



PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Advent
December 14th, 2025

Quotes for reflection:

Joy, which was the small publicity of the pagan, is the gigantic secret of the Christian.

—G.K. Chesterton

The Church does not superstitiously observe days, merely as days, but as memorials of important facts. Christmas might be kept as well upon one day of the year as another; but there should be a stated day for commemorating the birth of our Savior, because there is danger that what may be done on any day, will be neglected.

—Samuel Johnson

The only blind person at Christmastime is he who has not Christmas joy in his heart.

—Helen Keller

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves: the King opens His gates and welcomes us into His courts.

Gospel Invitation—Luke 2:13; John 3:16-17

Good news. Glad tidings. Great joy. “Glory to God in the highest. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Sung Response—Joy To The World, Vs. 1

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, featuring a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with some words split across lines. The score includes a repeat sign at the end of the first system and a final double bar line at the end of the second system.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let Earth re - ceive her King;

Let ev - 'ry heart pre-pare Him room, and Heav'n and na - ture sing,

And Heav'n and na - ture sing, and Heav'n, and Heav'n and na - ture sing.

ture sing and Heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, based on Psalm 98:4-9;
Music: ANTIOCH, Lowell Mason, 1836.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Call to Worship—Psalm 66:1-5, 8, 20

Pastor: Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name.

All: Give to Him glorious praise.

Reader 1: Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds! All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”

Reader 2: Come see what the Lord has done: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of men.

Pastor: Bless our God, O you people.

All: Let the sound of His praise be heard throughout the earth.

Pastor: Blessed be God, because He has not removed His steadfast love from us!

Congregational Hymn—Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Good Christ-ian men, re - joice_____ with heart and soul, and voice;____
Good Christ-ian men, re - joice,_____ with heart and soul and voice;____
Good Christ-ian men, re - joice_____ with heart and soul and voice!____

Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Joy! Joy! Je - sus Christ was born for this!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Je - sus Christ was born to save;

Ox and ass be - fore Him bow; and He is in the man-ger now.
He has op - ened heav - en's door, and man is blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day!_____ Christ is born to - day!____
Christ was born for this!_____ Christ was born for this!____
Christ was born to save!_____ Christ was born to save!____

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano part, with the other parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are in English and are set to a medieval Latin carol. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics are written below the vocal staff, and the piano accompaniment is written below the vocal staff. The score includes a variety of musical notation, including notes, rests, and accidentals. The lyrics are written in a simple, clear font, and the overall layout is clean and professional.

Text: Medieval Latin carol, tr. John Mason Neale, 1853; Music: IN DULCI JUBILO,
German Melody, 14th century, harm. John Stainer, 1871.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts.

Congregational Hymn—Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for His bed a cat - tle stall;
Flocks were sleep - ing; shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new

Ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of the gos - pel true.

Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing greet the mor - row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

Text: Polish Carol, tr. Edith Reed, 1921; Music: W ZLOBIE LEZY, Polish carol,
arr. Joseph Barlowe, 1986.

Scripture Reading—Proverbs 30:4-5

Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name? Surely you know! Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born



To us a child of hope is born, to us a Son is giv'n,
His name shall be the Prince of Peace, for - ev - er - more a - dored,
His pow'r, in - creas - ing, still shall spread, His reign no end shall know;
To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is giv'n,



Him shall the tribes of Earth o - bey, Him all the hosts of Heav'n,
The Won - der - ful, the Coun - se - lor, the great and migh - ty Lord,
Jus - tice shall guard His throne a - bove, and peace a - bound be - low,
The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - lor, the migh - ty Lord of Heav'n,



Him all the hosts of Heav'n.
The great and migh - ty Lord.
And peace a - bound be - low.
The migh - ty Lord of Heav'n.

Text: John Morrison, 1781; Music: CHRISTMAS, George Frideric Handel, 1723.

Sermon Text—Zechariah 9:9-17

- ⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- ¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- ¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
- ¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.
- ¹³ For I have bent Judah as my bow;
I have made Ephraim its arrow.
I will stir up your sons, O Zion,
against your sons, O Greece,
and wield you like a warrior's sword.
- ¹⁴ Then the Lord will appear over them,
and his arrow will go forth like lightning;
the Lord God will sound the trumpet
and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south.
- ¹⁵ The Lord of hosts will protect them,
and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones,
and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine,
and be full like a bowl,
drenched like the corners of the altar.

- ¹⁶ On that day the Lord their God will save them,
as the flock of his people;
for like the jewels of a crown
they shall shine on his land.
- ¹⁷ For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty!
Grain shall make the young men flourish,
and new wine the young women.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Joy To The World, Vs. 4



He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove



The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness and won - ders of His love,



And won - ders of His love, and won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, based on Psalm 98:4-9;

Music: ANTIOCH, Lowell Mason, 1836.

Sermon—*Rejoice, O Prisoners of Hope*

—Pastor Emeritus, George Grant

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The people of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin—Isaiah 53:6; John 1:9-12, 14

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. All we like sheep have gone astray.

All: We have turned—each one of us—to his own way.

Pastor: The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him.

All: He came to His own, but they did not receive Him.

Pastor: But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.

All: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response—Agnus Dei

UNISON

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. —

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. —

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

Slightly Faster WOMEN

Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy, Grant us Thy peace.

MEN

Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace.

Text: Traditional, based on John 1:29; Music: CLOVERCROFT AGNUS DEI,
Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

Assurance of Pardon—Isaiah 7:14, 53:4-5; Revelation 15:3-4

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

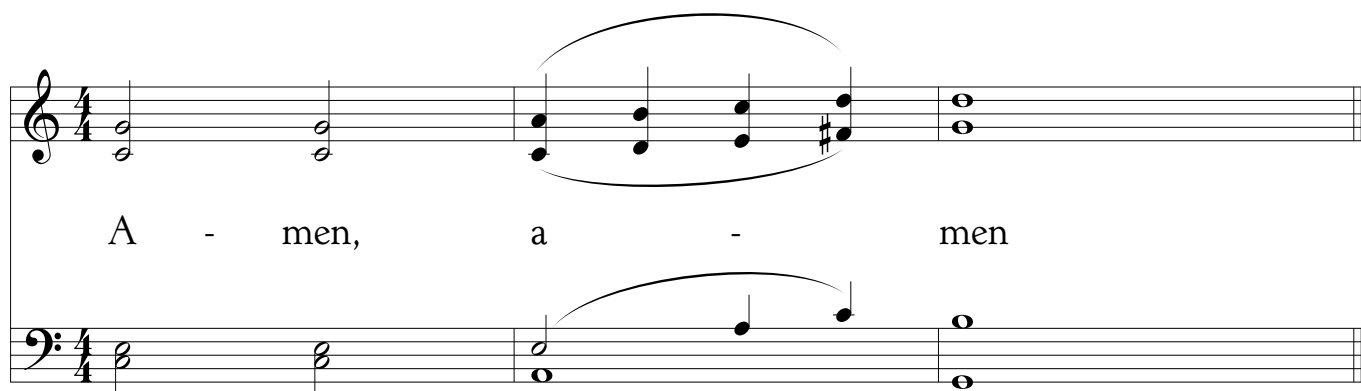
All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: Great and marvelous are Your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, King of the nations.

All: Who will not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?

Pastor: For You alone are holy. Amen.

Sung Response—Twofold Amen



Text: Traditional; Music: DRESDEN, Johann Naumann, 18th century.

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM

God feeds the faith of His people by giving them a meal. As God fellowships with them in faith, His people pledge their obedience to God and their love for one another.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God:

The Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;

The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

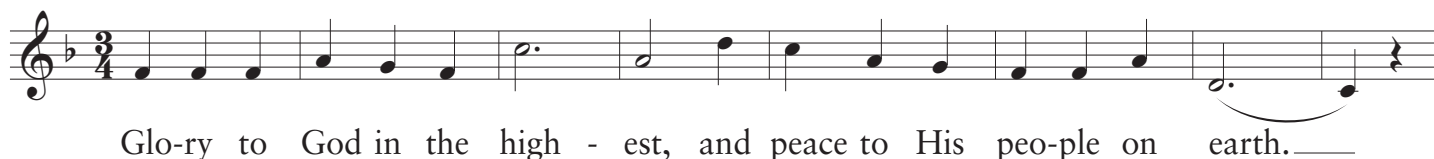
People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

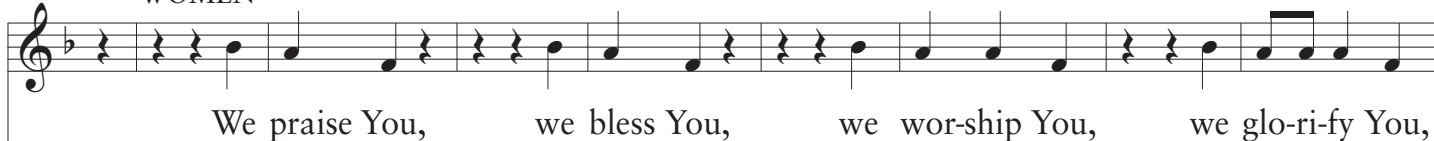
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

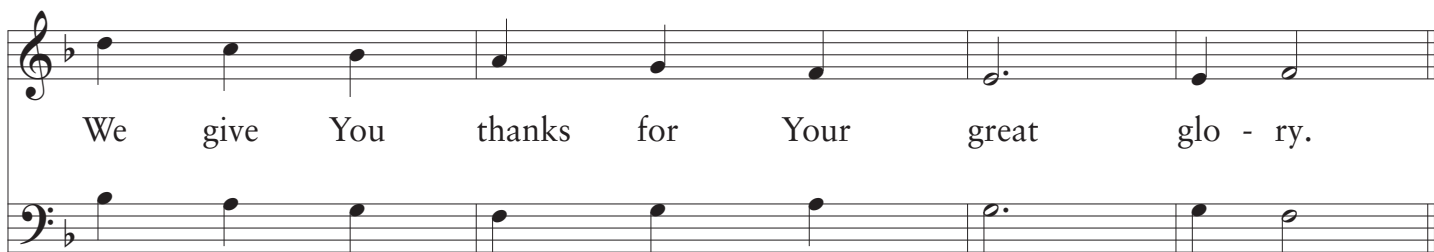
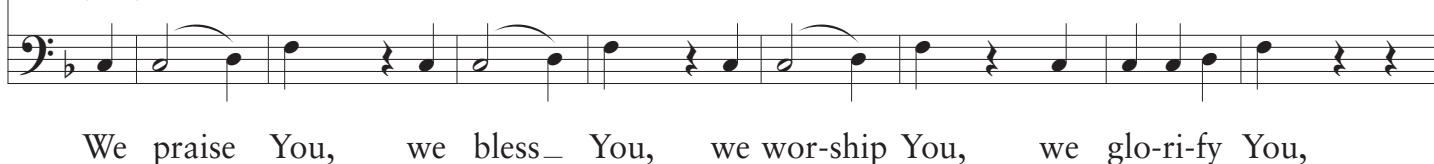
UNISON



WOMEN



MEN



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.

Text: Traditional, based on Luke 2:14; Music: CLOVERCROFT GLORIA,
Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Congregational Hymn—Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor



Thou who wast rich be-yond all splen - dor all for love's sake be - cam - est poor;
Thou who art God be-yond all prais - ing all for love's sake be - came - est man;
Thou who art love be-yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship Thee.



Thrones for a man-ger didst sur - ren - der, sap - phire paved courts for sta - ble floor.
Stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing heav'n-ward by Thine e - ter - nal plan.
Em - man-u - el, with-in us dwell-ing, make us what Thou woudst have us be.



Thou who wast rich be-yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
Thou who art God be-yond all prais - ing all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
Thou who art love be-yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship Thee.

Text: Frank Houghton, 1934; Music: QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE,
French Carol melody, arr. Charles H. Kitson, 1939.

Congregational Hymn—O Little Town Of Bethlehem

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano part, with the other parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each corresponding to a line of music. The lyrics are: O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem how still we see thee lie! For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove, O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, des - cend to us we pray; A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by. While mor - tals sleep the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love. Cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day. Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light; O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night. And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on Earth. O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, des - cend to us we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
While mor - tals sleep the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on Earth.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1867; Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1868.

GOD'S PEOPLE GRATEFULLY RESPOND WITH THEIR PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS, AND PRAISE

Praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship, moving our faith from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings. Offering boxes for both tithes and alms are located in the foyer.

Pastoral Prayer

Corporate Prayer—*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.

Congregational Hymn—What Child Is This



What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
Why lies He in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own Him;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne Him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing:
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mar - y.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mar - y.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mar - y.

Text: William Chatterton Dix, 1865; Music: GREENSLEEVES,
16th century English carol.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—Isaiah 60:1

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Amen.

Sung Response—Joy To The World, Vs. 3

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, featuring a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with some words appearing on lines that extend beyond the bottom of the page.

No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground;

He comes to make his bless - ings flow far as the curse is found,

Far as the curse

Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

is found, Far as the curse is found

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, based on Psalm 98:4-9;
Music: ANTIOCH, Lowell Mason, 1836.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

The sermon text this morning begins with a call to rejoice in the coming of our king. Similarly, our service begins with the call of, “Good Christian men, rejoice... Christ is born today,” in addition to the glad shout of, “Joy to the world! The Lord is come!” Zechariah goes on to describe the great strength and awesome deeds that the Lord will accomplish at His coming. It’s hard to imagine the infant Jesus carrying out such extraordinary feats, but as we hear in *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*, “Christ the babe is Lord of all,” and in *What Child Is This*, “This is Christ the King.” *To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born* describes Him as a child while detailing the extent of His rule: “His power, increasing, still shall spread, His reign no end shall know... Him shall the tribes of earth obey, Him all the hosts of heaven.” *Joy To The World* also speaks of His rule with the command, “Let Earth receive her King,” and saying, “He rules the world with truth and grace.” *O Little Town Of Bethlehem* speaks of the stars singing praises to “God the King.” If even the stars are crying out, how much more should we! “Haste! Haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.”

—Caleb Groves

Key Words: Rejoice, King, Salvation, Rule, Covenant, Prisoners, Hope, Jewels

Keystone Verses: Because of the blood of My covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free. (Zechariah 9:11)



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presbyterian Church in America
4156 Clovercroft Rd. Franklin, TN 37067
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1593, Franklin, TN 37065
Web: www.parishpres.org
Church Office: Sarah Dye, 574-1029, office@parishpres.org
Prayer requests: prayer@parishpres.org

Pastor: James Crampton, 943-1696, jamie@parishpres.org
Pastor Emeritus: George Grant, 574-1029 (office), george@parishpres.org
Associate Pastor: Brian Phillips, 429-8125, brian@parishpres.org
Assistant Pastor: Mike Fennema, 931-215-1057, mike@parishpres.org
Music Director: Henry C. Haffner, 497-6573, henry@parishpres.org
Staff Accompanist: Mirandi Herrenbruck, mirandi@parishpres.org
Music Intern: Caleb Groves, caleb@parishpres.org
Audio Coordinator: Jonathan George, jonathan@parishpres.org
Financial Administrator: Joanna Reategui, joanna@parishpres.org
Parish Nursery Coordinator: Chelsea Monroe, 495-0423, chelsea@parishpres.org
Women's Ministry Coordinator: Christian Barnes, 478-318-5521, christian@parishpres.org

Elders

Stephen Barnes (478-318-5513)	Keith Cannon (636-7137)	Caleb Faires (513-0659)
Miles Foltermann (281) 793-3280	Tom Goddard (218-3654)	Brandon Herrenbruck (339-5516)
Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)	Mike Miserochi (594-3880)	Matt Morrison (482-5107)
Jason Parolini (497-3337)	Jonathan Thornton (703-801-1355)	

Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)	Brandon Blair (336-0274)	Kevin Cowherd (967-5099)
Ben Crist (509-3040)	Ryan Gregory (714-5446)	Elliot Huck (843-540-6529)
Piotr Lorenc (931-996-9226)	Connor Neville (410-430-0760)	Nolan Reategui (829-0412)
Joshua Scheenstra (818-653-1113)	Robert Simmons (850-532-1075)	Nae Soundara (519-3720)
Jim Soyster (585-5980)	Walt Yates (785-477-0990)	

Officers Emeritus

Steve Nelson, Elder Emeritus; Jimmy Allen, Tim Simmons, Deacons Emeritus

All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.