



First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo, Mississippi  
Morning Worship Service

July 12, 2020

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 A.M.

*If the shepherds had come to the manger or the wise men to the cradle and found it bare, the Christian faith could never have happened. If by the same token you come to worship and find worship meaningless and our hearts empty of the Christ, we would blush with shame. We want, like the shepherds, to find Christ among us and to know him in us. Come, Behold the King!*

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Wilber Held

**WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH**

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**INTROIT**

*Once in Royal David's City*

arr. Duane Funderburk

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** We waited.

**People:** **And imagined a savior.**

**Leader:** We imagined power.

**People:** **One like the world but stronger and on our side.**

**Leader:** We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

**People:** **We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.**

**Leader:** We imagined the work done for us through the destruction of our enemies.

**People:** **We receive a baby who will teach us our calling to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.**

**Leader:** Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

**People:** **Praise to the wisdom of love. Amen!**

**HYMN OF PRAISE No. 31**

*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins, not as frightened servants but as children of the household of God.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

**God of Light, we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light. We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune. We follow the dim lights that call us to be more religious by following rules. We follow the fading light of personal salvation. Forgive us for not seeking the true Light of Your love for all the world. Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus, who commanded us to love one another. Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion and justice, in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed. In the name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray. (Pause for reflection and meditation). Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the darkness, light shines. In the midst of troubled waters, a hand reaches out. We are not alone on this journey of faith. When we seek God, we shall find God. God forgives, renews, and restores—let us go forth and do the work of God. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**ANTHEM**

*O Holy Night*

arr. Gary Fry

**THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**Christmas in July**

Rev. Dr. Olin McBride

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY AFFIRMATION**

**Let the love that shaped earth and heaven  
dwell within us this Christmas.**

**Let the love that created humanity  
dwell within us this Christmas.**

**Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred  
dwell within us this Christmas.**

**Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones  
dwell within us this Christmas.**

**Let the love that forgives and renews  
dwell within us this Christmas.**

**Let the love that brings reconciliation after separation  
dwell within us this Christmas.**

**Let the love that brings the blessing of peace  
dwell within us this Christmas.**

**And may we share that peace  
with all people near and far. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**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**

*The Hands That First Held Mary's Child*

Dan Forrest

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We have the means to give, we have the reason to give, and there are many waiting for us to give. Yet often, our hands hold back, and we hoard what we have for ourselves. God of grace, help us live and give in your kingdom of love, where there are no enemies, only brothers and sisters, and kindness is the air we breathe. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*In Dulci Jubilo*

J. S. Bach

**The Rosebud** in the chancel this morning celebrates the birth of Joseph Henry Hutto, III into the world. He was born July 7 and is the son of Hank and Maddin Hutto. The proud grandparents are Joey and Michelle Hutto.

**The Flowers** are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in memory of Genola Tallant Smith by the Tallant family.

**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 also streaming on YouTube.com. *firstprestupelo.org*

#### **PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Cancer Treatments:** Judy Armentrout, Aimee McDonald Burrow, Bill Deas, Julie Seiler

**Homebound:** Bernice Baker, Jerry Burkett, Bobbye Carsten

**College Students:** John Robert Martin, Kathryn Martin, Retta Maxwell

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We welcome Josefina Rayburn to our church family.** She joins by reaffirmation of faith. Many of you already know Josefina. She has been very active with our mission teams in Guatemala and Cuba for at least 10 years. Welcome!

**Committees are encouraged to meet in Stuart Garden until we are able to resume inside activities.** Please call the church office to reserve your meeting date and time so that we adhere to the guidelines pertaining to small group gatherings. The office is open from 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M., Monday through Thursday. Also, please take pictures of your meetings and forward to the church office so that we can share them.

**Olin is compiling his sermons since March 15 into one set.** These will be printed, bound, and made available to those who would like a copy. The title will be "*Conversations during COVID: Sermons in a Time of Pandemic.*"

#### **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

Weekly Budget \$16,960

YTD Income Received \$547,419

YTD Budgeted Income \$514,466

Amount Received 7/5/20 \$7,022