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#### STAFF

**Rev. Dr. Stacy C. Smith** | Interim Pastor  
**Rev. Dr. Kenneth J. Macari** | Volunteer Mission Pastor  
**Alexa Teebo** | Director of Music Ministry  
**Luyang Liu** | Organist and Pianist  
**Jason Curtis Rivera** | AV Director and Musician  
**Kim Russo** | Director of Westminster Preschool  
**Michelle Howell** | Co-Director of Children's Ministry  
**Jessica Miller** | Co-Director of Children's Ministry  
**Kathy Church** | Finance Administrator  
**Lindsay Clark** | Church Administrator



DECEMBER 14, 2025



Service of Worship for the  
Third Sunday of Advent

**FANWOOD**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO WORSHIP at

# FANWOOD

*Kneeling in Bethlehem*  
MUSIC AND POETRY FOR ADVENT

Fanwood Presbyterian Church is excited to present Christmas Music Sunday featuring excerpts from *Kneeling in Bethlehem: Poetry for Advent and Christmas* by the liturgist and writer Ann Weems, and music under the direction of Alexa Teebo. Our Christmas Music Sunday is part of our proclamation of the Gospel and is a gift to the congregation and to the Lord we worship. Special thanks to our musicians:

**Alexa Teebo**, soprano  
**Elissa Weiss**, alto  
**Broderick Brown**, tenor/bass  
**Luyang Liu**, piano and organ

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Our usher team this morning is David Trumpp and Brian McGuinness. Our music team is led each week by Alexa Teebo, Luyang Liu, and Jason Rivera, with AV support by Chris Mallari. Our service is streamed at [Youtube.com/@FanwoodPresbyterianChurch](https://www.youtube.com/@FanwoodPresbyterianChurch) and at [Facebook.com/FanwoodPres](https://www.facebook.com/FanwoodPres).

WAYS TO GIVE

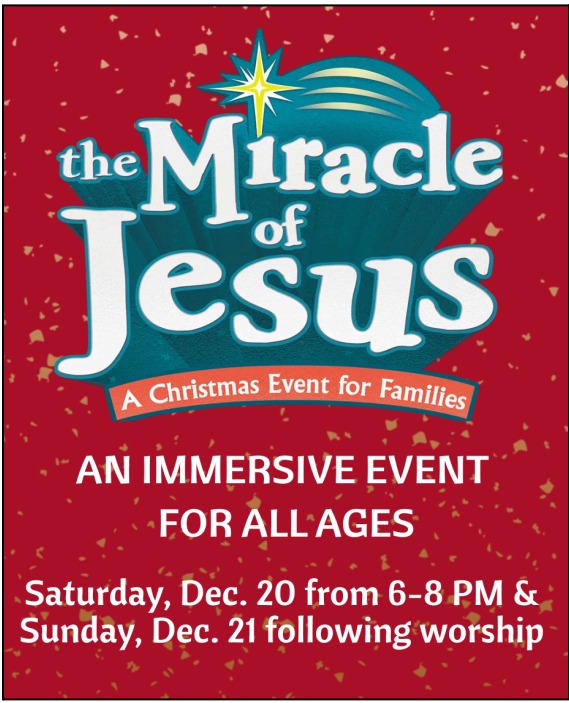
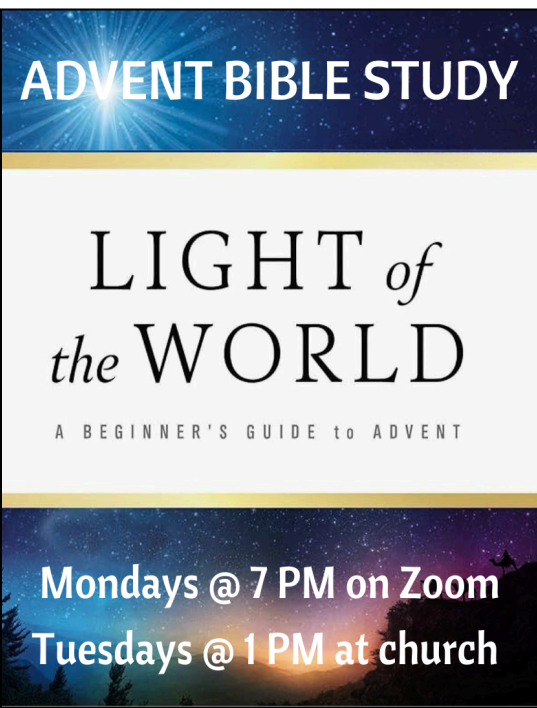
If you would like to make a monetary donation to Fanwood Church, you can use Zelle ([fanwoodpcfinance@gmail.com](mailto:fanwoodpcfinance@gmail.com)) or the QR code to link to our online giving platform.



REFERENCES

Our music service is provided under the CCLI Copyright License 11039447, CCLI Streaming License 20099016 and CVLI Video License 504049131.

*\* indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in spirit*



## GATHERING

PRELUDE “Arabesque No. 1” by Debussy

Luyang Liu

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG #9 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” *vs. 6*

*O come, O Bright and Morning Star,  
and bring us comfort from afar!*

*Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

CHIMING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: The Candle of Joy

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Now is the time, let us pause.

As we wait, may we hear the voice of God.

**All: Now is the time, let us watch.**

**In our homes, at our work, even while waiting in line—  
may we see the face of Christ.**

One: Now is the moment, let us prepare our hearts.

In our words, in our minds, in all we say and do,  
may God’s extravagant love shine through.

**All: Let us worship God!**

\* OPENING HYMN #49 “Once in Royal David’s City” *verses 1 & 2*

CALL TO CONFESSION & SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Magnificent God, it is easy to rejoice at the wilderness bursting into bloom and the hungry being filled with good things. We may not want the powerful to be brought down or the rich to be sent away empty. We know that sometimes, we are the powerful. Sometimes, we are the rich. Sometimes we are the ones with privilege, ignoring and harming those you would lift up. Forgive us, humble us, and refocus us, that we may follow your way of life and truth. In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\* RESPONSE #23 “Gloria!” *refrain from “Angels We Have Heard on High”*

*Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## PROCLAMATION

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

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.**



# *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

## MUSIC AND POETRY FOR ADVENT

### ADVENT

*In Search of Our Kneeling Places*

*"Do You Hear What I Hear?"*

### HOPE

*In December Darkness*

*"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

### PEACE

*This Year*

*"Coventry Carol"*

### JOY

*What Do I Want for Christmas?*

*"The Snow Lay on the Ground"*

### LOVE

*Unexpected*

*"The Wexford Carol"*

MEDITATION

Rev. Dr. Stacy C. Smith

## RESPONSE

OFFERTORY "Winter" by Vivaldi

Luyang Liu

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from a Declaration of Faith of the PC(USA)*

**In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation he has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, the church, or our lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new.**

\* DOXOLOGY "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

*to the tune of "O Tannenbaum" or "O Christmas Tree"*

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow, in every generation.***

***Praise God all creatures here below, who gives to us salvation.***

***Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.***

***Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration!***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## SENDING

\* CLOSING HYMN #49 "Once in Royal David's City" *verses 3 & 4*

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Carol of the Bells"

Luyang Liu