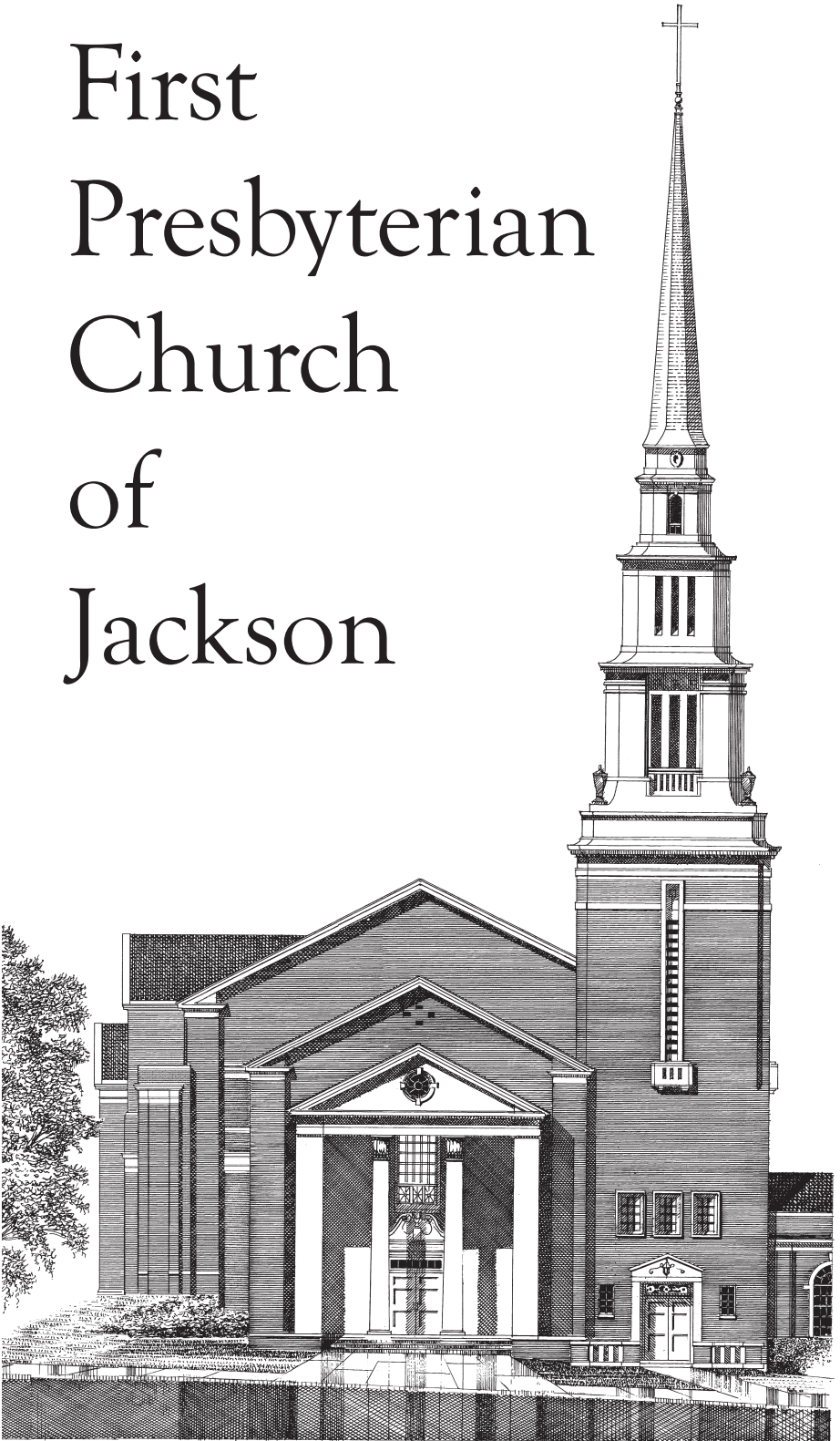


The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson



“To Glorify God, And Enjoy Him Forever”

THE LORD'S DAY

The Fifth Day of December, Two Thousand Twenty-One
MORNING WORSHIP

Eight-Thirty and Eleven O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain — Senior Minister
The Reverend Mr. James C. Peipon — Assistant Minister of Music

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

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

The Prelude — "What Is This Lovely Fragrance"..... Paul Manz
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Introit — "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Ancient Chant

The Call to Worship

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

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Invocation

The Doxology

O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him.
O come let us adore Him.
Christ, the Lord!

The Corporate Prayer of Confession

O most great, most just and gracious God;
You are of purer eyes than to behold iniquity;
And yet You have promised mercy through Jesus Christ
to all that repent and believe in Him.
We confess that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God.
We have neglected and abused Your holy worship.
We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably with our neighbors.
We have not sought first Your kingdom.
You have revealed Your wonderful love to us in Christ
and offered us pardon and salvation in Him;
but we have turned away.
We have run into temptation;
and the sin that we should have hated, we have committed.
Have mercy on us, most merciful Father!
In Your Son is our salvation, in Your promises our hope.
Take us for Your children and give us the Spirit of your Son,
and in the end receive us into Your glory,
through Jesus Christ our only Savior. Amen.
Richard Baxter (modernized language)

The Assurance of Pardon

The Offering

The Anthem — “And the Glory of the Lord” (*Messiah*)..... G. F. Handel
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.
And all flesh shall see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.
Isaiah 40:5

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

The Pastoral Prayer

HEARING GOD’S VOICE

The New Testament Reading — Hebrews 2:1-9 (pew Bible page 1001)

The Old Testament Reading — Psalm 8..... (pew Bible page 450)

The Sermon — Advent Psalms: All Things Made New.....Dr. Strain

The Hymn No. 44 (stzs. 1-3) — “How Great Thou Art”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

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

EVENING WORSHIP

Six O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. Bryan Chapell — Stated Clerk of the PCA

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

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

The Prelude — “What Child Is This?”..... Richard Purvis
William Wymond, Organ

The Introit — “Gloria in Excelsis Deo”..... French Melody

The Call to Worship

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

The Invocation

The Hymn No. 224 — “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

The Greetings

The Evening Prayer Dr. Bill Payne

The Offering — “I Wonder as I Wander”..... Niles/Wymond
The Student Choir

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor, orn'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.
When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
and the promise of ages it then did recall.
If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky or a bird on the wing;
or all of God's angels in heaven to sing,
He surely could have had it,
'cause He was the King!
I wonder as I wander out under the sky. . . .

† The Hymn No. 221 — “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Matthew 1:18-25 (pew Bible page 807)

The Sermon — The Lineage of a King..... Dr. Chapell

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

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.
Hast, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

The Postlude — “From Heaven High I Come to You”..... arr. J. S. Bach

† Children are dismissed during the hymn for children's classes.

SERVICE GUIDE

GUIDE TO THE MORNING SERVICE

Why do we have a prayer of confession?

The Christian is one who has been given truth to confess. The heart of our confession is the good news that God has come in the flesh to redeem helpless sinners from our natural state of sin and misery. But it is the bad news of our natural sin and misery that makes the good news intelligible. This is why it is necessary and truly beneficial that we, as God's people, corporately confess our sins in worship. Corporate confession is one way that we reorient ourselves to the shocking reality of the kindness, mercy, and inestimable love of God—"for even while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

Our confession of sin also reminds us that we are ever dependent on His grace, because, in this life, we are ever struggling with the darkness of our own sinful hearts. The Bible is crystal clear that even though we've been justified by the blood of Christ, as long as we are on this earthly pilgrimage, we will always be at war with our sin (Col. 3:5). When we confess our sins together, we stop hiding, and we allow the light of God's grace to expose our deeds. And it is in this act of confession that His mercy renews us, fixes our eyes once again upon Christ, and cleanses our consciences to serve the Lord with gladness, joy, and hope—hope that even we can be made clean by the precious blood of Christ!

GUIDE TO THE EVENING SERVICE

Dr. Bryan Chapell, Ph.D. is Pastor Emeritus of the historic Grace Presbyterian Church and President Emeritus of Covenant Theological Seminary. He now leads the Administrative Committee of the Presbyterian Church in America. His preaching and teaching are broadcast in many nations through Unlimited Grace Media, and are also available at unlimitedgrace.com. He is the author of many books, including *Unlimited Grace*, *Each for the Other*, *Holiness by Grace*, *Praying Backwards*, *The Gospel According to Daniel*, *The Hardest Sermons You'll Ever Have to Preach*, and *Christ-centered Preaching*, a preaching textbook now in multiple editions and many languages. He and his wife, Kathy, have four adult children, and a growing number of grandchildren.

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](https://www.fpcjacksonville.com) to 955-77 to learn more about how to get connected to the life of our church.

FPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 5, 2021

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship.....	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	See Signs in Greeting Courtyard
10:30 a.m.	Elder Election	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship	Sanctuary (age 4 through 3rd grade dismissed for Children's Classes)
7:30 p.m.	Insight.....	The Sykes Home (122 Shady Lane, Madison)

Monday, December 6, 2021

9:30 a.m.	WIC Council.....	PH
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Tuesday, December 7, 2021

9:00 a.m.	French Camp Quilters	Library
10:30 a.m.	Women's Christmas Brunch	MH
6:45 p.m.	Internationals Class (ESL).....	PH

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

	No Midweek Dinner	
5:30 p.m.	Carols in the Park.....	Belhaven St. Parking Lot
5:50 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal.....	Music Suite

Thursday, December 9, 2021

9:45 a.m.	Revelation Women's Bible Study	PH
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Saturday, December 11, 2021

7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Meeting.....	WH 202
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Sunday, December 12, 2021

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship	Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School	See Signs in Greeting Courtyard
6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship	Sanctuary (age 4 through 3rd grade dismissed for Children's Classes)

LH—Lowe Hall MH—Miller Hall MS—Music Suite PH—Patterson Hall
SC—Study Center WH—Westminster Hall YH—Youth House

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WINTER GRACE SERVICE — DECEMBER 26

It is often during this season of great joy that we are also acutely aware of our losses, fears, doubts, and struggles. As we celebrate the birth of Immanuel, God with us, we often feel alone and far from Him. That is why it is so important to remember that Christ shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise. Join us at evening worship on December 26 for a service of hope and healing for all those who are “bruised and broken by the fall.”

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

November and December

Every Sunday in the months of November and December, the offering collected in your child’s Sunday School class will be designated to Lifeline Children’s Services. Their (un)Adopted program equips older un-adopted children, both spiritually and vocationally, while preparing them for life once they leave the orphanage. Please consider how your family can support this ministry through prayer and giving between now and the end of 2021.

STEWARDSHIP 2022

As we prepare for the 2022 budget year, it is important that each member of our congregation supports the work and worship of First Presbyterian Church. If you have not turned in your 2022 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 244 commitments for a total of \$3,525,063.

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. 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.

NURSERY GREETER VOLUNTEERS

Would you be interested in a ministry to our young parents? We need greeters in the Nursery each Sunday morning. For more information or to sign up, please contact Gena Dear at genad@fpcjackson.org.

SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT 2022

Mark your calendar for our annual Winter Retreat at Alpine Camp, January 14-17, 2022. Our speaker, Josh Shideler, FPC Discipleship Ministry intern, will teach on forms of idolatry. Register on the [fpcjackson](http://fpcjackson.org) website or app. Contact youthhouse@fpcjackson.org with questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Trey & Kiki Adams – Serving with MTW in SE Asia as a church planter. Email: archadams@gmail.com.

Anthony Forrest – Serving as full-time campus minister with RUF at Jackson State University. Email: anthony.forrest@ruf.org.

Mali – We are currently praying through the countries listed on the World Watch List. Ranked 28 on the list of the top 50 countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith is Mali. Download the Pray for the Persecuted app at opendoorsusa.org/prayerapp to learn more about the World Watch List and the specific requests for Mali.

FLOWERS

The poinsettia tree in the sanctuary is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Denny Terry by his wife, Judy, and his children and grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Charles Fletcher — November 26, 2021

WOMEN’S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Women, join us at the Christmas Brunch, Tuesday, December 7, from 10:30 a.m. – noon in Miller Hall. We will share a festive meal together and hear from our devotional speaker, Beverly Wilson. For more information and to register visit fpcjackson.org/christmas-brunch or the church app.

CAROLS IN THE PARK

Invite a friend and join us for a neighborhood Christmas gathering on December 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the north parking lot. We will have free food, music, and carols for the whole family. For more information, contact Jo Lynn Mayfield at 601-973-9125 or jollynnm@fpcjackson.org.

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS

Make plans to join us for The Music of Christmas, Sunday, December 19, at 4 and 6 p.m., for a festive service of Christmas carols, lessons, and scripture led by the FPC Choir and accompanied by a symphony orchestra.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY CAROLS SERVICE

Join us on Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary for a family-friendly service with carols, scripture, and a homily from our advent sermon series: Advent Psalms. Come focus on the truth of advent: *The Lord Is Come!*

DECEMBER 26 SUNDAY SCHOOL — BREAKFAST AND CAROLS

Adult and Youth Sunday school classes will meet together for breakfast, carols, and festive fellowship on Sunday, December 26, following the Christmas holiday. Children’s Sunday School classes will meet in their regular locations.