
Gathering those who fear they are not enough,
so we may experience grace, wholeness, and renewal as God's beloved.



Liturgy for this service is adapted from A Sanctified Art

We Gather to Praise God

PRELUDE

Meditation from "Thais"

Jules Massenet (1842-1912)

RINGING OF THE BELL

INTROIT

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(traditional)

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee.*

WELCOME

Megan Klose

*** ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Margaret Veatch

ONE: In a weary and worn world how do we begin again? Where do we start?

ALL: Let us begin with the good news!

Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God. Let us begin with music and singing! Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.

ONE: Yes, let us begin with hope. Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.

ALL: May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start. May this be our new beginning.

ONE: May hope flow forth from here.

ALL: Amen!

*** GATHERING HYMN 93**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

CALL TO CONFESSION

Tim Stufft

ONE: Every time we approach the prayer of confession, we ask the same awe-struck question as Mary did, “*How can this be?*” How can God’s mercy know no end? How can God be so gracious with someone as fickle as me? Regardless of the week we’ve had, this good news never changes. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in the prayer of confession, and may God’s mercy leave you awestruck. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Affirming God, Your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, “It is good.” You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ. At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society’s measuring stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ’s name we pray, amen.

Personal prayer in silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Yena Hwang

ONE: God says, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

ALL: Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.

** Please rise in body or spirit*

* GLORY TO GOD 583



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979

Music © 1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

GLORIA (Taizé)

* PASSING THE PEACE

Yena Hwang

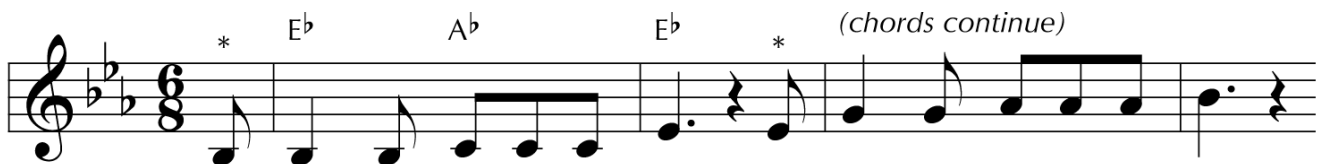
ONE: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Children ages 4 and up are invited to continue their worship at Godly Play in Room 59.

We Listen for God's Word

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION HYMN 95



Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,



and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984

Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

PREPARE THE WAY

7.7.6.7

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 43:1-7

Tim Stufft

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Yena Hwang

ONE: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

We Respond to God's Word*** SERMON HYMN 129***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Megan Klose

We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved. We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary, and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman, the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds, the Jews, the Gentiles, the faithful and the doubting. So, in faith, we trust that God's blessing, like ripples on the water, forever reaches toward us. And with wild hope, we believe that because of this blessing, we are covered in love. We are more than enough. Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Tim Stufft

ONE: Lord in your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

The Prayers of the People are offered on behalf of and with the congregation, usually by an elder who is currently serving or has previously served on Session. Prayer requests can be sent to Pastor Megan at prayers@fallschurchpresby.org.

Prayers of Joy ...

Katie and Robert Wintersteen on the birth of their son, Jules,
with congratulations to grandparents Nancy and Michael Gehron

Please keep in your prayers ...

Anna Dente, recovering from pneumonia

Theresa Brown, recovering from surgery on Nov. 14

Linda Garvelink, after a recent hospitalization

Avery Burns, in rehab following hip replacement surgery on Nov. 7

Allan Capon, Ruth Mileham, Ken Waugh, with continuing health concerns

OUR LIFE TOGETHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

Megan Klose

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Megan Klose

Please support the mission and ministry of the church with your financial contributions. Offerings can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church office, given online through our secure giving portal (fcpc.breezechms.com/give/online), texted to give at 7037751355, or scanned using the QR code.



OFFERTORY

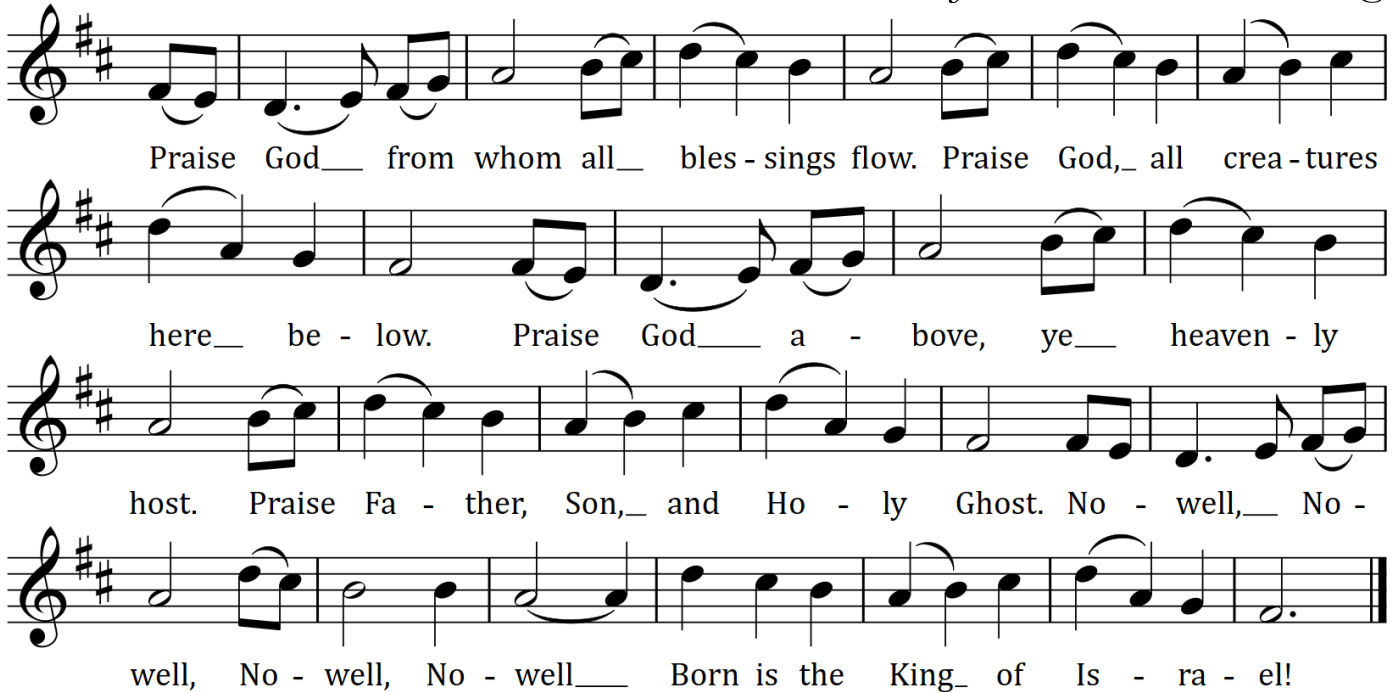
Creator of the Stars of Night

arr. John Scott (b. 1956)

*Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all, regard thy servants when they call.
Thou, grieving at the bitter cry of all creation doomed to die,
didst come to save a ruined race with healing gifts of heavenly grace.
Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride, as drew the world to evening-tide,
proceeding from a virgin shrine, the Son of Man, yet Lord divine.
At thy great name, majestic now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
and things in heaven and earth shall own that thou art Lord and King alone.
To thee, O holy One, we pray, our judge in that tremendous day,
preserve us, while we dwell below, from every onslaught of the foe.
All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore, and Spirit blest, for evermore.*

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God__ from whom all__ bles - sings flow. Praise God, _ all crea - tures
here__ be - low. Praise God__ a - bove, ye__ heaven - ly
host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, _ and Ho - ly Ghost. No - well, __ No -
well, No - well, No - well__ Born is the King_ of Is - ra - el!

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Yena Hwang and Megan Klose

Invitation to the Lord's Table and Great Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution and Distribution of the Elements

Come forward by the center aisle, take bread, dip it into the cup and eat, then return to your pew by a side aisle. Bread is gluten-free, cup is non-alcoholic, and yeast-free wafers are available. A tray with bread and cups will be brought to those who wish to remain seated.

Prayer after Communion

Yena Hwang

We Are Sent into the World

* SENDING HYMN 547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

Yena Hwang

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(traditional)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set us free;

Send us out into the world to be a light for Thee. Amen! Go share the love of Jesus!

POSTLUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Joel Raney (contemporary)

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Supporting Us in Worship

Worship Leader

Tim Stufft

Ushers

Drew Luten, Steve Rutsch

Communion Preparation

Susan Beeman, Elaine Porter

Communion Server

Elaine Porter

Sexton

Tim Stufft

A Warm Welcome

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. Please sign the red welcome pad which can be found at the end of the pew, then pass the pad along to your neighbor.

Large-print bulletins are available at the sanctuary entrances. Portable electronic assistive listening devices are available in the narthex.

A recording of today's service can be found at www.fallschurchpresby.org/sermon.

If you would like to learn more about our family of faith, please talk to the pastor as you exit the sanctuary. More information can be found on our website.

Children in Worship

Children are always welcome in our services. Children's bulletins and coloring sheets are available for children of all ages at each entrance. **The Kids' Corner** in the front right of the Sanctuary is a space where children and their grownups can play, read, color, and participate in worship. **Children up to age 4:** BibleFun

with Mr. Tom begins at 10:00 a.m. in Room 206. Paid nursery staff provide support to our youngest disciples.

Fellowship Hour

Please join us in Fellowship Hall after worship to greet your neighbors and enjoy some light refreshments.

Announcements

Advent begins today. We mark the season with several special activities:

Photo-A-Day Advent Calendar. Hunt for images that reflect the season of Advent. We will post a new prompt every morning at 8:00 a.m. on Facebook. Post your photos in the comment section below.

Arts & Soul Coloring Quilt. Join us in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. for creative fellowship. Each Sunday in Advent we will color a different quilt square pattern to assemble as a representation of our community.

Hybrid Wednesday Morning Bible Study. Join us in person or online Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. for a special Advent Bible study. Conference Room or Zoom link <https://bit.ly/3CVGtg9>. December 4, 11, and 18.

Devotionals

- *Watching and Waiting* is designed for families to engage in conversations about Christian faith and themes found in some of our favorite Christmas movies.
- *Words for the Beginning* is shaped around several Advent reminders. Use this devotional for personal reflection from Advent to Epiphany.

Toy Drive SOS: Seeking Online Santas! We can now place orders for the NVFS Toy Drive **through December 4** at <https://a.co/d4KnY9X> for direct delivery to Northern Virginia Family Service who will distribute toys to children of families in need. Providing joy to children who may otherwise go without couldn't be easier! Also, there is still *plenty* of room in the Toy Drive donation box at the entrance to Fellowship Hall, where you can drop off donations through **December 8**. Thank you!

Holiday Hangout & Christmas Market, Dec. 8, 5-7 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Join us for a potluck dinner (bring a dish to share), crafts, carol singing, and the Christmas Market where all ages can shop for previously loved treasures at excellent prices!

In this season of Thanksgiving that quickly turns to waiting and anticipation, the Generosity Team is thankful, and pleased to report that we now have 103 pledges totaling \$698,288.50 toward the 2025 budget. As we move into Advent this weekend, we encourage any who haven't completed their 2025 Estimate of Giving to do so online this weekend using the link in the egram. Be a part of all that God is calling us to as we minister to those around us, and to one another.

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 1 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Hunger Fund Offering Received
Arts & Soul Coloring Quilt, 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Matthew 25 Group, 9:00 a.m., Room 303
Bible Fun, 10:00 a.m., Room 206
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, in person or online
Card Ministry Sunday at Fellowship Hour
Youth Group, 6:00 p.m., Room 303

Monday, December 2 – *No scheduled events*

Tuesday, December 3 – Tuesday Morning Prayer Group, 9:00 a.m., Zoom
Buildings & Grounds Team, 6:30 p.m. Conference Room

Wednesday, December 4

Hybrid Bible Study, 11:00 a.m., Conference Room & online at <https://bit.ly/3CVGtg9>
First Wednesday Welcome Table Set Up and Food Prep, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
First Wednesday Welcome Table Food Distribution and Cleanup, 4:00 – 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, December 5

Finance Team, 7:00 p.m. Conference Room
Chancel Choir, 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Friday, December 6 – *No scheduled events*

Saturday, December 7

Bible Study & Fellowship Group, 8:00 a.m., Parlor
Chancel Choir, 8:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Chancel Choir Lunch, 12:00 noon, Fellowship Hall
Silent Witness for Racial Justice, 12:00 noon, Broad St. in front of FCPC

Sunday, December 8 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Arts & Soul Coloring Quilt, 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
VOICE Core Team, 9:00 a.m., Room 303
Bible Fun, 10:00 a.m., Room 206
Worship Service, Advent Lessons & Carols, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary, in person or online
Crooked Steeple Team, 11:00 a.m., Room 303
Holiday Hangout & Christmas Market, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Falls Church Presbyterian belongs to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, “working for the unity of the church, furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, seeking understanding and reconciliation, and joining with others seeking a still more just and inclusive church.”

Falls Church Presbyterian is also a Matthew 25 church seeking to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty.

The Rev. Yena Hwang, Pastor

The Rev. Megan Klose, Associate Pastor

Diane Maloney, Director of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement

Dr. Don Armstrong, Director of Music; Dr. Lisa Bloy, Organist

225 East Broad Street, Falls Church, VA 22046 | 703-532-6518 | www.fallschurchpresby.org

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery - where.

It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
 En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he


win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

Although the early copies of this 15th-century German text include many more stanzas than are printed here, this simpler, shorter form has much to commend it. This early 17th-century harmonization of the traditional chorale melody invites and rewards singing in parts.

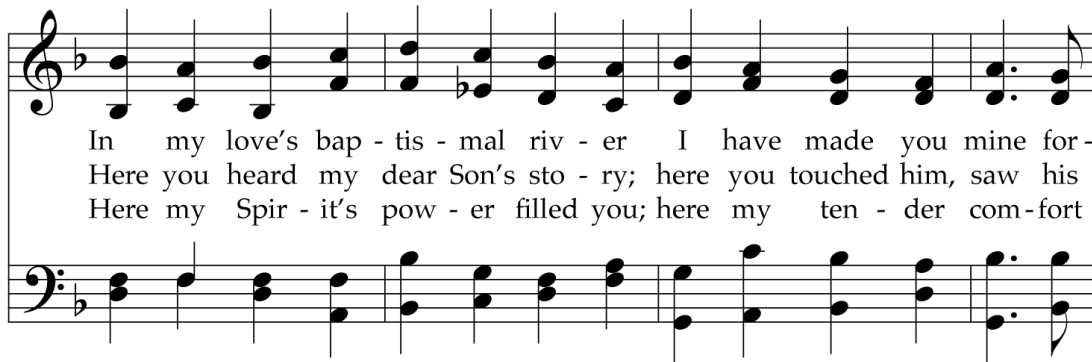
Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547



1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here my ten - der com - fort



ev - er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 glo - ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22–27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.