

# *Morning Worship Service*

## *First Sunday of Advent*

November 27, 2022

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

*The purpose of this sermon will be to seek an understanding of what Jesus' words mean for us today as we prepare for Christ's return.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

*And the Glory of the Lord*

G. F. Handel from *Messiah*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 122, selected verses

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

**People: Now our feet are standing with your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Leader: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "Peace be within your walls."

**People: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."**

Leader: Let us worship God.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 40

*Joy to the World*

G.F. Handel

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Holy One, You have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. In anticipation of the shalom Christ brings to all people we come now before Your throne of grace to give You our praise and thanksgiving as we offer up to You the prayer Your Son taught us to pray...

**Unison: 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.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

(9:00) David Williams and Judy Griffie

(11:00) Claude, Roxie, Perry, Claude IV, and Finn Clayton

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: John the Baptist and Jesus both came preaching a gospel of the repentance of sins. Let us respond to this invitation to unburden our hearts and souls by confessing our sins and bask in the joy of forgiveness. Let us pray.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace, ever faithful to Your promises: The earth rejoices in the hope of our Savior's coming, and longs for the day of his return in glory. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes. Cleanse us from all that leads us to turn away from him, trusting instead in ourselves to make our future good. Forgive us for turning our back on the needy through whom he comes to us day by day. Empower us by Your Spirit to prepare ourselves for Christ's return by doing the work to which he has commissioned us, until Your reign is revealed in all its fullness and power. Amen.**

Leader: Hear now, O Lord, our personal prayers of confession in this time of silence.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance; Christ Jesus came into the world to seek and to save the lost. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. In the name of Christ Jesus your sins have been forgiven. 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

*Thanks Be to Thee*

G. F. Handel  
Dank Sei Dir, Herr

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Matthew 24:36-44](#)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**A Hopeful Preparation**

Rev. Taylor Todd

\*PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Heidelberg Catechism

Leader: What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

**People:** That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; instead, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

**Leader:** How many things must you know that you may live and die in the blessedness of this comfort?

**People:** Three. First the greatness of my sin and wretchedness. Second, how I am freed from all my sins and their wretched consequences. Third, what gratitude I owe to God for such redemption. Amen.

\*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION NO. 2

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

What an honor and privilege it is to come before God and offer to Him our various gifts and offerings. As we do so, let us give with a generous and cheerful heart.

OFFERTORY

*Ave Maria*

Bach/Gounod, arr. Proulx

\*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.*

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Merciful God may the joy of this season be reflected in us and in these gifts we bring to You. Bless these, our tithes and offerings as You have blessed us. May both bring glory to Your name and comfort to those in need. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 9     *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

\*BENEDICTION

\*\*POSTLUDE

*Hornpipe*

G. F. Handel

\*Congregation standing as able.

\*\*Please be seated until the conclusion of the Postlude.

## WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

**Large print bulletins and hymnals are available** from the ushers. You may also view the bulletin by visiting our website at [www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org). See the “Bulletin” link at the top of the homepage.

**We would like to thank members of the string quartet** for their beautiful playing: Paola Betanco, Olivia Coyne, Alex Urbina, and Kristin Whitten.

**The flowers** are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in memory of Jack and Frances McGill, Catherine and Robert Sadler, and the Topp family.

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

**After the 11:00 Children’s Sermon,** preschoolers and kindergarteners are invited to attend “Wee Kirk.” This is a time of fun childcare with age appropriate songs and games. 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.

**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.

**The service is live streamed** and available for viewing on YouTube.com by those unable to be with us this morning. Search *firstprestupelo*. We also invite you to visit our website at [www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org).

**Leading the worship service today:** Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris

**Crucifer:** 9:00-Joey McDuffie 11:00-Mary Crotwell

**Liturgist:** 9:00-Rick Jones 11:00-Andy Crotwell

**Greeters:** 9:00-Lucy & Bill Hilbun, Edna Sue & George White

11:00- Mary Margaret & Michael Gratz; Julie & Leighton Gibens

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Join us next week for supper and fellowship** at 5:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, November 30. The menu: Presly's Red Beans and Rice, Chicken Tenders, Homestyle Green Beans, Pizza, Congealed Salad, Rolls, Fresh Fruit, Full Salad Bar, Lemon Crunch, Presly's Chocolate Bread Pudding, Caramel Bread Pudding, Chess Pie, Cookies, Ice Cream. Sign up by Noon on Wednesday by using the link in Friday's newsletter or by calling the church office at 662-842-5681. Wednesday night programs for adults, children and youth begin at 6:00 P.M. All programs conclude at 7:00 P.M.

**St. Luke Food Pantry has asked us for** volunteers for the First Thursday of the month, every month to assist in distribution. Food banks are seeing record numbers of families in need. Volunteers can serve from 7:45 A.M.-10:00 a.m. Your help is appreciated for whatever time you have available to come and serve. You do need to be able to stand on your feet for the entire time you are working, but heavy lifting is NOT required.

### **From the Financial Secretary:**

- If you send Memorials and honorariums to the church office and your intention is for the recipient to be notified prior to Christmas Day, we must receive those in the office no later than December 11, 2022.
- The end of the year is quickly approaching. Please note that, for your account to receive contribution credit for the year 2022, contributions must be received or post marked by December 31, 2022.

**The City of Tupelo's Christmas Parade is Friday December 2.** Fellowship Committee will provide hot chocolate outside in front of the church; however, the church will not be open that night.

## PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

**Cancer Treatments:** Sam Pace, Julie Seiler

**Homebound:** Betty Nash, Claudia Neelly, Ruby Kathryn Patterson

**College Students:** Lilee Rose, Henry Seiler, Ivy Wells

**Service Members:** Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$16,837	Amount Received 11/20/22: \$3,263
YTD Budgeted Income: \$842,228	YTD Income Received: \$818,600

## ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY:

9:00 A.M.: 47    11:00 A.M.: 237

## **THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK**

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

9:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary

10:00 A.M. Sunday school

11:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

2:30 P.M. CASA

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih

10:00 A.M. Staff Meeting

11:00 A.M. Bible Study, Sistahood Room, Matthew 3:1-12

2:30 P.M. CASA

7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

2:30 P.M. CASA

3:00 P.M. Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton Room

5:05 P.M. Tower Ringers

5:30 P.M. Supper, Fellowship Hall

6:00 P.M. Adults, Faithbuilders, and Youth

7:00 P.M. Chancel Choir

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

St. Luke Food Pantry, anytime from 7:45-12:00

8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn

2:30 P.M. CASA

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

12:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

2:30 P.M. CASA

## **THE SESSION**

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd, Moderator  
Clerk of the Session, Lisa Nichols

### Class of 2023

Kirk Biddle  
Susan Boone  
Amy Fagan  
Mitzi Moore  
Aubrey Patterson, Jr  
Grayson Robbins  
Debra Robison

### Class of 2024

Kim Burleson  
Cindy Faucette  
Leslie Geoghegan  
Michael Gratz Jr.  
Chauncey Godwin  
Charles Reece  
Alice Rogers

### Class of 2025

Richard Hastings  
Trey Leeke  
Lucy Nash  
Chris Rogers  
Mary Stubbs  
Glenn Thomas  
Presly Wallace

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd, Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care  
Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education

Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music

Dr. Ray Harris, Organist

Seth Shelnut, Audio/Visual Technician

Danielle Frerer Ratliff, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs

Margaret Anne Murphey, Music Librarian

Helen Curtis, Church Secretary

Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary

Debbie Merritt, Receptionist

Eddie Baker, Maintenance Superintendent

Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

**First Presbyterian Church, 400 West Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 1725  
Tupelo, MS 38802 (662) 842-5681**

## George Frideric Handel

George Frideric Handel (1685 - 1759), was a German composer whose works have thrilled our hearts, lifted our spirits and brought us and countless others closer to God. His compositions include 42 operas, 25 oratorios, more than 120 cantatas, trios and duets and 12 organ concerti.

He was an excellent church organist, conductor and teacher whose music was admired by Classical-era composers, including Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven with several of his works being orchestrated by Mozart.

One of his most well-known and often performed works is the oratorio, Messiah, which contains the "Hallelujah Chorus," one of the most recognizable pieces in the world. Amazingly he composed the 260-page Messiah in 24 days and said that he felt God was guiding his hand as he wrote. When he finished writing he said "I think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God himself."

Several of our favorite hymns, including "Joy to the World!" "Thine Be the Glory" and "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" were written using melodies from his works.

Handel would frequently declare the pleasure he felt in setting the Scriptures to music, and how contemplating the many sublime passages in the Psalms had contributed to his edification.

Handel died on the day before Easter 1759, hoping to "meet his good God, his sweet Lord and Savior, on the day of His Resurrection." A close friend remarked, "He died as he lived - a good Christian, with a true sense of his duty to God and to man, and in perfect charity with all the world."

Today we honor this great composer by including several of his works in our worship service.



# Discover the Secret of The Sparkle Box!

Our children (and adults) are invited to make a Sparkle Box this year and add to it throughout the Advent season. These Sparkle Boxes will be filled with gifts we offer to Jesus for his birthday and will be dedicated during our Epiphany Service in January.

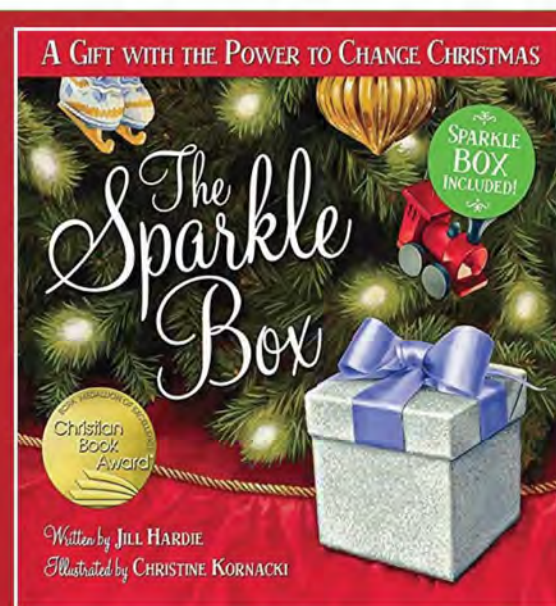
Ideas for "gifts" could include:

- Packing groceries at Helping Hands
- Coloring a picture or writing a note to someone who is lonely
- Donating clothes or blankets to those in need
- Visiting a friend who needs a smile

The ideas could go on and on and on! Get creative! Have fun! Copies of the accompanying book "The Sparkle Box" are available in the church office. Please contact Melissa with any questions you might have.



The king will answer, 'Whenever you did it for any of my people no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me.'" - *Matthew 25:40*



The award-winning book, *The Sparkle Box, A Gift with the Power to Change Christmas*, is a heartwarming story about a boy named Sam who discovers a mysterious sparkly box in his home.

His parents tell him it's a special gift called a "Sparkle Box" that they will open together later, but they need to fill it first. As Sam enjoys the festivities of the season, he continues to wonder, *What's inside The Sparkle Box?* When it's finally time to open it, what Sam discovers catches him by surprise and changes Christmas, and his heart, forever.



# Advent at FPC

## Sunday, November 27 - First Sunday of Advent

Worship at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.

## Wednesday, November 30

Dinner at 5:30 P.M. Program at 6:00 P.M.

Ask Me Anything with Taylor Todd

## Sunday, December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

Worship at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.

## Wednesday, December 7

Dinner at 5:30 P.M. Program at 6:00 P.M.

A Look at Christmas Traditions and Chrismons with Taylor Todd and Lucy Nash

## Sunday, December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

Worship at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.

## Wednesday, December 14

Dinner at 5:30 P.M., Joy Gift Program at 6:00 P.M.

## December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Carols of Christmas Service at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.

## Wednesday, December 21

Longest Night Service, 6:00 P.M. - NO DINNER on this night.

## Saturday, December 24

Two Christmas Eve Services, 5:00 P.M. and 11:00 P.M.

## Sunday, December 25

Christmas Morning Service, One Worship Service at 10:00 A.M.