Oh, Sleep, My Dear Little Baby (A La Ru)

Hispanic folk song, arr. Michael Hawn (b. 1948)

Oh, sleep my dear little baby in your mother's arms of love. I will protect you and hold you while angels sing from above. Refrain: A la ru, A la mé, A la ru, A la mé, A la ru, A la mé, A la ru, A la mé.

A la ru, A la ru, A la mé.

Oh, do not fear the future and the sorrow it may bring. Rest in the arms of your mother and calmly sleep while I sing. (Refrain repeats)

About the Introit:

Here is a direct Spanish to English translation of the two original verses of this beautiful folk song — "Sleep, sweet child, in the arms of love, while the sorrow of my pain sleeps and rests. Do not fear King Herod, for he will do you no harm; in your mother's arms, no one will offend you." I would make some poetic adjustments, as follows — "Sleep, beautiful Baby, in the arms of love. While he sleeps, the pain of my sorrow rests. Do not fear the king, Herod, for he cannot do anything to you. In your mother's arms, no one can do anything to hurt you."

The refrain, "A la ru, A la mé," has no meaning. It is meant to mimic the sound of a mother humming and singing syllables to lull her baby to sleep. I love the simple beauty of this song, traditionally sung with guitar accompaniment. I imagine the first verse as Mary's lullaby, and the second verse as Joseph reassuring Mary and Jesus. The arranger, Reverend Dr. C. Michael Hawn, is Professor Emeritus of Church Music at Southern Methodist University and the current director of the Sacred Music program at Perkins School of Theology. He arranged this song for a two-part choir, but we have adapted it as a duet. It is sometimes called by other English titles, such as "O Sleep Now, Holy Baby" or "O Sleep Well, Beautiful Baby."

Music during Communion - "Behold, Rise Up, Go Tell!" African American spirituals, arr. Mark Hayes and

"There's a Song in the Air" Karl P. Harrington, arr. C. Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad

Monday January 5 Day Circle 12:30pm

Evening Circle 7pm

Tuesday January 6 Handbells 5pm

Ladies Dinner 6pm

Wednesday January 7 Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm Thursday January 8 Thursday Bible Study 10:30am

Choir 4:30pm

Saturday January 10 Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

We will have baked spaghetti, a salad, a tasty dessert, and tea/coffee for our Wednesday night dinner. Team 2 is in charge. Please use the reservation form in the bulletin or call the office by noon Wednesday if you plan to attend.

The Presbyterian Women's Day Circle will meet on January 5th at 12:30 p.m. In the Westminster Room. We will continue our Series on First Peter "Sojourners and Exiles" by Sinclair B. Ferguson. All are welcome. The Evening Circle will meet at the home of Kathleen Harris, January 5th at 7pm. All women are invited to attend for the bible study with Joyce Perez and fellowship with other members. For more information you may call Bernadine Hayes at 434-799-5662.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship Jackson Weller

Music Director Ashley Stanley-Robey
Video/Sound Alex Walthall
Liturgist Nancy Clayton
Greeter Barry Cutright
Side door/Offering Joan Reynolds

List of Session members

Class of 2026: Ava Barrett, Barry Cutright, Gail Jones, Kim Wimer

Class of 2027: Harriet Beale, Pat Pinckey, Joan Reynolds

Class of 2028: Eddie Blount, Jr., Sam Meadema, Jackie Rockford, Alex Walthall

Trustees: Bob Newnam, Ray Beale, Gary Wimer

BUDGET UPDATE

<u>November</u>	<u>1-31</u>	FY 2025
Contributions	\$24,218.23	\$385,178.72
Expenditures	\$24,272.72	\$382,959.03
Difference	(-\$54.49)	\$ 2,219.69

If you enter the hospital, your church will have no way of knowing unless you notify us. Please let us know of your hospital stay so that we may respond with pastoral care.

se <u>A Warm Welcome</u>

We would love to have you join our church family. If you are moved to do so by the Lord, please talk to one of the elders or our pastor.

THE COLUMNS OF THE

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

January 4, 2026 Epiphany



Welcome

This church opens wide its doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Celebrating 198 Years of Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

First Presbyterian Church

937 Main Street, Danville, VA 24541-1809—434-792-7822 E-Mail: admin@fpcdanville.com Website: http://www.fpcdanville.com

A Service for the Worship of God

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad to them.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Oh, Sleep, My Dear Little Baby"

> Hispanic folk song, arr. Michael Hawn | Gregory Robey, guitar Ashley Stanley-Robey and Mack Williams, soloists

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is

here!

People: Darkness has been banished!

Leader: God's light of hope floods the earth. Lord, make us

ready to journey to this Light.

People: Prepare our hearts to receive this Light.

Leader: O God our Guide and Helper, we come to worship

you!

People: You stay beside us as we journey through life.

Leader: O God our Just and Holy One, we come to thank you!

People: You lead us in your path of justice and peace.

Leader: O God, our Trustworthy Leader, we come to praise

ALL: We know we can always rely on your

promises. AMEN.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6

CAROL#152

"What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. AMEN.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's light is present in this world. Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. Present in the star, 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.

SIGNS OF RECONCILIATION

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you**.

Leader: Let us the children of God, having confessed our sins and been reconciled to God, having been assured of God's graciousness and mercy, stand and offer that same peace and reconciliation to our brothers and sisters in Christ, forgiving each other and offering grace

Please remain standing for the "Gloria Patri."

*RESPONSE

"Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:1-12

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Out of gratitude for all that God has provided and with hope in Christ, we bring our tithes and offerings for God's work among us in this time and place.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of all good gifts, who gives freely to us, have mercy on us and grant us the peace that only the Prince of Peace can provide. Grant that our lives would be an offering and that our work would be a good gift, just as the gifts the magi brought, pleasing to you and fit for the King of all creation. We look to you, our Priest and King, to rule the world with justice, and to give salvation to all who call upon you. AMEN.

by Thomas Turner

OFFERTORY CAROL [All Sing] #150 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

*DOXOLOGY

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

THIRD LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

CAROL

#151 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

FOURTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

CAROL *Verses 1 and 4 Only* #127 "Jesus, the Light of the World"

FIFTH LESSON

John 8:12

RESPONSE

"The Lord Is My Light" (Psalm 27)

Greg Robey and Ashley Stanley-Robey

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Inspire us by your Holy Spirit that the words we read on the page might become living words in our hearts and lives as we encounter the grace, love, and peace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 5:14-16

"Now the Silence" **ANTHEM**

Text: Jaroslav Vajda | Music: Carl Schalk, arr. Cathy Moklebust |

Jack Garrett, narration

HOMILY

INVITATION TO THE TABLE **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you!

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: Let the trees of the forest shout with joy!

L: For the Lord is coming.

ALL: He is coming to set the world right, and to establish justice among the people.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION COMMUNION OF GOD'S CHILDREN PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SENDING CAROL#314

"Christ, Be Our Light"

*BENEDICTION

*Please stand if able.

*Hymn lyrics projected on the screen can be found in the "Glory to God" hymnal in the pew.

by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy