

Morning Worship Service

First Sunday after Christmas

December 30, 2018

11:00 A.M.

A great poet once said of Jesus, "He is the still point of a turning world." Into the swirl of human activity with jealousies such as Herod's, exhaustion such as Mary's, and hope such as that of the Magi, Christ comes like a star of peace, around which all these, like planets, revolve.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *Variations on "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"* Alexandre Guilmant

INTROIT *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Joel Raney

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: It is over now: the shopping and wrapping, the baking and celebrating.

People: The Christmas rush is behind us.

Leader: But the meaning of Christmas goes on and on.

People: The Lord of Christmas is here among us.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord of Christmas!

* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: For God so loved the world that God gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. (John 3: 16,17) Let us confess our need for God's saving love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

On this Sunday after Christmas, as another year draws to a close, we come together before God and with one another, confessing the ways in which we have been caught up in the frenzied spirit of the holidays and turned away from Your Spirit of Peace; the times we have focused so much on our own lives and desires, that we have neglected the voices of your children who cry out for justice; in our focus on making the season perfect, we have turned away from the hurting people and broken places in our world in need of healing; in the times we have dismissed Christmas as a time only for children, and we have stubbornly closed our hearts to your amazing gift of love. O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Word Become Flesh, our Savior and King, hear us as we humbly pray, cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. (Silent prayers) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news of Christmas. Today God reveals to us the wonders of divine love. For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given. His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

*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 *How Far Is It To Bethlehem* arr. Molly Ijames

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 1:1-5 (NT) pg.91

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON **What Child is This?** Rev. Dr. Olin McBride

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 53 *What Child is This*

*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

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

LEADER: In a little town, known for nothing much, God's holy child was born.

PEOPLE: Welcome the Light!

LEADER: By the faint light of the moon, Mary and Joseph found their way.

PEOPLE: Welcome the Light!

LEADER: Shown by a courtyard fire, the open stable door.

PEOPLE: Welcome the Light!

LEADER: Warm breath of resting beasts, kindly sparkle in their eyes.

PEOPLE: Welcome the Light!

LEADER: In the shadowy stable stall, Joseph kindled a lamp.

PEOPLE: Welcome the Light!

LEADER: There Mary gave birth to Jesus, called God-With-Us.

PEOPLE: Welcome the Light!

LEADER: Angels opened the doors of heaven, sang, "Glory to God in the heights!"

PEOPLE: Welcome the Light!

LEADER: Shepherds saw the sky ablaze, left their sheep and came to see.

PEOPLE: Welcome the Light!

LEADER: In the darkest winter night, God set a brilliant star.

PEOPLE: Welcome the Light!

LEADER: Magi from the East divined God's shining sign.

PEOPLE: Welcome the Light!

LEADER: And on this Sunday after Christmas we greet the Child with great joy.

PEOPLE: Welcome the Light!

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 *Angels We Have Heard on High* Dale Wood

*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

With the wise men who first offered you their gifts of gold and spice, we offer you the best of what we have. We do so with their joy and thanksgiving, and we pray that you will use these gifts to build your Church. As we return to our homes, by another way, the way of compassion, we ask that you use us, too, in that great redemptive work. Lord, open your gifts; but open also our hearts, for your pleasure and your mission. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN No. 40

Joy to the World!

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Personet Hodie* Gustav Holst

*Congregation standing as able.

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

SUNDAY

9:45 A.M.

Sunday School

11:00 A.M.

Morning Worship 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

Ushers: Leslie, Patrick, Olivia and Patrick Hastings, Jim Ingram, George White

Elder at the front of the sanctuary: Vivian Fleming

Greeting: Martha Dale

The Flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in honor of the Fellowship Committee and the PW Coordinating Team.

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

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: Virginia Mills, Flo Shultz, Grace Stamps

College Students: Patrick Hastings, Spencer Hillhouse, Amanda Hillhouse

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

Early service returns January 6.

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.

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.

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!

Souper Bowl Luncheon is Sunday, February 3. All proceeds benefit Youth, Guatemala & Cuba mission trips. You may donate what you would for a normal meal. Children's menu also available.

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

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 - 219

ATTENDANCE CHRISTMAS EVE 6:00 - 278 11:00 - 52

Weekly Budget \$15,418

Offering Amount Received 12-23-18 \$ 14,214

YTD Budgeted Income \$ 897,095

YTD Income Received \$ 830,947

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.



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www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch.tupeloms

