

*Morning Worship Service*  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

December 23, 2018

11:00 A.M.

*Advent is a time to anticipate, to look forward, to expect, to hope. The prophet Micah encouraged the people with a message of anticipation and hope, pointing to Bethlehem as the source of the coming Messiah and predicting a period of triumph and peace. Surely the Messiah has come, but we still anticipate a greater and fuller realization of the Messiah's rule.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Diane Bish

INTROIT *Love Came Down at Christmas* arr. Howard Helvey

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God

**People: Whose light brings hope to a weary world.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 23 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Bryan, Natalie, Gia & Chris Ellis

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Even in the midst of great joy and celebration, we know that our lives don't always reflect God's intentions. So let us pray the prayer of confession, followed by a moment of silent reflection and personal confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they found there was no room. We confess that in the midst of all our anxieties we have not made room in our hearts for others. We confess that, paralyzed by fear, prejudice or apathy, we have not made room in our homes for the stranger. We confess that, forgetting the welcome we have been shown, we have not made room in your church for those who are different from us. We confess that in the busyness of Christmas time we have not made room in our lives for you. (Silence) Gracious God, forgive us and renew us. Use this advent time to break open our hearts. Throw open the doors, open our eyes to your presence and open our arms wide to welcome you. (Silent Prayers). Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**God is good! God is faithful! God is merciful! And God comes to us, in vulnerability, again and again, to show us how much we are loved. We are forgiven; we are freed; we are beloved; we are blessed. 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

ANTHEM *All Is Well* arr. Ron Huff

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 2: 1-20 (NT) pg. 58

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON **Open Me First** Rev. Dr. Olin McBride

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 37 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**God sent the promised Deliverer to his people. Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.**

From A Declaration of Faith

PASTORAL PRAYER FOR THE ADVENT SEASON

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.**

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY *In Dulci Jubilo* Marcel Dupre

\*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

**God of Grace, in the midst of a season so focused on shopping and finding the right gift, we give our gifts now to you. We remember that all our giving has its foundation in the amazing gift you gave to us; putting on flesh and coming in the form of a child, Emmanuel, God with us! May what we give today, and in the days to come, be bathed in the knowledge that yours is the most perfect gift**

**and the one we need the most. We pray in the holy name of the Christ child, the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN No. 31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

\*BENEDICTION

Leader: May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth, bring joy to your hearts this day and always.

**People: Amen**

Leader: May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for you, fill your life with love and peace.

**People: Amen**

Leader: May Emmanuel, God with us, be with you in all your doings and all your celebrations, until he brings you into his eternal kingdom.

**People: Amen**

Leader: And may Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**People: Amen**

\*POSTLUDE *Echo Noel* Louis- Claude Daquin

\*Congregation standing as able.

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

SUNDAY

9:45 A.M.

Impromptu Nativity/  
Fellowship Hall

11:00 A.M.

Morning Worship Service

MONDAY

6:00 & 11:00 P.M.

Communion Service

TUESDAY

7:00 P.M.

A.A. 12 & 12. Alanon

THURSDAY

7:30 A.M.

Men's Breakfast (Holiday Inn)

FRIDAY

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.

**Leading Worship Today:** Rev. Dr. Olin McBride; Liturgist; Virginia Toliver; Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris, Kristen Whitten, Cello

**Ushers:** Leslie, Patrick, Abbey & Olivia Hastings, Jim Ingram, George White

**Elder at the front of the sanctuary:** Lucy Nash

**Greeting:** Andy, Heather, Daniel, Anne & Mary Crotwell

**The Flowers** are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in honor of Robin Purnell and in memory of Ray "Honey" Purnell on their Christmas Eve birthdays and in memory of our fathers, George Nash and Hugh Purnell, by Steve and Lucy Nash.

**Christian Sympathy** is extended to Betty Castles on the death of her husband, John Castles, December 14.

**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).

**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.

#### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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](http://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:** Bernice Baker, Betty Castles, Mary Evelyn Maxwell, Eddie Wayne Kelly (former secretary Glenda Kelly's husband)

**College Students:** Tucker Erickson, Gatlin Farrar, Ben Gibens, Abbey Hastings

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.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Helping Hands -Keep that Christmas spirit alive a little longer. Join our team to assist at Helping Hands Food Pantry on Saturday, December 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The team will help stock shelves and bag groceries for neighbors in need. We do this every 4 weeks. Helping Hands Food Pantry is located at 314 S. Church Street, Tupelo, MS and is an extension of First United Methodist Church of Tupelo. Children welcome. More info.: [rickjones2525@gmail.com](mailto:rickjones2525@gmail.com) or [662-213-1520](tel:662-213-1520).

**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.

Early service returns January 6.

**Walk through the Bible** series begins January 13 at 5:00 p.m. Monday classes begin January 14 at 10:00 a.m. Classes will be held in the Session Room.

**McMillan Lecture Series** returns February 8. Dr. Erskine Clark, Professor Emeritus American Religious History at Columbia Seminary will be our guest for a weekend of discussion. Please mark your calendar.

Don't forget to fill your Sparkle Boxes with "gifts" for baby Jesus! Draw pictures for people in the nursing home, bake cookies for the people who collect your garbage or deliver your mail, pass out Hershey kisses to all the cashiers next time you are at the store, write a note to someone you know is lonely ...it can be anything! Then just write your gift on a simple strip of paper and drop it in your box! We will dedicate these Sparkle Boxes and all our gifts at the Epiphany service January 9!

#### The Session

Clerk of the Session, Cindy Faucette

Class of 2019

Doyce Deas

Lori Dickerson

Rick Jones

Jimmy Milam

Lucy Nash

Judy Thomas

Mike Thomas

Rochelle Wallace

Class of 2020

David Carlisle

Vivian Fleming

Julie Gibens

Toni Martin

Rud Robison

Chris Rogers

Class of 2021

Mark Burleson

Sally Kate Collins

Ann Godwin

Richard Hastings

Glenn Thomas

Joel Zimmerman

#### First Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride, Pastor

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

Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music

Dr. Ray Harris, Organist

Melissa McDuffie, Interim Youth Director

Heather Crotwell, Children's Church Director

Allison Neal, Communications Director

Danielle Frerer Ratliff, 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 - 263

Weekly Budget \$15,418

Offering Amount Received 12-16-18 \$ 21,543

YTD Budgeted Income \$ 897,095

YTD Income Received \$ 816,732

#### 2019 Stewardship Update

123 Pledges Totaling \$ 812,296

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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Visit us online. [www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org)  
[www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch.tupeloms](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch.tupeloms)

