

# Morning Worship Service

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

*No one else holds or has held the place in the heart of the world which Jesus holds. Other gods have been as devoutly worshipped; no other man has been so devoutly loved.*  
--John Knox

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *O Sanctissima* Diane Bish

INTROIT *Angels We Have Heard on High* arr. Margaret Goldston

### \*ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We, the unsuspecting and unlikely, are drawn here together by a promise.

**People: He is coming.**

Leader: The angel's promise interrupted a bridegroom's private doubts and insecurity.

**People: He is coming.**

Leader: An unwed pregnant teenager's fears diminished with the angel's promise.

**People: He is coming.**

Leader: A baby in a womb leapt for joy at the sound of her voice and promised.

**People: He is coming.**

Leader: An old man died at peace and an old woman prophesied redemption at a baby dedication with the fulfillment of this promise.

**People: He is coming.**

Leader: Two thousand years ago, from the depths of a people's memory, the words of a promise resounded.

**People: He is coming.**

Leader: I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' (Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:2-3, Luke 3:4-6)

**All: He Came. He Is Come. He Is Coming.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 40

*Joy to the World*

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

(8:30) Jeff and Lee Reeder

(11:00) Kimmel and Julia Monts

### CALL TO CONFESSION

(Inspired by Luke 1:46-55)

Leader: Every notion we have about power, success, wealth, and achievement, God takes and tosses out the window. More importantly, God comes to us, to upset our notion that we have to save ourselves. In Jesus, God comes to us, removing our sin, our failures, our expectations, so we might have new life. Please join me as we pray, saying,

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, Advent God. The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty. Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us. We would live secure in your love; we would be the ones of peace for our world, we would seek to do your will, as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. (Pause for reflection and self-examination) Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Even now—yes, even in this very moment, God comes to us, bringing hope, bringing forgiveness, bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us.

**People: May we open our hearts to the God who is with us, and receive the gifts which have been offered to us. 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 (11:00) *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Dan Forrest

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:39-47 (NT) p. 57

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON **All I Want for Christmas** Rev. Dr. Olin McBride

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 38 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

### \*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.—A Declaration of Faith, PCUSA**

### 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 Dupré

\*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

Glory to God in the highest heaven! We praise your name with our offerings and tithes. We give these gifts in recognition of Jesus, a tiny babe who from humble birth was created great in your light. Thank you, Gracious God, for pure, unbounded love wrapped in clothes laying in a manger – a gift so great to share that it could not be contained. Let the joy we feel in our hearts overflow in unending praise. Amen. *Luke 2:1-14*

\*CLOSING HYMN No. 23

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

### \*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

Don Hustad

\*Congregation Standing—as able

### THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

#### SUNDAY

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School

#### MONDAY

2:00 p.m. Prayer Partners  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

#### TUESDAY

5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service  
7:00 p.m. A.A. 12&12 Al-Anon  
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service

#### WEDNESDAY

*Merry Christmas!*

#### THURSDAY

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast (Holiday Inn)

### WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Are you looking for a church home?** If so, please speak to our minister following worship.

**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:** 11:00—Rev. Dr. Olin McBride; Liturgist: 8:30—Jason McDuffie; 11:00—Julie Gibens; Dr. Bob Taylor; Dr. Ray Harris

**Greeting:** Margaret Parker and Roy Parker, Sr.

**Ushers:** 8:30—David Williams; Bill Dickerson; 11:00—Chris and Holly Rogers

**The Flowers** are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in loving memory of my dad's birthday by George White.

**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 REMINDERS**

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

**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 FOR THIS WEEK**

**Cancer Treatments:** Judy Armentrout, Aimee McDonald Burrow, Mary Ann Chiles, Julie Seiler

**Homebound:** Mary Evelyn Maxwell, Claudia Neelly, Sarah Parker

**College Students:** Ben Gibens, Abbey Hastings, Patrick Hastings  
(Homebound and college students are listed each week on a rotation from our complete list.)

**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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Keep Tupelo Warm!** Please help us 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. We will collect these items through January, and they will be distributed to local schools. The Presbyterian Women thank you for your help in this much needed ministry.

**Join our team to assist at Helping Hands Food Pantry next Saturday, December 28**, from 9:00 a.m. until 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 are welcome. For more information, contact Rick Jones at [rickjones2525@gmail.com](mailto:rickjones2525@gmail.com) or 662-213-1520.

**The Mah Jongg group will not meet again until after the first of the year.**

**T'ai Chi Chih will resume on January 7.**

**LOOKING AHEAD—As has been our tradition in recent years, we will have only one worship service at 11:00 a.m. on the Sunday following Christmas—Sunday, December 29.** There will be no Sunday School on that day, and Rev. Jim Curtis will be preaching. As you know, the Sunday after Christmas is often called "Low Sunday." Perhaps we could change that term in the future.

**Our Wednesday Night Programs resume January 8.** Join us for supper in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. and our Epiphany Service, which begins at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.

**The McMillan Lecture Series returns January 24.** Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian, Vice President for Seminary Advancement, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will present "*The Church Moving Forward: Leadership in Times of Change.*"

**Sunny Waters, FPC's longtime preschool director and teacher**, will retire at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Sunny has faithfully served this ministry for 29 years. Please keep the Preschool Director Search Committee in your prayers: Melissa McDuffie, chair; Roxie Clayton; Andy Crotwell; Amy Fagan; and Lori Robertson.

**The Session**

Clerk of the Session, Cindy Faucette

<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>
Travis Abney	Mark Burleson	Steve Bryson
David Carlisle	Sally Kate Collins	Anne Marie Littrell
Vivian Fleming	Ann Godwin	Mary Pace
Julie Gibens	Richard Hastings	Drew Robertson
Toni Martin	Kristi Hillhouse	Buddy Stubbs
Rud Robison	Glenn Thomas	Virginia Toliver
Chris Rogers	Joel Zimmerman	David Williams

**First Presbyterian Church Staff**

- Rev. Dr. Olin McBride, Pastor
- Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care
- Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education
- Heather Crotwell, Children's Church Director
- Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music
- Dr. Ray Harris, Organist
- Danielle Frerer Ratliff, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs
- Nannette Comer, Church Librarian
- Margaret Anne Murphey, Music Librarian
- Helen Reed Curtis, 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 8:30—101    11:00—225

Weekly Budget \$16,901                      Amount Received 12/15/19 \$24,365  
YTD Budgeted Income \$878,996            YTD Income Received \$788,483

**2020 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: 126 Pledges Totaling \$852,223**  
**This is the largest pledge total in FPC history...BUT we are behind in our 2019 giving.** *Let's finish the year strong financially. Please, if possible, complete your 2019 pledge commitment. Thank you for your faithfulness.*



# First Presbyterian Church

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