers.

The slate of officers is:

- **Ruling Elder:** Kathy McDaniel (*completing an unexpired term*), Don Wendell, Don Meersman, and Roy Gibson
- **Deacon:** Linda Diekvoss and Kathy Frear (*to serve another year*).

### ***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.

**January First Word Deadline is December 17<sup>th</sup>**

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**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

**Worship Plans**

**Sermon Series Caroling the Christmas Story**

December 14: **'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'** --- Psalm 96; Luke 1:39-56

Saturday, December 20, 1p.m. Blue Christmas Service  
--- *a service of comfort and light, creating space to  
grieve when pain overwhelms*

December 21: **Lessons and Carols** Congregation and Choir

December 24: **'Joy To The World'** --- Luke 2:1-20

1p - Baroque

4p - Interactive Children & Family Service with Bells

7p - Communion, Candlelight and Choir

December 28: **'First Nowell'** --- Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:1-12

January 4: *Epiphany & Communion*

**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.***