

## WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We are so glad you are here. If you are a visitor, we would love to know more about you. Please complete the Visitor Information & Prayer Request card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or in one of the baskets provided at the sanctuary exits. You can also text [fpcjwelcome](text:fpcjwelcome) to 955-77 to learn more about how to get connected to the life of our church.

## YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

If you are planning to donate stock to First Presbyterian Church before the end of the year 2021, 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 2021 tax return, they must be received at First Presbyterian Church on or before December 31, 2021. 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, 2021. Security will be posted on the north side of the church (Belhaven Street) to receive any contributions that may be dropped off after hours on December 31, 2021. You may give electronically until midnight, December 31, 2021, either through our church website or our church app with just one click on "Giving." All gifts received or postmarked after December 31, 2021, will apply to your 2022 Contribution Statement.

## MID-SOUTH MEN'S RALLY

*FEBRUARY 4, 2022*

Men, please mark your calendars and join us for our annual Mid-South Men's Rally. Our speaker this year is Dr. Derek Thomas. A native of Wales, Dr. Thomas is currently Senior Minister of First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, South Carolina and a Chancellor's Professor at Reformed Theological Seminary and a Teaching Fellow with Ligonier Ministries. Previously, Dr. Thomas served as Minister of Teaching here at First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, where he and his wife, Rosemary, were much loved members of our congregation. Dr. Thomas also served as a professor of theology at RTS in Jackson. Dr. Thomas is the author of several books, including *Heaven on Earth: What the Bible Teaches about Life to Come*, *How the Gospel Brings Us All the Way Home*, *Strength for the Weary*, *Voyage of Discovery: The Ups and Downs of the Christian Life*, and *Praying the Saviour's Way: Let Jesus' Prayer Reshape Your Prayer Life*.

Dinner will be served in Miller Hall beginning at 5:15 p.m., with the first session beginning at 6:30 p.m. No advanced registration is necessary.

**Church offices are closed December 27 and 31, 2021.**



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
*Jackson, Mississippi*

# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Twenty-Fourth Day of December, Two Thousand Twenty-One  
Four-Thirty O'clock  
David Strain — Senior Minister

The Prelude ..... Martin Antoon, Guitar

The Call to Worship

†The Carol of Praise No. 203 — “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

†The Invocation

The Carols

- No. 208 — “O Come, All Ye Faithful”
- No. 204 — “Away in a Manger” (Stanzas 1 and 3)
- No. 196 — “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (Stanzas 1 and 4)

The Reading of the Christmas Story — Luke 2:1-20.... pew Bible page 857

The Carols

- No. 210 — “Silent Night! Holy Night!”
- No. 218 — “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (Stanzas 1 and 5)
- No. 201 — “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (Stanzas 1 and 3)

The Scripture Reading — Psalm 98 ..... pew Bible page 500

The Message — Advent Psalms: The Lord Is Come .....Dr. Strain

†The Carol of Praise No. 195 — “Joy to the World!”

The Benediction

The Postlude — “Good Christian Men, Rejoice”.....Wilbur Held

†Congregation Standing

*Additional seating is available in the choir loft.*

## CAROL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

One of Wesley’s great hymns, the tune is from Mendelssohn (his cantata *Festgesang*). This carol is full of biblical and theological allusions.

### “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

One hymnologist says this of Wade’s carol, “Its popularity in all English-speaking countries is universal: hardly a congregation fails to sing it at every Christmas time. Such popularity is testimony to its genuine worth.”

### “Away in a Manger”

Leonard Payton says this song “conveys the plainness of Jesus’ humanity probably more directly than any other hymn”— though some have complained of implicit docetism in the second stanza’s claim that “no crying he makes.”

### “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

This hymn is one of Charles Wesley’s masterpieces of hymnody. It ponders the richness of revelation found in the prophecies of the Old Testament and plumbs the depths of the reality of the second member of the Triune God becoming man: “Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.”

### “Silent Night! Holy Night!”

This carol has been a favorite of Christians worldwide for almost 200 years. Joseph Mohr’s lyrics capture a sense of hushed reverence at the birth of the Saviour.

### “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

James Montgomery, a great evangelical hymn-writer whose works are still widely sung in Britain, wrote these lyrics and published them in a newspaper in Sheffield, England, on Christmas Eve, 1816.

### “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

The author of this favorite carol of Christmastide was Phillips Brooks, the famous Episcopal clergyman, still associated with Holy Trinity Church in Boston’s Back Bay area. In the first three stanzas, Brooks piles up objective truths about the incarnation. Brooks uses the physical darkness of night to represent the spiritual darkness of the world and draws a parallel between the silent entry of Jesus into the world in Bethlehem and His silent entry into meek souls who receive Him by faith. This is a great evangelical carol.

### “Joy to the World!”

Based on Psalm 98, “Joy to the World” was the product of two outstanding English artists: the poet Isaac Watts and the musician George F Handel. Psalm 98 calls the whole world to celebrate the coming of the Lord. He comes both to bring justice and to assert His lordship over all of nature and all peoples.