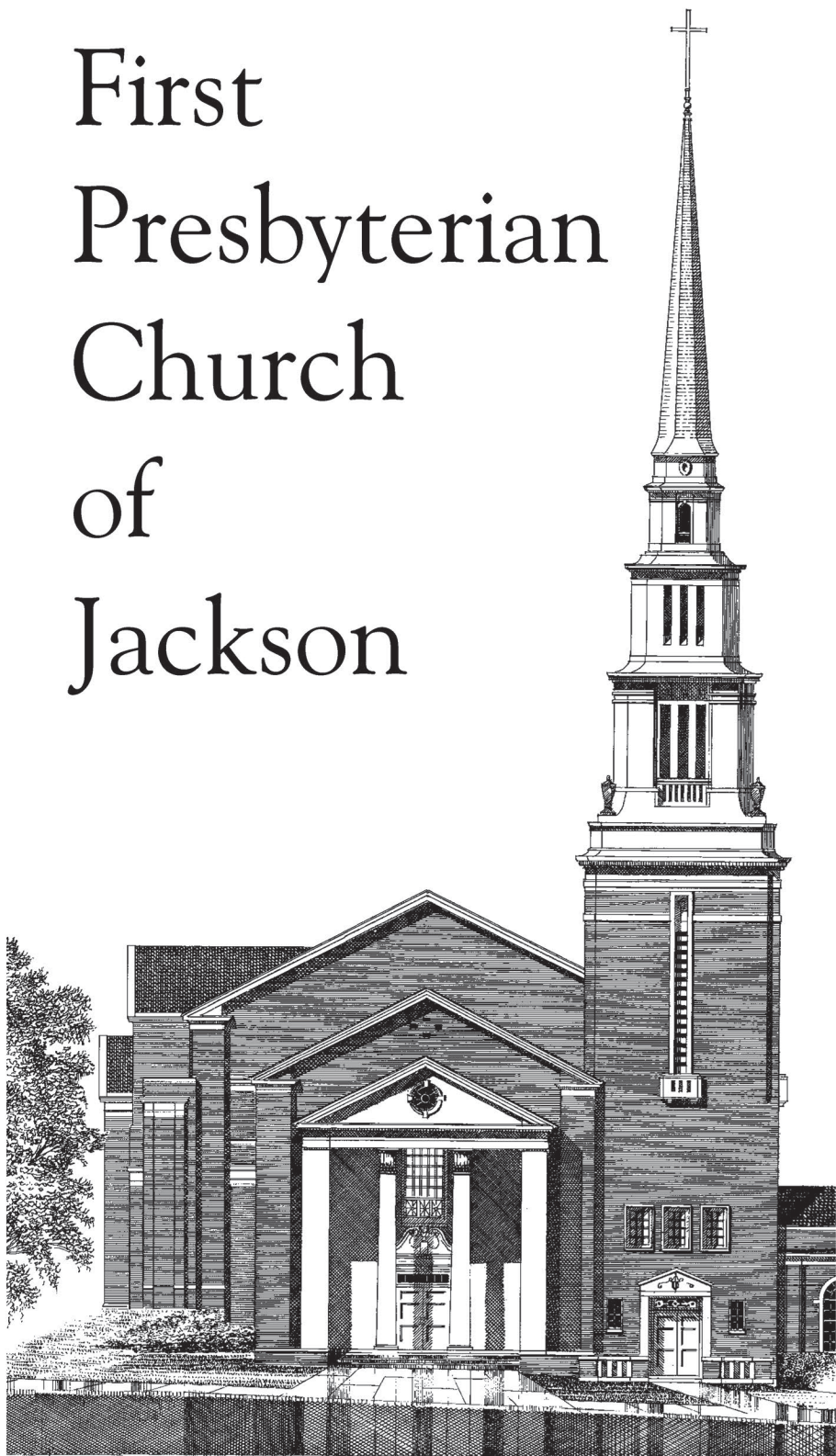


The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Twentieth Day of December, Two Thousand Twenty
MORNING WORSHIP
Eight-thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. Cory C. Brock — Minister of Young Adults & College
The Reverend Mr. William E. Dempsey — Minister of Congregational Care

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — "He Shall Feed His Flock" (*Messiah*) G. F. Handel
Shellie Brown, Violin I Zakary Joyner, Viola
Bonnie Brown, Violin II Zachary Horne, Cello

The Introit — "Sing Choirs of Angels" Arr. Willcocks

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 207 — "Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

1. Good Christian men, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
earth and heav'n before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian men, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian men, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Prayer of Adoration and Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Offering

The Anthem — "In the Bleak Midwinter"Harold Darke
Kim Porter Paul Bowden Genneysa Case

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

The Solo — “Fullness of Grace”.....Getty and Townend
Genneysa Case, Soloist

HEARING GOD’S VOICE

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

The Sermon — The Shepherds in the Field.....Dr. Brock

The Hymn No. 208 — “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

- 1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him
born the King of angels;

Refrain:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

- 2. God of God,
Light of Light;
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created;

Refrain

- 3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above;
glory to God
in the highest;

Refrain

- 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv’n;
Word of the Father,
late in flesh appearing;

Refrain

The Benediction

The Postlude — “Angels, We Have heard on High”.....French Melody

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.



Our Vision

***First Presbyterian Church of Jackson
exists to glorify God by making disciples
on the North State Street corridor,
in the greater Jackson area,
and around the world.***

“To glorify God”

Our chief end and deepest joy (WSC Q&A 1) is the exaltation of the Triune God of the Bible. In a narcissistic age, we exist to make much of God, seeking in all things to be and to gather true worshippers.

“by making disciples”

We purpose to reach, win, grow, equip, and deploy God’s people for the propagation of God’s glory throughout the world.

“on the North State Street corridor,”

In His providence, God has placed us on the corner of North State and Pinehurst Streets, in central Jackson. We resolve to be good neighbors and gospel witnesses in the neighborhoods around our church campus (Belhaven, Mid-Town, and Fondren).

“in the greater Jackson area,”

First Presbyterian Church of Jackson draws visitors and members from the metro-Jackson area. We will continue to make disciples in our city by equipping believers to live for Christ in the home, the workplace, and in their neighborhoods across our region.

“and around the world.”

With a renewed focus on church planting in North America, FPCJ will make disciples across our country by establishing new churches and supporting, sending, and serving church planters. There remain 6,738 unreached people groups, over 42% of the global population.* In addition to other mission endeavors, we will begin to pray and work to support and establish gospel churches with special attention on the unreached.

(*source: https://joshuaproject.net/resources/articles/has_everyone_heard)

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

The Reverend Mr. Wiley P. Lowry III — Minister of Pastoral Care

The Reverend Mr. Gary W. Sinclair — FPDS Chaplain

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

The Prelude — “Pastorale” (*Christmas Concerto*).....Archangelo Corelli

Shellie Brown, Violin I

Zakary Joyner, Viola

Bonnie Brown, Violin II

Zachary Horne, Cello

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 214 — “Angels We Have Heard on High”

1. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

The Invocation

The Hymn No. 205 — “Away in a Manger”

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

The Greetings

The PrayerMr. Stuart Clarke

The Young Children's Christmas Devotional.....Tony Doggett
Senior Minister's Intern

The Hymn (Stzs. 1-3) — “Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”... (Hymn Sheet)

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Matthew 1:1-17

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸ and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

The Sermon — Mystery Between the Lines Mr. Lowry

The Benediction

The Response (Stz. 4) — “Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”... (Hymn Sheet)

The Postlude — “While by the Sheep We Watched at Night”..... German Carol

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Larry and Debby Thompson – Serving as International Director and Vice President of International Ministries for Athletes in Action (A Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International). Email: Larry.Thompson@cru.org.

Mark & Raylene Casson – Mark serves as the director of Metanoia Prison Ministries, a part of Mission to North America. Email: mcasson@pcanet.org.

FLOWERS

The poinsettias in the foyer are given with thanks to God in memory of Jim Bateman by his D Group of Young Adults for whom he was mentor.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.” - Isaiah 9:6

Celebrate the glory of Christmas with us on December 24, at 4:00 p.m., streamed online. As in years past, the service will be shorter in length and focused on carols with a Scripture homily. We hope this service will bring rest to your heart as we look to the one who “comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found.” An email will be sent on Christmas Eve with a link to view the service, and it will also be posted online for viewing at your convenience starting at 4:00 p.m.

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 300 commitments for a total of \$3,631,245.

YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

If you are planning to donate stock to First Presbyterian Church before the end of the year 2020, please notify Lee J. Webb in the Business Office via email at leejw@fpcjackson.org. In order for year-end church contributions to be deducted on your 2020 tax return, they must be received at First Presbyterian Church on or before December 31, 2020. The Business Office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. that day. If you mail your contribution, the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2020. Security will be posted on the south side of the church (Pinehurst Street) to receive any contributions that may be dropped off after hours on December 31, 2020. You may give electronically until midnight, December 31, 2020, either through our church website or our church app with just one click on “Giving.” All gifts received or postmarked after December 31, 2020, will apply to your 2021 Contribution Statement.

FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 20, 2020

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship..... Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship..... Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

No Midweek Activities

Thursday, December 24, 2020

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service Streamed Online

Sunday, December 27, 2020

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship..... Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Winter Grace Service..... Sanctuary