

GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE



December 28, 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

785.233.9601

www.fpctopeka.org

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December 28, 2025

Order of Worship

First Sunday After Christmas

Where you see an asterisk (), please rise in body or spirit.*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC (10:30) — Partita on “Adeste Fidelis” — Charles Callahan

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRELUDE — “In Dulci Jubilo” — J. S. Bach

Public Domain

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: Come with your questions

People: But not with pre-conceived answers.

Leader: Come looking for the One God sends

People: Without deciding in advance who it will be.

Leader: Come seeking an experience

People: Even if its meaning is a mystery.

Leader: Come . . . be open to what God will do!

*OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN #143 — “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You send your witnesses, Lord God, who testify to the wonders they have seen. We confess we aren't sure we trust them. There is so much fake news; there are so many influencers, and so many advertisements. We don't know what to believe anymore. Forgive us when our attention is captured by the wrong thing so we miss out on what you are doing. Forgive us when we will not allow those outside the system to speak your word. Take us from our comfortable places and set us free, that we might meet you on your way.

SILENT CONFESSION and KYRIE — #578

O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.

O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA — #113 (refrain only)**

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

People: And also with you.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — John 1:19-28 — pg. 92 in NT

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — John 1:29-34 — pg. 92 in NT

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE — This Is the One!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN #137 — “He Came Down”**

GIVING THANKS FOR HERMAN JONES AND HIS MINISTRY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (pg. 35 in the *Glory to God* Hymnal)

OFFERING

Offertory — “O Holy Night” — Adolphe Adam

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***Doxology — #607**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

WE DEPART IN JOY TO SERVE

***SENDING HYMN #136 — “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE — “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen ” — John Rutter

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Ministers: All the Members of the Congregation

Pastors:

The Rev. Sandra Stogsdill Nichols, *Pastor*

Patrick Yancey, *Commissioned Associate Pastor*

The Rev. Dr. Neil Weatherhogg, *Pastor Emeritus*

Liturgist: Melissa Renick

Music Staff:

Dr. Kevin Kellim, *Director of Music*

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans, *Organist*

Dr. Cynthia Neufeld Smith, *Assistant Organist*

Norma Pettijohn, *Organist Emeritus*

Soloist: Jessica Crowder

Fellowship Host: Diane Smith

Audio/Video: Treven Broxterman, Will Hartner

Assistant to the Pastors: Treven Broxterman

Facilities Manager: Steve Johnson

Family Ministries Coordinator: Herman Jones

Financial Secretary: Penny Allton

Childcare Attendants:

Becky Foster, Samantha Edwards,

Maresella Newton

Stephen Ministry Leaders:

John Dorsey, Jane Owen