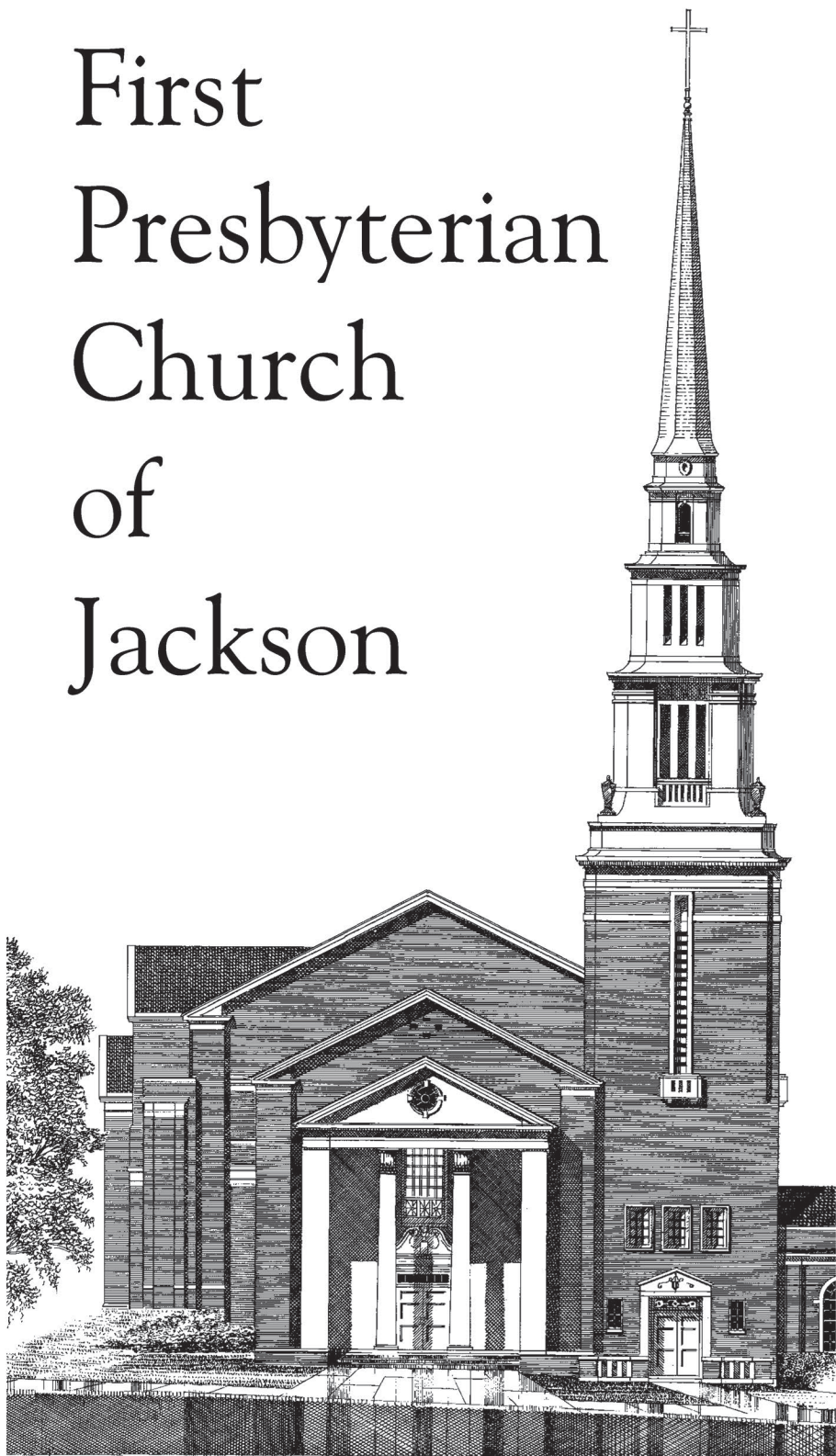


The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Sixth Day of December, Two Thousand Twenty

MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain — Senior Minister

The Reverend Dr. Edward A. Hartman — Minister of Mission & Outreach

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Greetings and Announcements (8:25 and 10:55 a.m.)

The Prelude — "The Angel Gabriel".....Robert Lau
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — "O Come, O Come Emmanuel".....(Ancient Chant)

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 211 — "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r
when we were gone astray;

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. From God our heav'nly Father,
a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the son of God by name.

Refrain

3. "Fear not, then," said the angel,
"let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior
of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's pow'r and might."

Refrain

4. The shepherds at those tidings
rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding,
in tempest, storm, and wind:
and went to Bethlehem straightway,
the Son of God to find.

Refrain

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Corporate Prayer of Confession — Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD!

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with Him is plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel
from all His iniquities.

The Assurance of Pardon

The Offering

The Solo — “Cradle Hymn”.....Kim Andre Arnesen

Kim Porter, Soloist

Hush my dear, lie still and slumber, Holy angels guard Thy bed.
Heavenly blessings without number gently falling on Thy head.
See the kindly shepherds round Him, telling wonders from the sky!
When they sought Him, there they found Him, with His virgin mother by.
See the lovely babe addressing. Lovely infant how he smiled!
When he wept the mother's blessing soothed and hushed the holy child.
May you live to know and fear Him, trust and love Him all your days;
Then go swell forever near Him, see His face and sing His praise!
Ah, hush my dear. Holy angels guard Thy bed! Amen.

The Hymn No. 213 — “What Child Is This”

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.
2. Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you:
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary.
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby:
joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.

The Pastoral Prayer

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”

²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

The Sermon — *The Herald Angels: King of Kings, Yet Born of Mary....*Dr. Strain

The Hymn No. 193 — “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav’nly food.
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the pow’rs of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.
- 4 . At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord Most High!”

The Benediction

The Postlude — “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”..... Denis Bedard

Finance Update

WELCOME

We welcome all to this service of worship. If you are a Christian visiting with us today, we greet you in the name of our common Lord. If you are not a believer, we greet you as a friend and trust that you will sense the warmth and genuineness of our reception. We invite everyone here to participate with our congregation as we sing, pray, and give attention to God’s Word.

VISITORS

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We are so glad you are here. You can text **fpcjwelcome** to 955-77 to learn more about how to get connected to the life of our church.

GUIDE TO THE MORNING SERVICE

The Prayer of Confession is a response to our singing of the advent hymn in this morning's worship service. It is only by reflecting upon the true nature of God and adoring His faithfulness to us, that we are able to truly contemplate upon the depth, extent, and magnitude of our sin. The Prayer of Confession is made so that we confess our sin and experience true repentance by reflecting upon God's goodness even in our times of straying. Thus, it is through this time of corporate prayer, patterned after the New Testament church, that we are ready to continue in our corporate worship of God.

Why do we have corporate prayer? In preaching on the pilgrimage of the Christian in this life, the eighteenth century pastor-theologian from New England, Jonathan Edwards said, "To go to heaven fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here." The time of corporate worship and particularly prayer is its closest semblance on earth since we gather with the saints of God to worship and delight ourselves in God.

What is a prayer of confession? The minister leads us in a Prayer of Confession to remove any human barrier that might come in the way of our blessing from God. We remind ourselves of who we are both in ourselves and in God. We remind ourselves that though we are His sheep, we are like lost sheep. During this time, the minister leads us in confessing the times we have desired the things of this world that are in opposition to the things of God. May we, in joining the minister with heartfelt agreement, confess and repent of the times we have left undone those things we ought to have done, and have done those things which we ought not to have done.

Let us join our hearts in prayer in order that the Spirit of Christ may bring conviction for impenitent hearts, encouragement to weary souls, knit us together in a bond of fellowship and praise, and bring us into an intimate communion with our Savior. Let us pray with the goal to enjoy ourselves in bringing honor and glory due His name.

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

The Reverend Mr. William E. Dempsey — Minister of Congregational Care
Mr. Sebastian Bjernegård — Pastoral Care Intern

The Greetings and Announcements (5:55 p.m.)

The Prelude — “Berceuse”Gabriel Faure
Daniel Jones, Violin; Rae Shannon, Piano

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 196 — “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

1. 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.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
“go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth.”
3. Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.
4. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

The Invocation

The Hymn No. 201 — “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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|---|---|
| 1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight. | 3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in. |
| 2. For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth. | 4. O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel. |

The Greetings

The Prayer Dr. Bill Payne

The Young Children’s Devotional — The *Children’s Catechism*

- Q64. How long ago did Christ die?** A: About two thousand years ago.
- Q65. How were sinners saved before Christ came?** A: By believing in the promised Messiah.
- Q66. Before Christ came, how did believers show their faith?** A: By offering the sacrifices God required.
- Q67. What did these sacrifices represent?** A: Christ, the Lamb of God, who would come to die for sinners.

The Meditation and Prayer..... Tony Doggett, Senior Minister’s Intern

The Hymn No. 222 (Stzs. 1-4) — “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
2. “Fear not,” said he — for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind —
“glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.
3. “To you, in David’s town this day,
is born of David’s line,
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign:
4. “The heav’nly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Matthew 10:34-42

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶ And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

⁴⁰ “Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. ⁴¹ The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. ⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

The Sermon — Things Your Christmas Cards Never Tell YouMr. Dempsey

The Response No. 222

6. “All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace:
good will henceforth, from heav’n to men,
begin and never cease!”

The Benediction

The Postlude — “Joy to the World”..... Wilbur Held

ANNOUNCEMENTS

II THESSALONIANS 3:1 — “Finally, brethren, pray for us....”

Third Millennium Ministries – This ministry seeks to provide distance theological education to thousands of pastors around the world who lack sufficient training for ministry.

Lantern Medical Clinic – This clinic is located in Pearl and provides Christ-centered medical care to low income, uninsured, working adults. Lantern is supported through Mission to Jackson. For more information, please contact Holt Crews or Steve Morris. Email: smorris@lanternclinic.org.

FINANCE UPDATE

Today after the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services in the sanctuary, there will be a short financial update.

STEWARDSHIP 2021

As we prepare for the 2021 budget year, it is important that each member of our congregation support the work and worship of First Presbyterian Church. If you have not turned in your 2021 commitment card, you may place it in the offering plate during today's worship services. You may also pledge online by visiting our church app and click on "Giving," then "Pledge." To date, we have received 281 commitments for a total of \$3,485,513.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOK

Pick up your copy of the 2020 Advent Devotional, *Awakening: A New and Glorious Morn*, with devotionals and original artwork by First Pres church members, available for pickup or online at fpcjackson.org/advent-devotional/.

LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING!

On December 13, you will have the opportunity to deliver a poinsettia to someone in our church family. The Blooms to Go ministry will assist you at the Pinehurst and Belhaven Street exits following the morning services.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ADVENT VIDEO DEVOTIONAL SERIES

Join us for Prepare Him Room, a four-week series of short video devotionals available on social media (Facebook and Instagram @fpcjacksonwomen) and the website at fpcjackson.org/resource-library/womens-ministry.

MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS

Our annual Music of Christmas services will be held Saturday, December 19, at 6:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 20, at 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. Registration is required in order to ensure the safety of our musicians and all of those in attendance. A nursery will be provided for children three years and under by request at registration. For more information and to register visit fpcj.ms/music-of-christmas and you may also call the church office to register.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please plan to join us for this casual and family-friendly service, Thursday, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 6, 2020

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship.....	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	Various Locations
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship	Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

No Midweek Activities