

First Sunday of Christmas  
December 28, 2025  
11:00am — McKay Hall

"Although no one can  
go back and make a  
*brand new start.*  
anyone can start now  
and make a  
*brand new ending.*"  
- Carl Bard



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
WEST WAYNE STREET

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

*Congregation responds in bold*

## **GATHERING**

### **Prelude**

### **Call to Worship**

What time is it?

**We have decided that this is the time.**

What time is it?

**Time to write that book or at least read one.**

What time is it?

**Time to call my old friends and tell them where I've been.**

What time is it?

**Time to give up potato chips or at least stop eating the whole bag in one sitting.**

What time is it?

**Time to serve somebody.**

What time is it?

**Time to put God first or at least get behind whatever God is doing.**

What time is it?

**Time to forgive that person I'm mad at.**

What time is it?

**Time to forgive myself.**

What time is it?

**Time to admit that I can't do this without some help.**

What time is it?

**Time to register to vote.**

What time is it?

**Time to write my congressperson and tell him or her what time it is.**

What time is it?

**Time to see if giving generously will work for me.**

What time is it?

**Time to get over myself.**

What time is it?

**Time to take care of myself.**

What time is it?

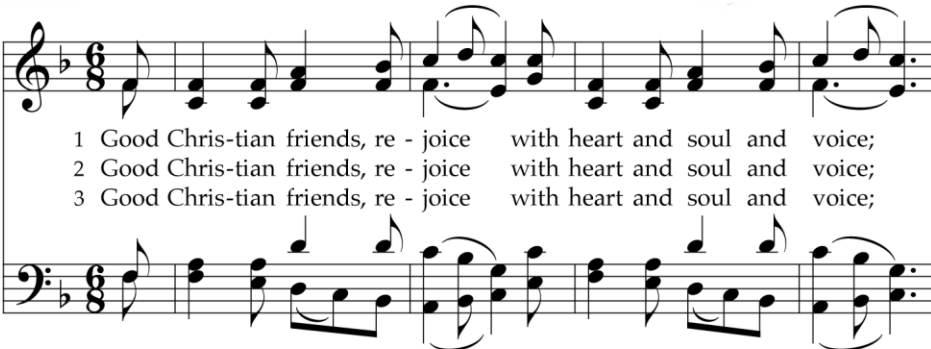
**Time to understand that time is not ours to give but ours to live God's plan.**

It's time; it's time; now is the time.

\*Hymn No. 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

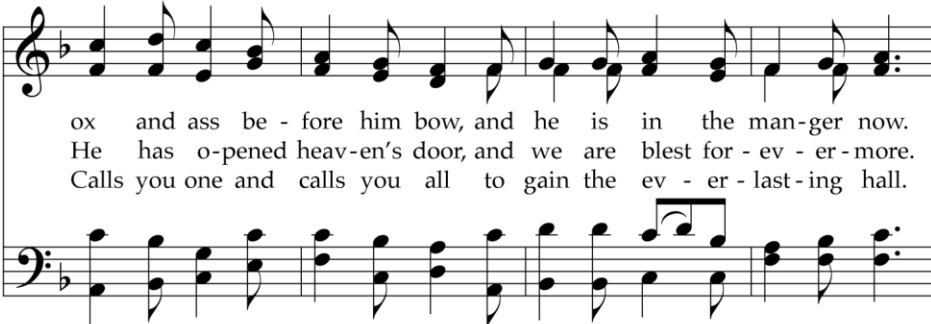
IN DULCI JUBILO




1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



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



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the 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!

## **HEARING THE WORD**

### **Old Testament Reading #1**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Old Testament Reading #2**

Isaiah 42:9

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Reflection**

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

**Silent Prayer**

**Prayers of Petition**

**Prayers of the People and 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.**

## **SENDING**

**\*Hymn No. 136**

**Go, Tell It on the Mountain  
(On Next Page)**

**GO TELL IT**


**\*Benediction**

### **Postlude**

## **IN MEMORIAM**

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of FPC Jubilee Member Bob Jesse, who died on December 18. A celebration of life will be held in the spring.  
Please keep Bob's family and friends in your prayers.

# 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

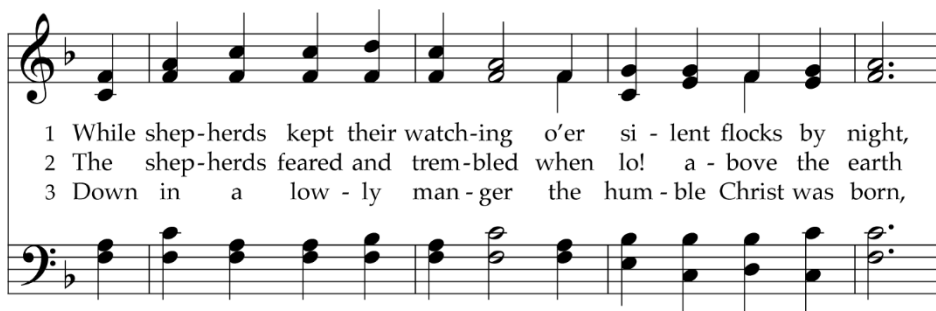
Refrain 



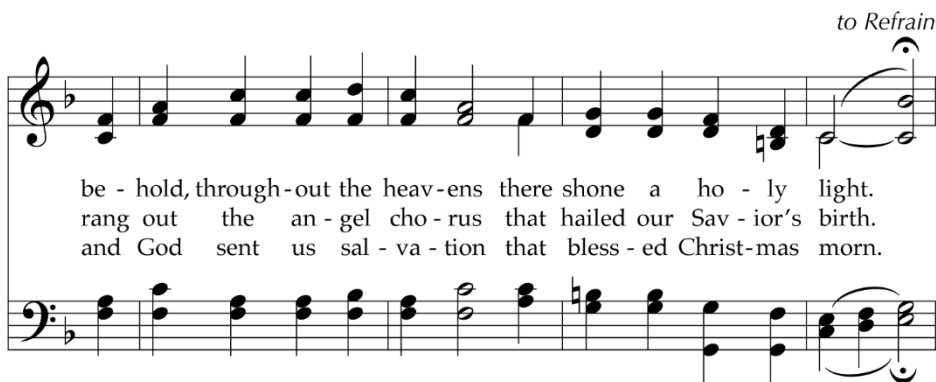
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

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## Assisting with Worship this Morning

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**Pastors:** Rev. Dr. Annie Epling (she/her)

**Director of Music Ministries:** Colin Andrews

**Elders of the Month/Greeters:** Tony Borton, Carolyn Krebs, Carol Rhudy, Sherrie Steiner

**Ushers of the Month:** Anne Barnett, Dave Beer, Eric Evans, Carol Offerle, Jack Patton, Steve Weissner, Beth White

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## Prayer List

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- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Kathy Miller           | • Jim & Sondra Mergenthal |
| • Kelly Leach            | • Cormac Wallace          |
| • Donna Jesse and Family | • Richard Baughman        |

**If you are in need of prayer or an encouraging word, let us know.**

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

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### Special Worship Service January 4

FPC's Director of Music Ministries, Colin Andrews, will be playing Messiaen's Christmas cycle "La Nativité du Seigneur" ("The birth of the Savior") during the worship service on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. This is a multi-media event which includes a presentation of artwork and Scripture to add a further dimension to this magnificent work. It sounds spectacular on our wonderful Aeolian-Skinner organ and will be a beautiful way to celebrate Epiphany!

### End of the Year Giving/2026 Envelopes

As we approach the end of the year, please note that all donations to First Presbyterian Church need to be postmarked by December 31 to be included in your 2025 giving statements. Online donations can be made by scanning the QR code. If you have any questions about end of year giving, please contact Bill Hickie at [bhickie@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto:bhickie@firstpresfortwayne.org) or 260-426-7421 x102.



The 2026 Giving Envelopes are now available in the small dining room. There are no assigned numbers, so take any box. Make sure to put your name on your envelope if using cash.

### Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

The offering will be taken until January 4. Special envelopes will be available in the pews, or you may give online by scanning the QR code.



## **First Pres Art Gallery**

*Creative Resistance* opens January 16 in the gallery, featuring work by Rachel Ivy Clarke, Tamara Harper, Erin Bauchan-Caprara, Emily Herbster, Elysha Ozanian, and Amber Elliot.

Showing: January 16-March 9, 2026

Reception: January 16, 5:30-7:00 pm, January 18, 12:15-1:00 pm

Craftivism, the intersection of craft and activism, brings a slower, more reflective approach to protest. It seeks to show that while bold action and loud voices have their place, change can also come through quiet, intentional acts. The exhibit will feature art done in traditional craft forms. Please join us!

## **Help Shape the Future of Our Church!**

The Officer Nominating Committee is now receiving nominations for elders and deacons. Who do you know who would be a faithful, compassionate leader in our church? Your voice matters—your nominations make a real difference! This is your church, and God is still calling leaders from among us. Deadline: January 15.

Nominations may be emailed to Ina Carlson at [iscarlson1@gmail.com](mailto:iscarlson1@gmail.com) or Carol Rhudy at [cmrhudy@gmail.com](mailto:cmrhudy@gmail.com), or drop them off. Printed forms will be available in the Narthex and in the church office. Completed forms may be returned in the box located in the church office.

## **Table Talk**

This women's book study meets online on Wednesdays at 10:00 am, taking turns "reading around the table", so no homework is assigned. Participants should obtain their own copies of the book, *Separation of Church and Hate*, before the group begins on January 21.

Please note:

**FPC Campus will be closed through New Years Day,**  
with the exception of the KLM New Years Eve service.