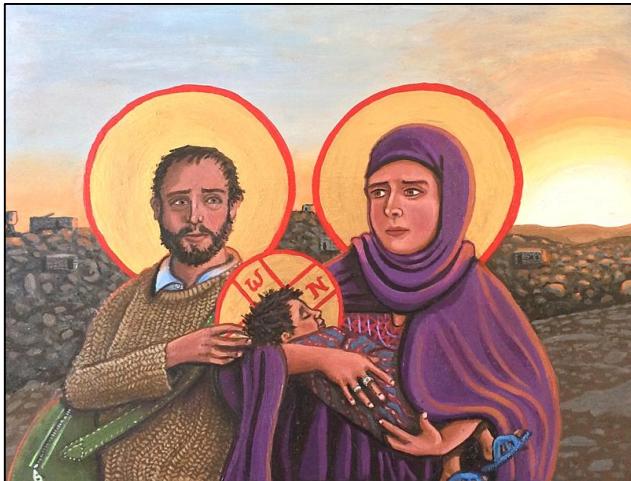


# John Knox Presbyterian Church

## December 28, 2025

### *First Sunday of Christmas*



Welcome! Please be seated and prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

# GATHERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

## Prelude

## “Christmas Day in the Morning and In dulci jubilo”

arr. Thomas Keesecker

## Words of Welcome<sup>#</sup>

The Peace of Christ be with you ... **and also with you.**

## Call to Worship<sup>#</sup>

## \* Invitation to Confession<sup>#</sup>

\* Unison Prayer of Confession\*

Loving Creator and Parent of Jesus,  
with the assurance that we belong here  
and we can bring our truth to you,  
we confess with sorrow  
that in spite of everything you have done  
to convince us of your love,  
we resist you so strongly, so deeply.

## Dismantle our resistance to your love.

**Melt the ice of our distrust.**

Turn us toward you and each other.

Help us to put you first

**in all our decisions.**

**Make us trustworthy, faithful, and true.  
With confidence that you love us and cherish us,**

we ask for you.

## \* Words of Forgiveness

God's light is present in this world.  
Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness.  
Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.  
**God's light is in the world,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.**  
**God's grace is in the world,  
and our mis-steps will not overcome it.**  
**We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

## A Litany of Praise and Adoration from Luke 2:1-20<sup>#</sup>

Welcome, Mary's child,  
born away from home  
at the end of a journey.  
**We praise you. We adore you.**  
Welcome to an occupied territory  
where your birthplace is decreed  
by an empire's tax demand.

**We praise you. We adore you.**  
Welcome, newborn Christ,  
wrapped in a mother's care  
sleeping in a feeding trough.  
**We praise you. We adore you.**

Welcome to a town  
with no-one to greet you  
but shepherds, called unclean.  
**We praise you. We adore you.**  
Welcome Mary's child,  
prophet, healer, teacher,  
friend and sovereign leader,  
yesterday, today, for ever.  
**We praise you. We adore you.**

## Hymn                   “Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”                   #158

## Time with our Young and Growing

### Prayer for Illumination

**First Reading** Luke 2: 19-40 **The Message**  
*This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## **Meditation**      **Eileen Sheelar**

**Hymn**                           **“Open My Eyes”**                           **#451**

**This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

<b>Hymn</b>	“Jesus Entered Egypt”	#154
<b>Special Reading<sup>#</sup></b>	“Plan A or Plan B?”	CJ High
<b>Hymn</b>	“Who Would Think That What Was Needed”	#138

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

### Church and Community Life

#### Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

**Sung Call for the Offering** “In the Bleak Midwinter” #144 v. 1, 2, 4

**Offertory** “Doxology for Humanity” tune #606 v. 1-3

*Please sing the first three verses, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> verse, stand as our offering is presented for dedication.*

**\* Sung Response** “Doxology for Humanity” tune #606 verse 4

*This song of praise by Kurt Struckmeyer (followingjesus.com), sung to a traditional tune, offers praise to the Creator of all and at the same time, reminds us how our daily lives can praise God.*

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

**Prayers of the People** Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

#### The Lord's Prayer

## SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

**\* Sending Song** “Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year” see projection or handout

#### \* Charge and Blessing

*Please be seated to enjoy the postlude.*

**Postlude** “Go Tell It He Is Born” arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

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Liturgist: Vallory Bunday Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis  
Music Director: Anna Robinson Pianist: Bethany Cozort

Today's Leader: Eileen Sheelar

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Bulletin Image: Kelly Latimore, Refugees: Holy Family. (2018) Art in the Christian Tradition, Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville TN

From Kelly Latimore: I do not wish to approach Iconography as an art form that simply follows an inherited tradition, knowledge, and practice. I want it to be a 'holy pondering', meditation, and process that potentially brings about a new way of seeing for the viewer and me. What is the artwork in our churches and communities for? Who are the saints that are among us here and now? Where is Christ present right in our own backyards? ... ... The other may have something to teach us about who God is, the world we live in, and who are our neighbors. This is the real work of being human and of art. Being more present. From [KellyLatimoreicons.com](http://KellyLatimoreicons.com)

## Church and Community Life

**FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS for 2026** will be accepted any time. Place them in the offering basket or give them to Bronwyn. Your financial support is very appreciated.

**KEIZER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK** The most efficient way to help food banks at this time is to provide cash donations so they can make bulk food purchases of most-needed items. Designate “KCFB” or “Food Bank” and we will route the money to KCFB. Volunteers are always needed to serve our hungry neighbors. See the KCFB Facebook page or website at [keizercommunityfoodbank.org](http://keizercommunityfoodbank.org) for more information, or contact Sheila or Teresa.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** will be received through January 4. This PCUSA special offering supports the needs of past, present, and future church leaders.

November’s financial report and December’s session notes will be included in next week’s bulletin.

## Looking Ahead

**Jan. 4 10:30** Worship with Holy Communion  
Rev. Andrew Wall, guest preacher  
Last day to receive Christmas Joy  
Offering

**Jan. 11 10:30** Worship – Ordination and Installation  
of Officers

**Jan. 18 10:30** Worship – Christ Jar Offering and  
Birthday Celebration

**Jan. 21 7:00** Session meeting via Zoom

### December Birthdays

<b>10</b>	Dixie S.	<b>30</b>	Micah R.
<b>13</b>	Tim B.	<b>31</b>	Marlene B.
<b>29</b>	Jim C.		
<b>December Anniversaries</b>			
<b>23</b>	Lee & Mary Jo E.	<b>26</b>	Doug & Janet A.
<b>January Birthdays</b>			
<b>4</b>	Bethany C.	<b>28</b>	Madison C.

### John Knox Presbyterian Church (USA)

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Pastor's phone: 510-435-7836

Liturgy marked # is from Brian Wren's book *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008) and are reproduced with permission. © 2007 by Brian Wren.

This gathering of JKPC is occurring in the traditional land of the Kalapuya people. We offer our gratitude to the elders, past and present, who have stewarded it through the generations.

We are recording this service and it will be available on our website for two weeks. Copyrighted music is projected and recorded under One License #A-735693, CCL#3162413, or by permission of the author or publisher.