



Faith United  
Presbyterian  
Church  
in Farmers Branch

*Glorify God, grow disciples, and  
meet the needs of our neighbors.*



## GATHERING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*There's a Song in the Air*

Katia Dinas

Karl Harrington, arr. Fred Bock

#### INTROIT

*Advent Introit and Blessing: 1. Rejoice, Rejoice with Music*

Words, Joseph M. Martin  
Arr. Stacey Nordmeyer

*Rejoice, rejoice with music; this is a day for praise! The Light of peace is coming; let ev'ry heart be raised.  
The morning now is breaking; creation's song awaking. This is the dawn of grace. This is a day for praise!*

#### LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Kyle Feather & Nancy Smith; Lighters

Readers: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel. For God has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

**People: God has raised up a mighty savior for us.**

(Lighting of the first & second candle)

Readers: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

**People: To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

#### ◆ OPENING HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

GTG 88

VENI EMMANUEL

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Kyle Feather, Lay Liturgist

The voice of one comes crying out in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord. A messenger prepares the way, transforming us like the refiner's fire, calling us to account. For the prophets of old have spoken, announcing the breaking open of the dawn, guiding our feet in the way of peace. Let us confess and repent of our sin.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God forgive us when we are quick to point the finger at someone else. Forgive us when we put our heads down and ignore the cries of injustice. Forgive us when we presume to understand the complexity of issues that divide and distract. Merciful God, forgive us, heal us, encourage us, and speak through us, that we may be transformed through the refiner's fire, and the offerings of our hands and heart may prepare the way for the Christ child to be welcomed among us in peace. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

#### SILENT CONFESSION

You are invited to take a moment for silent confession.

#### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God is our witness; we have spoken of our lives and been forgiven of all sin – mistakes we have made, hurts we have caused. **We are held in God's heart, not only this day, but all the days of our lives. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven in Jesus Christ, and we are being transformed in the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God.**

#### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

GTG 582

GLORY TO GOD

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

***World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.***

***World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

# HEARING THE WORD

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### ANTHEM

*Rise Up Shepherd and Follow*

arr. Mark Hayes

Pianist: Katia Dinas

*Rise up, rise up, rise up, rise up, rise up, shepherd, rise up, shepherd,  
Rise up, shepherd, rise up, shepherd, rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*There's a star, there's a star, there's a star. There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.  
Rise up, shepherd, and follow. It will lead to the place where the Christ was born. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*There's a star in the east on Christmas morn. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow. Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*If you take good heed to the angel's words, rise up, shepherd, and follow,  
You'll forget your flocks; you'll forget your herds. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.  
Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow. Follow the start of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

*Rise up, rise up, rise up and follow. Shepherd, rise up, rise up, rise up and follow.  
Follow the star of Bethlehem. Rise up, shepherd, and follow.*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

### SECOND READING

Luke 3:1-6

### SERMON

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie

"Preparing Him Room on the Way"

## RESPONDING

### ◆ HYMN OF MEDITATION

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

GTG 106

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

### ◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed, *Traditional*

**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

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord,**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

How can we thank you, O God? , . . . we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus, . . .

. . . remembering Christ's dying and rising, and praying: Come Lord Jesus!

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Spirit upon us . . . all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All believers of Jesus Christ, young and old, are invited to receive.  
Please wait and we will eat and drink together.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious and abundant God, even as we wait for the fulfillment of your creation, you meet us in Christ at this table, in this meal. We thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation. Send us out in the world by the power of the Holy Spirit to share your life and salvation with all whom we meet, through Christ. Amen.

## OFFERING

Offertory	<i>Sun of My Soul</i>	Lani Smith
Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	GTG 606
<b>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.</b>		

Prayer of Dedication

O Loving God, see, you come in this holy season with the simple gift of life itself. See you invite us to share from the abundance of our lives, so others might be filled with life, with hope, with love, and with grace. Bless these offerings, so they may be used to share the gospel of wholeness and welcome for all, through Christ. Amen.

## SENDING

### ◆ HYMN OF DEDICATION

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

GTG 132  
IN DULCI JUBILO

## BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

**We will glorify God, grow disciples, and meet the needs of our neighbors.**

### ◆ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Advent Introit and Blessing: 2. Share the Light*

Words, Joseph M. Martin  
Arr. Stacey Nordmeyer

*Go in peace and live your faith. Share the Light. Share the Light. Go and walk the glory way.*

*Share the Light. Share the Light. Be a candle in the shadows. Be a star to warm the night.*

*Go in peace and live your faith. Share the Light. Share the Light, share the Light. Share the Light. Share the Light.*

**Congregational response (as directed): Share the Light, Share the Light.**

◆ Stand as you are able

GTG – Glory to God Hymnal

### PRAYER LIST

Dale Durcholz	Roger Jones
Dennis Van Deventer	Mike Jones
Kathie Heffler	David Duell
George & Mozelle Mills	John Marxer

**Homebound or Recovering:** Freddie Simmons,  
Charley Rae Furrh (Terri Russell's cousin)

We now have online giving available. Just scan the QR Code to the right with your smartphone or go to our website and click the "Give Now" button. [www.FaithUnited-pc.com](http://www.FaithUnited-pc.com) You will have the option to set up your giving profile. This will make it easy to login anytime you are ready to give, even designated giving like Special Offerings throughout the year. **You can also select to donate the 2% fee so Faith United does not incur it.**



## Poinsettias 2021

*(Please notify church office if names or dedications are incorrect)*



### Given By

Brenda Burkham

Gabriela Castillo

Gail Crumpler

Frank Fehmel (3)

Kathleen Ferguson

Jeanne Haben (2)

Anne Kirchmeyer

Courtland & Rich Lewis

Alison Meier

Sharon Meurer

Kevin, Katie, & Nathan Miller

Lois Norton

David Pierce (3)

Richard Royer

Geraldine Shotswell

Nancy Smith (2)

Terry & Jessica Stottlemeyer

Renee Wensley

Lloyd & Ruth Yost

### Dedication

Ho Echols

For Pedro Castillo

In memory of my husband, Jim

For all those who have suffered from Covid

1) All Glory to God

2) In memory of June Klein

In memory of Paul Haben

1) In memory of parents, Henry & Jessamine Scheele

2) In memory of grandfather, Henry Scheele III

1) In honor of Jennifer Tiemann

2) In honor of Brenda Swindle

To the Glory of God

1) In memory of Jack Walden

2) In memory of Helen Bowling

3) In memory of Margaret Jones

4) In memory of Betty Runkel

1) In memory of Doc & Nina Mecum

2) In memory of Carole Miller

3) In memory of our beloved church friends who have passed to be with our Lord.

1) In memory of Marie & Louis J. Klein (parents)

2) In honor of David Pierce

3) In honor of the FUPC choir

1) In memory of Sugie Maxfield

2) In memory of Charlotte Williamson

3) In honor of Mozelle & George Mills

In memory of Kenny Royer

In loving memory of all my family

In honor of our grandchildren, Evie, Ben, Carson, and Ella

1) In memory of Edith Carpenter

2) In memory of Kenny Royer

Memory of my parents/Artie & Genevieve Bratton

In memory of our parents



### Praying with the Prophets of Advent

The mid-week devotional offered by Pastor Ken for Advent will be focused upon the prophets of Advent. We will consider how these prophecies can form and shape our prayer life during the season of expectation and anticipation, hope and joy, peace and love. The devotional is posted on the church's Facebook page and YouTube channel mid-week. This week's offering: Restoration Before Our Eyes.

# OPENING Hymn

## 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge  
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>5 O come, thou Key of David, come,<br/>             and open wide our heavenly home;<br/>             make safe the way that leads on high,<br/>             and close the path to misery.<br/>             Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>             shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> | <p>6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer<br/>             our spirits by thine advent here;<br/>             disperse the gloomy clouds of night,<br/>             and death's dark shadows put to flight.<br/>             Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>             shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> |
|--|--|

- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 all peoples in one heart and mind;  
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

### Thanks to our choir in worship today!

David Pierce, Director of Music

Katia Dinas, Pianist

#### Soprano

Sara Knoy  
 Mary Marxer  
 Lois Norton  
 Barbara Ritchie  
 Gerry Shotswell  
 Katelyn Spivey

#### Alto

Patti Sloey  
 Jessica Stottlmyer  
 Renee Wensley

#### Tenor

Kyle Feather  
 Jeremy Rohwer

#### Bass

Kurt Booth  
 Rich Lewis  
 Zachary Rohwer



# HYMN of MEDITATION

## Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



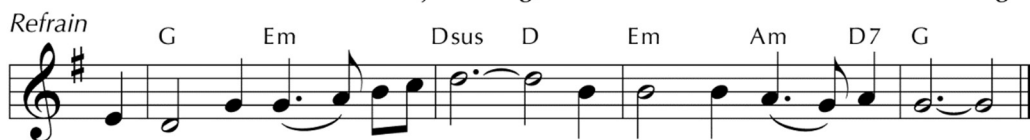
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!  
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
 Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound-ing.  
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

### Brighten a *child's holiday.*

#### TOY DRIVE

Each donated toy gives hope to a child of opening up at least one gift this holiday season.

Help by donating new unwrapped toys for children ages 1-18. Collect toys based on what you think a child or teenager would like or refer to our Most-Needed Toy list below.



#### MOST-NEEDED TOY ITEMS

Sports & college apparel  
 Electronics, video & board games  
 Gym bags & sports equipment  
 Wallets, jewelry, & watches  
 Leggos  
 Hair dryer, flat & curling irons  
 Nail & cosmetic sets  
 Perfume/cologne sets (AXE sets)  
 Wal-Mart & Amazon gift cards  
 Disney themed items  
 Marvel themed items

#### Metrocrest Santa Store 2021!

This year we have several ways to participate in the Santa Store giving.

- 1) Bring your New unwrapped gifts and put them in the designated location at the church.
- 2) Bring your NEW unwrapped gifts to our "Drive through" event on Saturday, 12/11, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

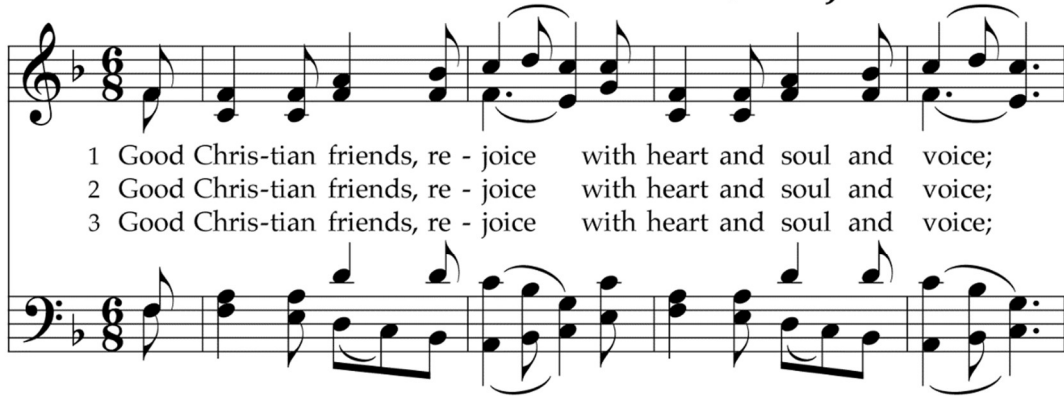
If you cannot participate in one of these ways, call the church office for assistance. We will deliver the gifts to the Store on or shortly after Monday, 12/13.

*Thank you for your donations!*

**metrocrest**  
  
**services**  
 building a stronger community together

# HYMN of DEDICATION

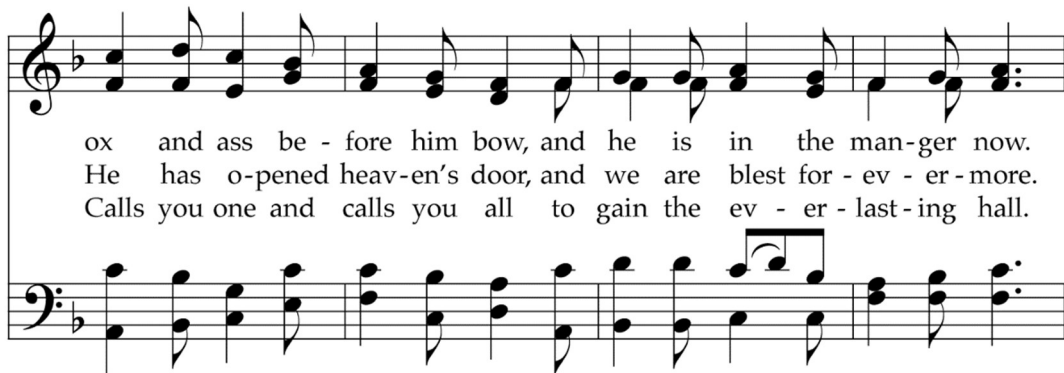
## 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



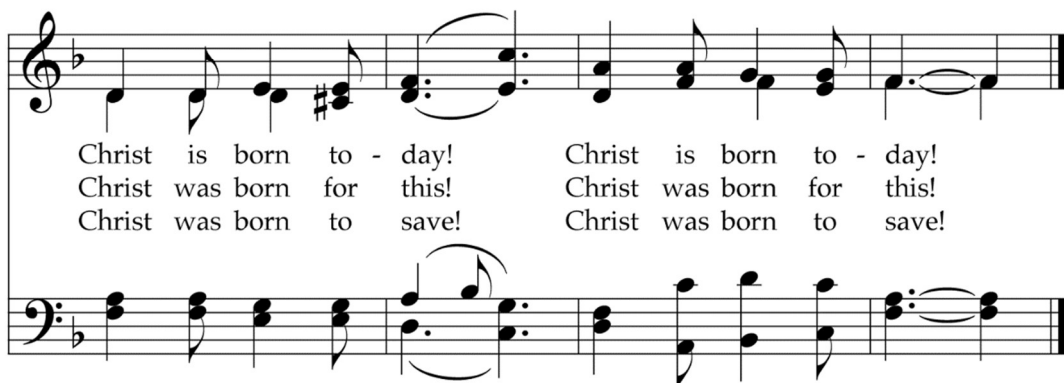
1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



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!

## The Session

Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie, Moderator of Session  
Jessica Stottlemeyer, Clerk    Rich Lewis, Treasurer

### Class of 2021

Kurt Booth, O&E  
Frank Fehmel, W&M  
\*Debbie Rainier, O&E  
\*Jessica Stottlemeyer, CE and Clerk

### Class of 2022

Kathleen Ferguson, W&M  
\*Debbie Menefee, CL  
\*Katie Miller, CE and Finance  
\*Tracy Tiemann, B&G

### Class of 2023

Courtland Lewis, O&E  
\*Patti Sloey, Finance  
Brenda Burkham, CL



## Standing Committees of the Session

\*Denotes Committee Moderator

B&G = Building & Grounds	W&M = Worship & Music
O&E = Outreach & Evangelism	Finance
CE = Christian Education	CL = Church Life

## CHOSEN TO SERVE

**Disciples:** The People of Faith United

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Ken Ritchie,  
Ken@FaithUnited-pc.com

**Business Manager:** Brenda Swindle,  
Brenda@FaithUnited-pc.com

**Director of Music:** David Pierce

**Pianist:** Katia Dinas



## Faith United Presbyterian Church

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