

Morning Worship Service

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

11:00 A.M.

We turn our eyes toward Bethlehem, hoping and praying for a new outbreak of love and peace among us, but it can never happen until we are willing to place our lives in God's hands that we might be reshaped, remolded, and fashioned into a new and different creation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *Two Manger Carols* Martha Lynn Thompson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: November ends. December begins.

People: We find our beginning and our ending in God.

Leader: Month after month, our God attends us and supports us.

People: For God's company, we offer thanks and praise.

Leader: Let us worship the God who gives us Jesus Christ:

People: God who is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the Living One and our Redeemer, now and forever.

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 2 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Trey, Claire & Owen Leeke

CALL TO CONFESSION

Beloved, God responds quickly to the choices we make. Our actions have consequences in our relationships with one another and God. Whether we want it to or not, our choices and deeds influence God's responses and actions. Repent, turn away from evil, believe in the Good News, and do what is pleasing in the sight of the Lord. May we pray the Prayer of Confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, and touch, and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy; you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us we as question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin – the one who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. (Silent Prayers) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Even now, God approaches us, mercy transcending anger, hope overcoming despair, life triumphing over death. This is good news, my friends; this is news of great joy for each of us.

People: Enriched in every grace, blessed with joy and hope, transformed by love, we will live as people of Advent. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*RESPONSE – No. 579 “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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

TWO CENTS A MEAL

ANTHEM *How Great Our Joy* Bill Ingram

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2: 15-16 (NT) pg.58

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON **Urgency** Rev. Dr. Olin McBride

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “The Apostles' Creed”

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Karen Smith & David Snyder

*DOXOLOGY – No. 592

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 DEDICATION

Our God, soon we shall present our gifts to family and friends. These are days for gathering gifts for those we love. Let our love not be narrow or confined, however, but let our love pour out to our church and its ministries, to those for whom we know their needs if not their faces, and for the causes which have breadth and meaning. Accept these gifts in that spirit, that our love might be more and more an expression of your great love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

BLESSING AFTER MEAL

*CLOSING HYMN No. 9 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Noël Étranger* Louis-Claude Daquin

*Congregation Standing- as able

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

SUNDAY

9:45 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship
5:30 P.M. Youth Meeting

MONDAY

2:00 P.M. Prayer Partners
4:30 P.M. Mah Jongg

TUESDAY

8:30 A.M. Preschool & Kindergarten
11:00 A.M. Mary & Martha's Bible Study
7:00 P.M. A.A. 12&12 Al-Anon

WEDNESDAY

8:30 A.M. Preschool & Kindergarten
5:00 P.M. Faithbuilders
5:05 P.M. Handbells
5:30 P.M. Supper in Fellowship Hall
6:15 P.M. Olin McBride
7:05 PM. Choir

THURSDAY

7:30 A.M. Men's Breakfast (Holiday Inn)
8:30 A.M. Preschool & Kindergarten
5:00 P.M. Knitting & Crocheting

FRIDAY

8:30 A.M. Preschool & Kindergarten
12:00 Noon A.A. 12& 12 Group Meeting

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Are you looking for a church home? After worship an elder will stand at the baptismal font at the front of the sanctuary to provide information.

Ritual of Friendship – Members and Visitors: Please sign the black attendance register every Sunday and pass it down your pew. Please read the names, greet one another, and meet new members and visitors.

Leading the Worship Service: Rev. Dr. Olin McBride; Liturgist: Virginia Toliver; Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris, Nan Holder, Flute
Elder at the front of the sanctuary: Judy Thomas
Greeting: Evelyn Croxton
Ushers: Sarah Helen & Ana Morgan Beckham, Buddy Stubbs, Olivia Hastings, Jim Ingram & George White

The Flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God.

Nursery Care is available for newborns through 4- year-olds. Please ask an usher for directions to the nursery if you are visiting for the first time.

After the children's sermon, pre-kindergarteners through second graders are invited to attend "**Wee Kirk**" with Heather Crotwell in our Extended Session room (very end of hall from nursery). This is a time of age appropriate lessons, songs, and games intended to prepare our children to fully participate in worship. However, all children are welcome in worship! If you excuse yourself and your child, you can hear the service over speakers in McFadden Hall (directly behind the Sanctuary).

IMPORTANT REMINDER

As a courtesy to those around you, kindly turn off or silence cell phones and personal communication devices.

Sermons are available by Podcast at www.firstprestupelo.org/podcast

Compact Discs of the service are available through the church office.

TV Broadcast of the service is the following week on Christian Network Television at 9:00 a.m. Sunday; and at 8:00 p.m. Monday on Channel 4 Comcast, Channel 49 Dish and antennae, and Channel 20 MaxSouth. Service is live streaming on youtube.com search *first pres tupelo*

Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers. They also have devices to amplify the service.

PRAYERS

Cancer Treatments: Aimee McDonald Burrow, Julie Seiler, Judy Armentrout, Thaine Batte, Becky Franklin, Leslie Geoghegan

Homebound: Ruth Ann Wilcox, Bernice Baker, John & Betty Castles

College Students: Larkin Robbins, George Seiler, Henry Seiler, Ivy Wells

We care about you as we care about each other. If you would like to submit a prayer request, you may use the blue cards in the pews or in McFadden Hall, and our pastoral staff and prayer partners will pray for you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY SUPPER December 5 at 5:30 p.m. Chicken Cordon Bleu, Chicken Tenders, Green Beans, Squash Casserole, Cheesy Potatoes, Corn on the Cob, Congealed Salad, Rolls, Full Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit, Chocolate Delight, Layered Lemon Dessert, Cookies, and Ice Cream. **Use the form on the Attendance Register**, the web site, or call the Church Office at 842-5681 by noon **Tuesday** for reservations or cancellations. **Reservations required.** Olin will lead a discussion on the Incarnation.

The Congregational Care Committee is asking for your help in providing gift cards for our 25 college students. We have been doing this for years to show our students that their church remembers and loves them. These will go out to the students before Christmas. We are asking for \$10 gift cards from Starbucks or McDonalds. We will also be glad to have monetary donations to purchase these cards. Please turn the cards or donations in to the office this week.

Nativity Scenes in McFadden Hall- Today is the first day of Advent, when we prepare our hearts for Jesus to arrive! An angel has come to tell Mary that she will have a baby to be named Jesus, Immanuel, God-with- us. Check out the scenes each week in McFadden Hall. You can see the story progress in both our large ceramic nativity and colorful Guatemala nativity.

Mah Jongg will meet December 3 & 10 and then will take a break during the holiday season, resuming on January 14.

FPC has moved to one service at 11:00 a.m. until January 6. Sunday School time will not change. This will allow Olin a bit more recovery time.

Keep Tupelo Warm! Please join First Presbyterian Women's Ministry in helping to keep our neighbors warm during the cold days of winter. Please bring warm mittens, scarves, gloves, and hats to place on the Christmas tree in the breezeway. These items will be distributed to local schools and our neighbors at Saint's Brew and Tree of Life Clinic. Thank you for your help in this much needed ministry.

Sparkle Boxes! If your child did not receive a Sparkle Box book on Wednesday night, please take one to share with your family. They are located in the breezeway.

Olin's sermon title next week is "Wonder."

The Session

Clerk of the Session, Cindy Faucette

Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
Doyce Deas	David Carlisle	Mark Burleson
Lori Dickerson	Vivian Fleming	Sally Kate Collins
Rick Jones	Julie Gibens	Ann Godwin
Jimmy Milam	Toni Martin	Richard Hastings
Lucy Nash	Rud Robison	Glenn Thomas
Judy Thomas	Chris Rogers	Joel Zimmerman
Mike Thomas		
Rochelle Wallace		

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Melissa McDuffie, Interim Youth Director

Heather Crotwell, Children's Church Director

Allison Neal, Communications Director

Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music

Dr. Ray Harris, Organist

Danielle Frerer, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs

Nannette Comer, Church Librarian

Margaret Anne Murphey, Music Librarian

Teresa Nichols, Church Secretary

Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary

Sunny Waters, Director of Preschool

Eddie Baker, Maintenance Superintendent

Joyce Richardson, Housekeeper

Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Worship 11:00 -169

Weekly Budget \$15,960

YTD Budgeted Income \$ 822,406

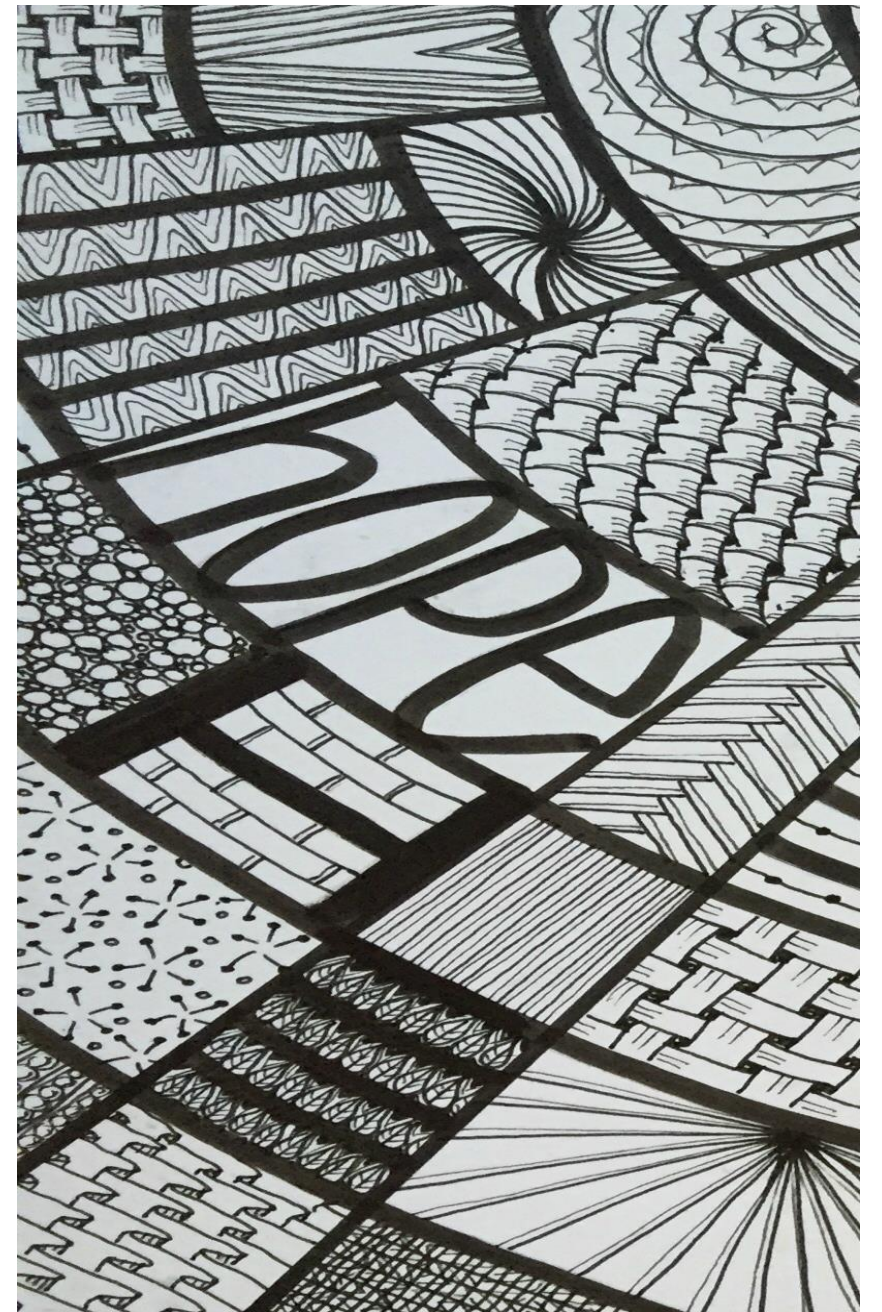
Amount Received 11-25-18 \$ 13,937

YTD Income Received \$ 761,372

2019 Stewardship Update

120 Pledges Totaling \$797,696

If you have not turned in your pledge card, please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your faithfulness.



First Presbyterian Church

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www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch.tupeloms

