

First Presbyterian Church
December 18, 2022
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



Witnesses to the Miracle

The Advent Story from Unexpected Places



Welcome

to First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, Alabama

*We are a congregation of the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

Notes About Our Worship Bulletin:

- An asterisk denotes standing--in body or Spirit.
- Bold text means the congregation is invited to recite the text together.
- There are margin notes throughout the service to increase understanding of the service.
- Children of all ages are a welcome blessing in worship! They are an important part of our church community and we would love for them to stay for the whole service. Wiggles and giggles will not bother us; tears and fears remind us we're human.
- Older children are encouraged to worship with their families, and children aged Kindergarten and younger are welcome (but never required!) to go to Room 106 for Children's Church after the Time for Young Disciples. Ushers can direct you to worship notebooks to engage your children during worship.
- Members, having children worship is a gift and a sign of health and vitality for our church. Please welcome children and offer parents a smile of encouragement.
- We use the following icons to include our early and non-readers in worship participation. We invite you to point these out to children you may worship with and help engage them in the worship service.



PRAYER



SPEAKING



BIBLE



MUSIC



COMMUNION



OFFERING



BAPTISM

Want more information about the church?

Speak with an usher in the narthex or visit our website at fpchsv.org.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

CHIMING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE AND PROCESSIONAL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign in on the pew pads found at the end of each row and share those with your neighbor. We thank God for your presence this day!



*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Not in the mighty places of power, but in little Bethlehem, in a room out back:

Many: **The Messiah is coming.**

One: Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph, who pondered and planed wood:

Many: **The Messiah is coming.**

One: Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings, but by Elizabeth and Mary, who were the first to know:

Many: **The Messiah is coming.**

One: Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, look among the straw and the stars:

Many: **The Messiah is coming. Let us worship God!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE



*OPENING PRAYER



*HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

TRURO

CALL TO CONFESSION



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Let us now continue our confession in silence.)

**Those who are able, please stand*

“Advent” means coming or arrival. This word has a double significance, as in Advent we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and look with longing for his coming again. The season of Advent begins with an emphasis on final things (eschatology). We watch and pray with expectant hope for the establishment of God’s justice and the return of the Prince of Peace. As the weeks of Advent progress, the focus shifts to thanks and praise for the birth of the one who has already come—Jesus Christ our Savior.



KYRIE

Lord Have Mercy

Hal H. Hopson

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy Lord, have mer - cy.

7
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

13
Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.

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2018



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent Jesus into the world—not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Many: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**



*HYMN 581

Glory Be To The Father

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

*THE PASSING OF PEACE

One: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

*(Take a moment to greet one another in the peace of Christ
and extend a special welcome those who are new to our church
community)*

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

*(Following the Time for Young Disciples, young children are invited
to join Kathy Gillmore in Room 106 for Children's Church.)*



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Those who are
able, please stand*

The book of Isaiah is the longest and most important of the prophetic books. It covers a long period of Israel's history (before, during, and after the exile) and offers the full range of God's prophetic message: terrifying words of judgment and comforting words of promise. Isaiah portrays God as the powerful Creator, like no other, and also the gentlest comforter, like an earthly lover or mother. Isaiah is taken up in the New Testament more fully than any other prophet.



FIRST LESSON ISAIAH 7:10-14

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**



ANTHEM

Behold, A Virgin Shall Conceive, recitative G.F. HANDEL
O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion, aria from Messiah
Josey Poppin, mezzo-soprano

*Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
And shall call His son Emmanuel, GOD WITH US.*

*O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
Get thee up into the high mountain.
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem,
Lift up thy voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid;
Say unto the cities of Judah,
Behold your God!*

*O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
Arise, shine; for thy light is come,
And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.*



SECOND LESSON

LUKE 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us

**Those who are able, please stand*

go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God!**



PRAYER FOR THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SERMON

"Witnesses to the Miracle: The Shepherds"

The Rev. Brett Gudeman

SILENT MEDITATION



*HYMN 142

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

Respond to God's Word



*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Beginning with angels announcing the conceptions of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ, and concluding with the resurrected Jesus being carried up into heaven, the Gospel according to Luke offers an account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Luke presents the story of Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises. Jesus is Christ, the Lord, the redeemer sent by God to the people of Israel, the one who declares God's salvation to all people. Jesus proclaims God's reign, heals the sick, raises the dead, casts out oppressive spirits, restores people to full participation in society, and teaches his followers through vivid parables.

The Nicene Creed is the most ecumenical of creeds. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) joins with Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and most Protestant churches in affirming it.

**Those who are able, please stand*

Want to give via credit card? Scan below.



FOR ONLINE GIVING

Want to learn more about today's scripture? Scan below to listen to our podcast.



PODCAST FOR APPLE



PODCAST FOR ANDROID



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS



OFFERTORY

TRADITIONAL CATALONIAN CAROL

Carol of the Birds

Josey Poppin, mezzo-soprano

*Upon this holy night, when God's great star appears,
And floods the earth with brightness,
Birds' voices rise in song, and, warbling all night long
Express their glad hearts' lightness.*

The answ'ring Sparrow cries:

*"God comes to earth this day amid the angels flying."
Thrilling in sweetest tones, the finch his Lord now owns:
"To Him be all thanksgiving."*

The partridge adds his note:

*"To Bethlehem I'll fly, where in the stall He's lying.
There, near the manger blest, I build myself a nest,
And sing my love undying."*



*DOXOLOGY 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*



*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

**Those who are able, please stand*

SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH THE WORLD



*HYMN 105

People Look East

BESANÇON

*CHARGE



*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Long Ago, Prophets Knew
Chancel Choir

PERSONET HODIE

*Journey ends! Where afar Bethlehem shines,
Like a star, stable door stands ajar:
unborn Son of Mary, Savior, do not tarry!
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes, Jesus comes,
we will make Him welcome!*

*POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Tara W.
Bulger, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Brett
Gudeman, Associate
Pastor

Dr. Patricia Hacker,
Director of Music

Dr. Lois K. Lee,
Pianist/Organist

Chancel Choir
Josey Poppin

Lighting the Advent
Wreath:

8:30 am - Roy &
Marilyn McCorkle

11:00 am - Clyde,
Holly, Camille, Cora &
Saffy Lewis

Ushers:

8:30 am- Joyce &
Charles Stephens

11:00 am- Anne
Fowlkes Schreeder,
Paula Hatch, Mary
Margaret Cofield &
Jerry Gattis

Acolytes:

Grant Bevel, Emily
Bevel & AJ Wermuth

Sunday Morning Host:
Marilyn McCorkle

Video and Sound:
Tom Stroud,
Brian Bulger, Dave
Young

Worship Resources Adapted From:

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion Series, the Book of Common Worship, and Enterthebible.org
CCLI 1345744 One License: A-722711

**Those who are
able, please stand*

THIS WEEK AT FPCHSV
December 18 - December 25

Sunday, December 18, 2022

8:30 am Worship Service SAN

9:00 - 9:30 am Children's Church RM 106

9:30 - 10:30 am Combined Sunday School for
Children & Youth FH
Genesis JAH

Peepers Sunday School RM 108/109

11:00 am Worship Service SAN

11:30 am - 12:00 pm Children's Church RM 106

Monday, December 19, 2022

First Friends Preschool Break

1:30 - 3:00 pm PW Mission Work FH

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

First Friends Preschool Break

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

First Friends Preschool Break

10:00 - 11:00 am Staff Meeting LIB

6:00 - 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service SAN

7:00 - 8:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice CR

Thursday, December 22, 2022

First Friends Preschool Break

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Prayer Group LIB/Zoom

12:00 - 1:00 pm Al-Anon GBH

Friday, December 23, 2022

Office Closed

First Friends Preschool Break

Saturday, December 24, 2022

HOLY COMMUNION

Christmas Eve

3:00 - 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service
SAN (child focused)

3:30 - 4:00 pm Children's Church RM106

7:00 - 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service SAN

7:00 - 8:00 pm Child Care available

Sunday, December 25, 2022

11:00 am Worship Service SAN

11:30 am - 12:00 pm Children's Church RM 106

12:00 - 12:30 pm Coffee & Donuts FH

Calendar Legend:

BR - Bell Room

CH - Carriage House (GBH)

CER - Christian Ed Resource
upstairs

CR - Choir Room

FH - Fellowship Hall

GBH - Gideon Blackburn
House

HR - Historical Room

JAH - John Allan Hall (GBH)

LIB - Library

SAN - Sanctuary

SMR - Stephen Ministry
Room (GBH)

Green - Children's
program

Yellow - Youth program

Red - Adult program

Blue - Music



Many thanks to Josey Poppin for singing this morning.

Josey Poppin has been singing and playing piano since she was young. She recently graduated with her M.M. in Vocal Performance from the University of Cincinnati—College-Conservatory of Music and holds a B.M.E in Music Education from the University of Northwestern-St. Paul in Minnesota. She has experience singing opera, musical theater, and contemporary worship, giving her a diverse teaching style and understanding of healthy vocal technique. While in Huntsville, she will be performing with Opera Huntsville and other community groups.



Christmas Services

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Blue Christmas-
December 21st, 6pm
nursery available

Christmas Eve Services -
December 24th, 3pm & 7pm

Christmas Day
Sunday Service -
December 25th, 11am
(One Service)





CHRISTMAS EVE *Flower Dedications*

Honorariums/Memorials are \$50 each.

There is no limit on the number of dedications we can receive, although there will be 12 arrangements in the church. Flowers stay at the church to decorate for the holiday and the money goes to support our flower guild all year long.

If you would like to make a flower dedication for Christmas Eve, please fill out a dedication card found in the narthex, call the church office, or go to fpchsv.org/worship.

Dedications must be received by
Monday, Dec. 19, 2022



Children in K-5th grade are invited to sing for the 3:00 Christmas Eve service! Please let us know if your child is interested by visiting our website: fpchsv.org/register.

Attend these important rehearsals:

Dec 18, 10:10-10:30, in the Sanctuary (Kathy Gillmore will escort them from Combined SS!)

Dec 24, 2:30-2:50, in the Sanctuary (this is call time and rehearsal for the 3:00 service)

Advent Devotion Series

The holiday season is busy and often focused on material things. In order to focus on the reason for Advent, join us for a new advent devotion series called "A Less is More Christmas."

Each Monday of Advent a short video devotion will be emailed out and posted on our website. You can watch it at any time.

You can also grab one of our "Less Is More" posters and implement the suggestions given for each week of Advent. The suggestions are simple and easy for the whole family to do.

Posters are available in the narthex and on the church website

Peace Church UCC / peacechristianchurch.org



If you requested offering envelopes, they are in the Fellowship Hall. There are extras if you would like envelopes, but did not ask for them.

PRAYER LIST

New prayer requests are in bold print

In case of a pastoral emergency, you may contact Dr. Bulger at 256-655-1818

In order to conserve paper and printing costs, names added to the prayer list will be removed after six weeks. Please take the bulletin home to add these names to your daily prayers. Prayer requests should be emailed to Isabel Evans, Administrative Assistant, at admin@fpchsv.org. Alternately, you may fill out a prayer request form on our website at fpchsv.org/prayer.

Church Members:

Marilyn Schild
June and Buddy Guynes
Leigh Wermuth, on the passing of her father
Bryce Connor
Frances Byrd
Carol Cotney
Ann Allen
Nan McBride
Mary Edith Thompson
Albert Schild
Ted Paludan
Tim Grey
Ginny Bouldin
Barbara (Bonny) Morris
Cay Lambert
Mary Lou Danner

Friends and Family:

Patricia Smith - mother of David Smith
Jonathan Smith - brother of David Smith
Erica Vallhonrat - friend of Eleanor and George Harsh
Jan and Bruce Smith - friends of Diann and Alan Mitchell
Greg Clark - friend of Lisa Stephens
Todd Register - friend of Stephanie Hyatt
Tom Pieplow - friend of Bill Andrews
The Moon Family - friends of Kelsey Worley
Gary Huckaby
Stella Fair - sister of David Galloway
Sandy Kagan - daughter of Betty Dunaway
Bennie Jacks - friend of Eleanor and George Harsh
Barbara Stephens - friend of Janis & Bruce Williams
Parker Johnson - friend of Anne Dillon Loflin
Bill Thomas - friend of Houston Matthews
Brett - neighbor of Bill Andrews

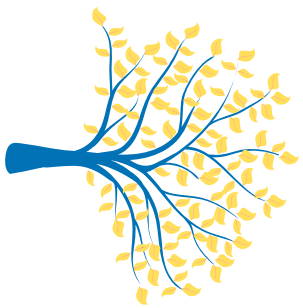
John Fumbanks, Jr. - brother of Stacy Owens
Judy Quevos - family member of Marita Durham
The family of Maribeth Herndon, on her passing
Betty and Donald Lewter - friends of Genie and Bob Miller
Richard Grace - friend of Houston Matthews
Scott Curry - son of friend of Tish Hammer
John and Deb - brother and sister-in-law of Carol Cotney
Dean Siefert - sister of Betty Dunaway
The Stogner Family
Lib Judge - friend of Nan McBride
Jessica Clements - friend of Patricia Hacker
Olivia Cate Yarbrough - friend of the Holliday and Thomas families
Grant Adams - brother of Glen Adams
Tina Hester - mother of Anne Peters
Kyle Bitzer - family friend of Dave and Peggy Galloway
Willis Atwater - friend of the Howards and the Wermuths
Melinda Thompson - Sister of Mary Hart Brown
Josh Saliba - nephew of Donna and John Basore
Beverlee Leo - mother of Lori Smith
Nell Pike - mother of Charlie Pike
Rachel Beard - friend of Tam Bevel

Members and Relatives in Specialty Care:

Kathleen Perry (Valley View)
Dolly Shuey (WBC @ Magnolia Trace)
Jean Walker (Regency)

Military & International:

Prayers for Haiti and our mission partners. This is a critical time as the civil unrest there may undermine all humanitarian work.
All those serving in the armed forces; particularly LTJG Connor Howard, U.S. Navy Pilot



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Church

307 Gates Ave SE

Huntsville, AL 35801