

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 leave your contact information in the "Welcome Pad" at the end of your pew. We will follow up with you to introduce ourselves and tell you about ways to get plugged in to the church.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Contributions must be received by FPC on or before December 31 or post-marked by December 31 in order to be deductible for the 2024 tax year. The Business Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on December 31. After hours on December 31, security will be on site to receive contributions. Additionally, you may give online through midnight on December 31 or via the church app. Any gifts received in person or postmarked after December 31 must be applied to the 2025 tax year.

For information about how to donate stock to First Presbyterian Church, please contact the Business Office at businessoffice@fpcjackson.org or 601-620-2357.

JANUARY INTENSIVE: THE LORD REIGNS

The Book of Daniel

The book of Daniel is filled with some of the most recognizable stories in the Bible. From the lion's den to the fiery furnace, these stories are imprinted on our minds at the earliest ages. But, in reading the text of Daniel it quickly becomes clear that there are many parts of this prophetic book that are quite hard to understand. If we come to the text expecting to find the exciting adventures of our childhood Bible books we may be surprised to find it full of strange imagery and complicated symbols. Still, Daniel was not written to confound, but to encourage God's suffering people. It is honest about the challenges of living for God in a hostile culture. But it shows us the Lord's faithfulness to His people, His sovereignty over history, and His grand design to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.

That's a message we all need to hear, which is why, for our annual Intensive this coming January, David Strain will lead us through Daniel's twelve chapters on Sunday mornings and evenings, and on Wednesday nights. Come and get a better grasp on this inspiring book. Better still, come and be comforted amidst a dark and chaotic world, and emboldened to stand firm in your faith as Daniel reminds you that "The Lord Reigns".



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Twenty-Fourth Day of December, Two Thousand Twenty-Four
Four O'clock

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

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

The Prelude — “Go Tell It on the Mountain”..... A.D. Miller
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Call to Worship — Luke 2:14

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

†The Invocation

The Carols

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

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”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Message — Love’s Pure Light: Sight (John 1:18)Dr. Strain

†The Carol of Praise No. 195 (stz. 1-3) — “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”

The Benediction

The Congregational Response

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.

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

†Congregation Standing

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 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”

Despite the well-known poetic license in the second stanza of this carol (“no crying he makes”), Leonard Payton says it “conveys the plainness of Jesus’ humanity probably more directly than any other hymn.” The Lord of the universe stooped to a cradle, where a mother hushed him to sleep. The carol is sung from the perspective of a child, whose childlike nature Christ has assumed.

“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 Savior.

“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.

“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.

Additional seating is available in the choir loft.