

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

First Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 2025

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA>

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation



LESSONS AND CAROLS

Our Mission

"Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other."

*The Service for the Lord's Day
First Sunday of Christmas*

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: We recount the gracious deeds of God, all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:

People: Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.

Leader: Praise God for the good news of Jesus, pioneer of our salvation.

People: Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.

Leader: Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.

People: God's glory shines in heaven and on earth. Praise the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness (Christ, Be our Light)

GTG 314

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Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. [Refrain]

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. [Refrain]

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. [Refrain]

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. [Refrain]

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

Pastor

The Word was made flesh,

Alleluia, Alleluia!

and dwelt among us,

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, Light eternal:

Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus, King of glory, Son of righteousness, born of the Virgin Mary:

Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Lord:

Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls, perfect in holiness:

Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus, Friend of all, Protector of the poor, Treasure of the faithful:

Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus, Good Shepherd, inexhaustible Wisdom, our Way, our Truth, and our Life:

Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of all the saints:

Glory to you, O Lord!

(silence is kept)

Christ is born! Give him glory!

Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!

Christ is now on earth! Exalt him!

O earth, sing to the Lord!

O you nations, praise him in joy,
for he has been glorified! **Amen.**

*HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten (vs. 1, 3, 5 & 6)

GTG 108

Public Domain

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore him. Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God the Father and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore! Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

God of glory,

In Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFESSATIONAL RESPONSE

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all.

People: And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

GTG 113

Public Domain

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist

Everlasting God,

the radiance of faithful souls, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your raising: Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LESSONS AND CAROLS (remain seated for hymns)

Luke 2:1-3

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

GTG 129

Public Domain

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

Luke 2:4-5

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

GTG 121

Public Domain

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!



Luke 2:6-7

HYMN

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Public Domain

GTG 128

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

Luke 2:8-12

HYMN

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (vs. 1, 3, 4 & 6)

Public Domain

GTG 118

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

“To you, in David’s town this day, is born of David’s line
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:

“The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all humbly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid.”

“All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
good will to all from highest heaven begin and never cease!”

Luke 2:13-14

HYMN

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Public Domain

GTG 146

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him;
heaven’s star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

Luke 2:15-16

HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs. 1, 2, 4 & 5)

Public Domain

GTG 123

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Luke 2:17-20

HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

Public Domain

GTG 143

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
you, who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!



We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]



Isaiah 60:1-7

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

*The Doxology

GTG 606

**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-**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

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.

*HYMN

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

GTG 100

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My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn;
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. [Refrain]

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your Justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. [Refrain]

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. [Refrain]

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

Welcome to our visitors today!

We are glad you are here and we hope you will join us for worship again. If you are interested in joining our church, there are three ways you may do so. They are letter of transfer from your church of previous membership, reaffirmation of faith if you have already been baptized; and baptism and affirmation of faith if you have not been baptized. If you are interested in joining, please ask our pastor, or one of our elders, for more details.

Need help hearing the service? Receivers connected to the sound system are available in the Narthex. Just ask an usher.

Please use the friendship register located in the pew to indicate your presence in worship. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please include your address, telephone number, and e-mail.

Let the children come to me: Children & Youth of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to actively participate in worship. For those desiring supportive materials, “sermon notes” for young children through older youth are available in the narthex. Clipboards and crayons are also available to take to your pew. Please return them to the narthex after the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome and thank Marion Miller as our accompanist this morning.

Church officers for the Class of 2028 will be ordained and installed during our worship service on **Sunday, January 4th.**

The FPC Women's Circle Meeting is Monday, January 5th at King's Grant at 11:00 AM. Nancy Baker will be leading lesson 5, Widow's Mite. If you are not a King's Grant resident, please sign in at the front desk and purchase your lunch ticket for \$12 upon arrival.

The church office will remain closed now through January 2nd.

Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network (Creamed Corn 15 oz.)** (Other needs: toilet paper, deodorant, bath soap, toothpaste, feminine products, dish and laundry detergent) when you do your grocery shopping. Both agencies depend on us for assistance.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday – 9:30 – 2:00 PM

The office will be closed through January 2

If pastoral care is needed, please call 276-734-8830

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Trooper Steven Ball, Family of Erica Walker (niece of Janet Fentress), Family of John Peeples, Pat Baumann, Sue Benfield, Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Marge Dunn, Martin Ford, Marvin Hudson, Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Leslie Naradikian (Marion Miller's daughter), Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, Richard Komorowski (M&N Davis), Cecil Robbins, Sandra Roberts (sister of Kat Walker), Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, , Tammy Tucker Wardinski, persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries, and families and areas devastated by severe weather.

Happy New Year

We wish you a healthy and prosperous 2026

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
December 28	Sam Smith	Monty and Joan Montgomery
January 4	Randy Rollins	Ron Rebman, Judy King
January 11	Taylor Shank	Bill and Suzan Kirby
January 18	Joe Williams	Joe and Jerri DeVault
January 25	Pearl Minter	Bob Wuestefeld, Barbara Duncan
February 1	Joe DeVault	Duke and Liz Ferrell
February 8	Barbara Duncan	Randy and Martha Rollins
February 15	Cindy Edgerton	Billy and Sharon Kirby
February 22	Janet Fentress	Monty and Joan Montgomery

If you cannot serve on the Sunday scheduled, please find a substitute.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 28

9:00 AM

Sunday School

10:00 AM

Lesson and Carols

Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 4

Communion Sunday

9:00 AM

Sunday School

10:00 AM

Worship in Sanctuary

Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 5

11:00 AM

PW Circle Meeting at King's Grant

Wednesday –Friday

Weekday School

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

School in Session

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Lunch Buddies

Sunday, January 11

9:00 AM

Sunday School

10:00 AM

Worship in Sanctuary

Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 17

8:00-9:30 AM

Community Breakfast (cooking begins at 7:00 AM)

Sunday, January 18

9:00 AM

Sunday School

10:00 AM

Worship in Sanctuary / Congregational Meeting

Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 19

Office Closed in Observance of MLK Jr. Day

Sunday, January 25

9:00 AM

Sunday School

10:00 AM

Worship in Sanctuary

Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Monday, January 26

4:00 PM

Session Meeting