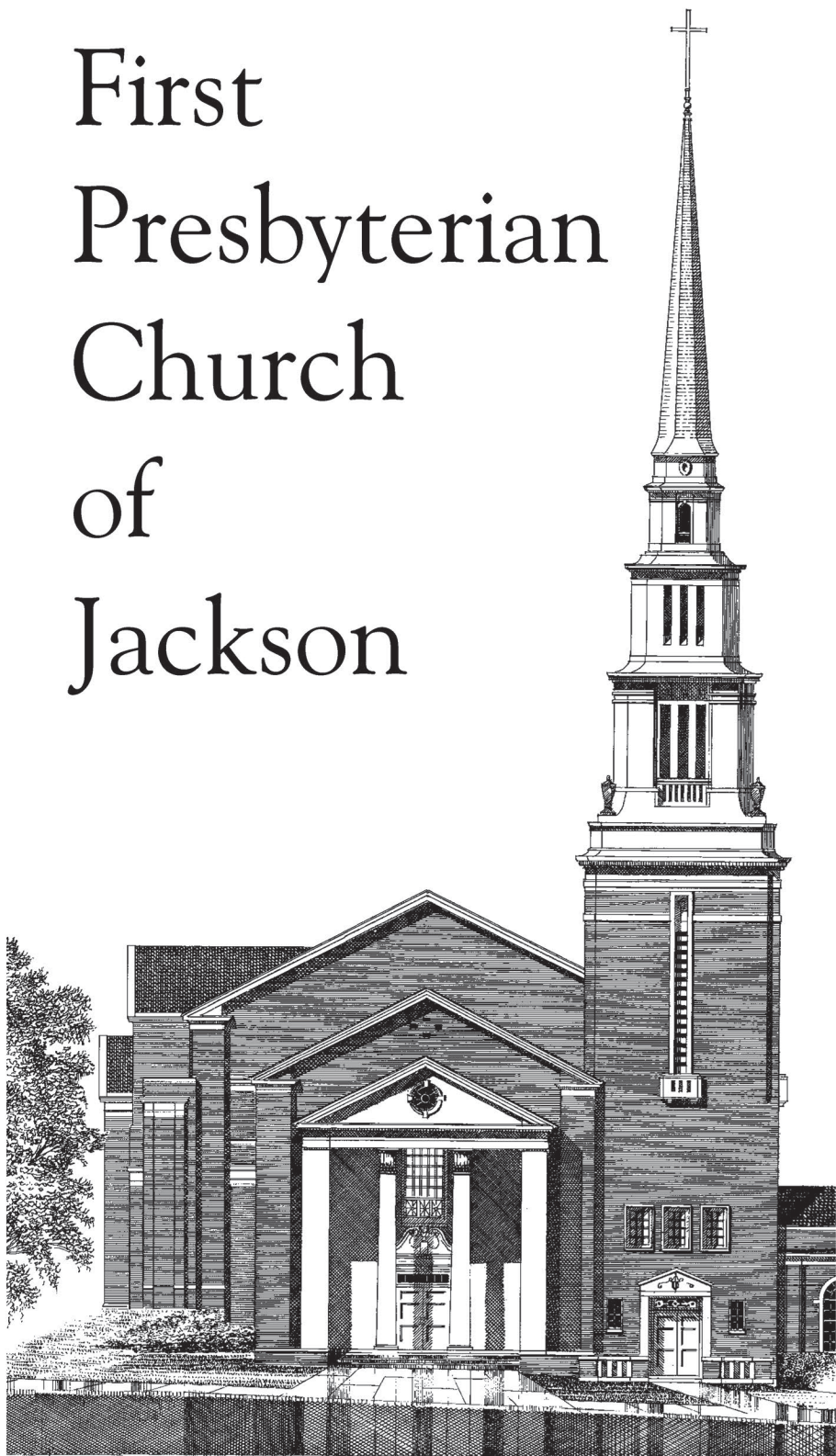


# The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



*“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”*

# THE LORD'S DAY

The Thirteenth 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. David L. Felker — Minister of Discipleship

## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — "Away in a Manger" ..... Dan Forrest  
Dr. David Snyder, Piano

The Introit — "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" ..... 14th C. German Melody

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 195 — "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
let men their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Corporate Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, You do not change. You have revealed Yourself to us in Your Word. You call us to worship You in spirit and in truth, but we confess that we often worship not Your true self but who we wish You to be. We too often ask You to bless what we do, rather than seeking to do what You bless. Forgive us for seeking concessions when we should be seeking guidance. Forgive us when our worship shapes You into what we want, instead of shaping us into what You want. Help us to meet You here, that we might bow before Your unspeakable majesty and so live for You now and ever in Christ. Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

**The Offering**

**The Anthem — “We Three Kings of Orient Are”**  
The Men’s Quartet

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

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.

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.
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.

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 Pastoral Prayer**

**HEARING GOD’S VOICE**

**The Reading of Holy Scripture — Luke 2:21-35**

- 21 And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called  
Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law  
of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens  
the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) 24 and to offer a sacrifice  
according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves,  
or two young pigeons.” 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose  
name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for  
the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it  
had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see  
death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit  
into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do  
for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his  
arms and blessed God and said,

29 “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation  
31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this  
child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign  
that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also),  
so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

**The Sermon — The Consolation of Simeon ..... Dr. Brock**

**The Hymn No. 194 — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

- 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

- 2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

- 3. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
- 4. O come, thou Dayspring from on high,  
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

- 5. O come, thou Key of David, come  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

Refrain

**The Benediction**

**The Postlude — “Chorus of Shepherds” .....Lemmons**  
William Wymond, Organ

**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.

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# GUIDE TO THE MORNING SERVICE

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*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 Dr. William K. Wymond — Minister of Music and Worship  
Mr. Austin R. Lenox — Students & Families Ministry Intern

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

The Prelude — “Ayre in B Flat” .....Georg Philip Telemann  
Shellie Brown, Violin I      Zakary Joyner, Viola  
Bonnie Brown, Violin II      Zachary Horne, Cello

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 226 (Stzs. 1, 2, and 5) — “As with Gladness Men of Old”

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| 1. As with gladness men of old<br>did the guiding star behold;<br>as with joy they hailed its light,<br>leading onward, beaming bright;<br>so, most gracious God, may we<br>evermore be led to thee. | him whom heav'n and earth adore;<br>so may we with willing feet<br>ever seek thy mercy seat.  |
| 2. As with joyful steps they sped<br>to that lowly cradle bed,<br>there to bend the knee before  | 5. In the heav'nly country bright<br>need they no created light;<br>thou its light, its joy, its crown,<br>thou its sun which goes not down;<br>there forever may we sing<br>alleluias to our King. |

The Invocation

The Hymn No. 222 — “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.”
5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:
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 Greetings

The Prayer .....Dr. William Harper

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

- Q68. How many offices does Christ fulfill as the promised Messiah?** A: Christ fulfills three offices.
- Q69. What are they?** A: The offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king.
- Q70. How is Christ your prophet?** A: Christ teaches me the will of God.
- Q73. Why do you need Christ as your prophet?** A: Because I am ignorant by nature.
- The Meditation and Prayer..... Sebastian Bjernegård, Pastoral Care Intern

**The Hymn No. 267 — “The Day of Resurrection!”**

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| 1. The day of resurrection!<br>Earth, tell it out abroad;<br>the Passover of gladness,<br>the Passover of God.<br>From death to life eternal,<br>from this world to the sky,<br>our Christ hath brought us over<br>with hymns of victory. | and listening to his accents,<br>may hear, so calm and plain,<br>his own “All hail!” and hearing,<br>may raise the victor strain.  |
| 2. Our hearts be pure from evil,<br>that we may see aright<br>the Lord in rays eternal<br>of resurrection light;  | 3. Now let the heav’ns be joyful,<br>let earth her song begin;<br>let the round world keep triumph,<br>and all that is therein;<br>invisible and visible,<br>their notes let all things blend,<br>for Christ the Lord hath risen,<br>our joy that hath no end. |

**The Prayer of Illumination**

**The Reading of Holy Scripture — John 12:9-19**

<sup>9</sup> When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, <sup>11</sup> because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

<sup>12</sup> The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” <sup>14</sup> And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

<sup>15</sup> “Fear not, daughter of Zion;  
behold, your king is coming,  
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

<sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup> The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. <sup>18</sup> The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.”

**The Sermon — The Plot to Kill Lazarus ..... Dr. Wymond**

**The Benediction**

**The Postlude — “La Rejouissance” ..... G. F. Handel**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**Tial & Annie** – Serving as church planters with Mission to the World in Southeast Asia. For more information, please contact the Mission Department.

**Martin & Elizabeth Antoon** – Serving as campus minister with Reformed University Fellowship at Savannah College of Art and Design.

Email: martin.antoon@ruf.org.

## **FLOWERS**

For the month of December, the poinsettia tree in the sanctuary is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Denny Terry by the Terry family and Elizabeth Price Johnson by Dr. and Mrs. J. Lee Owen.

## **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 293 commitments for a total of \$3,579,945.

## **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](mailto: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.

## **ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOK**

The 2020 Advent Devotional, Awakening: A New and Glorious Morn, with devotionals and original artwork by First Pres church members, is available online at [fpcjackson.org/advent-devotional/](http://fpcjackson.org/advent-devotional/).

## **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](http://fpcjackson.org/resource-library/womens-ministry).

## **FPC THIS WEEK**

### **Sunday, December 13, 2020**

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

### **Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

No Midweek Activities