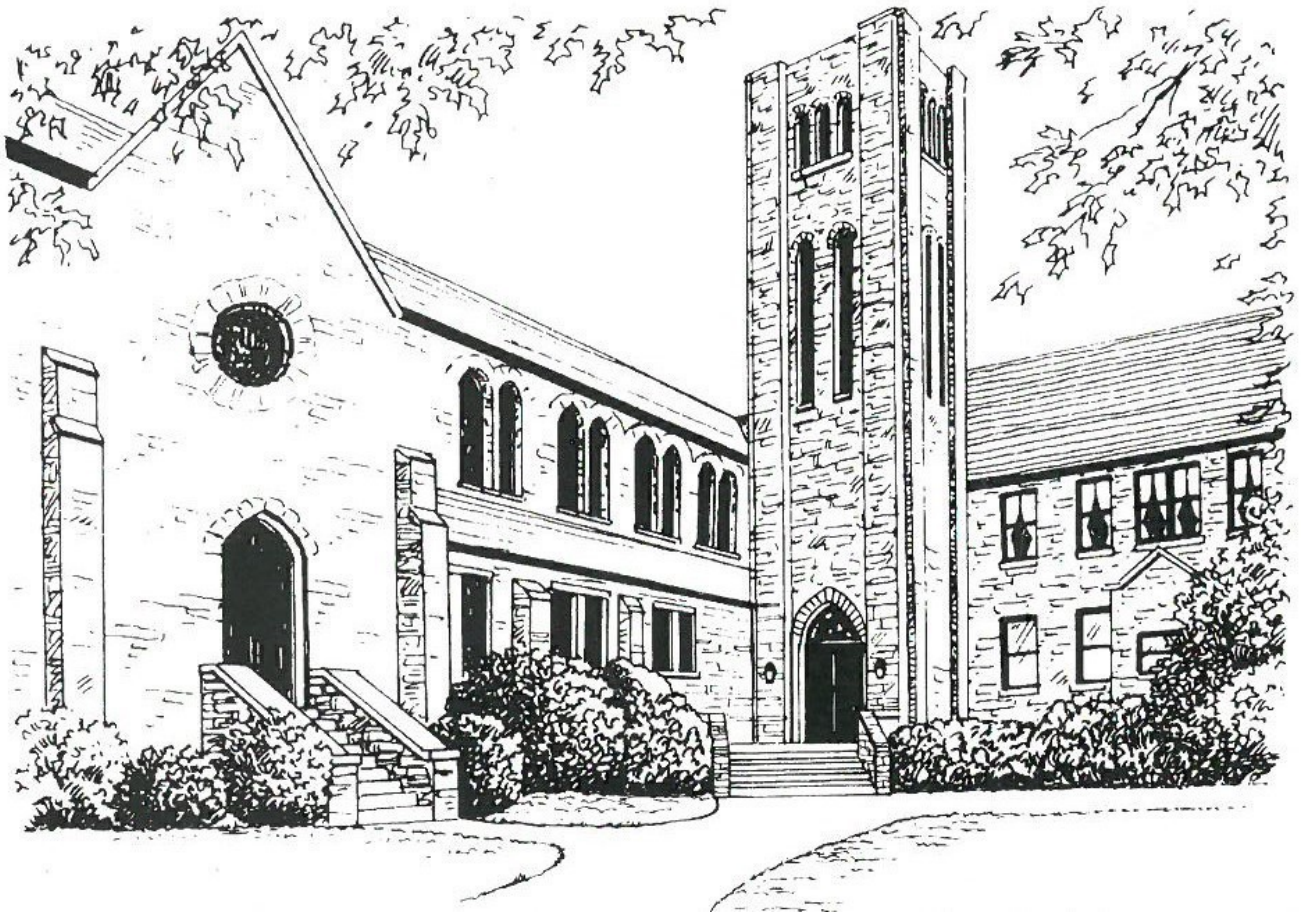


# First Presbyterian Church

400 W Jefferson Street  
Tupelo, Mississippi



## THE MISSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS TO:

*Learn the Word of God in worship and study.*  
*Live the Word of God in our homes and communities.*  
*Lead others to the Word of God in love.*

Visit us online. [www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/FPCTupelo>

662.842.5681

# *Morning Worship Service*

## *Second Sunday after Christmas*

January 4, 2025

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”  
- JOHN 1:16

\*Congregation standing as able.

**Bold** is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

DALE WOOD

INTROIT

*Jesus, Light of Joy*

DAVID GAMBRELL

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you and peace in this new year.

**We will bless God who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.**

In Christ we have obtained an inheritance.

**We have been redeemed as God’s own people.**

***Praise be to God!***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of abundance,

You graciously provide for all Your children.

Open our hearts, our hands, and our homes

to all of Your creation, our adopted family,

bound together not by biology or marriage,

location or government,

but by the richness of Your grace in Jesus Christ,

sealed with the promise of Your Holy Spirit,

who intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words,

and in whose power we pray. Amen.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 263 *Immortal, Ivisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins,  
for God is gracious and always ready to forgive.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We cry out: “Save, O Lord, Your people, the remnant of Israel,” for we are a people in need of saving. You promise to gather Your people, but we confess that we want to put limitations on who is saved. We want You to save those we define as strong and beautiful and wise; You call the blind and the lame, the children and those in labor.**

**Forgive us, O Holy God, for our prejudice and narrow vision. Forgive us for our lack of faith. Forgive us for doubting Your promise and declining Your invitation. By Your Spirit, renew us. Turn our mourning into joy and our sorrow into gladness that we might return to You and Your way.**

*(Time of Silent Confession)*

## KYRIE

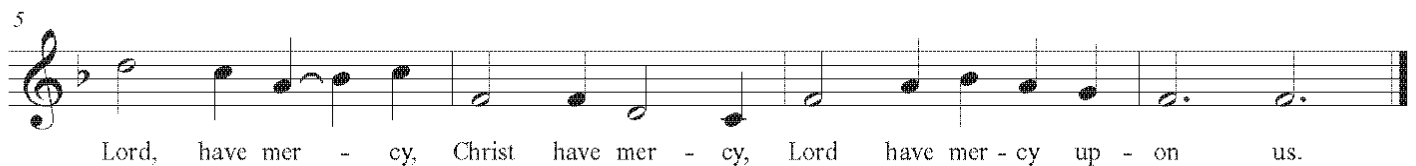
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

Kyrie Eleison

American folk hymn

arr. Richard Proulx



## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before Him in love. According to the riches of Christ's grace, we are redeemed. Hear and believe this good news: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\*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.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 148

Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem!  
Praise your God, O Zion!  
**For he strengthens the bars of your gates;  
he blesses your children within you.**  
He grants peace within your borders;  
he fills you with the finest of wheat.  
**He sends out his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.**  
He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters frost like ashes.  
**He hurls down hail like crumbs—  
who can stand before his cold?**  
He sends out his word and melts them;  
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.  
**He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**  
He has not dealt thus with any other nation;  
they do not know his ordinances.  
**Praise the LORD!**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

TWO CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

PEW BIBLE, PG. 192

ANTHEM

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers  
Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.  
  
The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
go forth, as He approaches,  
with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting;*

ARR. K. LEE SCOTT

*the gates wide open stand,  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
the Bridegroom is at hand.*

*The saints, who here in patience  
your cross and suff'rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever  
when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
the Lamb they shall behold,  
in triumph lay before Him  
their diadems of gold.*

*Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!*

GOSPEL READING

John 1:1, 10-18

PEW BIBLE, PG. 91

SERMON

Grace Upon Grace

REV. JOHN BROCK

\*STATEMENT OF FAITH — *THE Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION No. 63    *As with Gladness Men of Old***

**DIX**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

**DON HUSTAD**

**\*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**

**We give You thanks, O God, for the many blessings that You have bestowed  
upon us. As You have chosen us for a purpose and praise, may the gifts we  
bring be a symbol of our dedication to You. Bless our tithes, gifts, and  
offerings. Bless us that we might be ever more faithful in Your work of  
reconciliation, love, and joy. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION AND 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.**

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 28

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World*

WILBUR HELD

\*BENEDICTION

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## WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Are you looking for a church home?** If so, please speak to our minister following worship or email him at [pastor@firstprestupelo.org](mailto:pastor@firstprestupelo.org).

**Large print hymnals are available from the ushers.**

**Ritual of friendship** — Members and Visitors: Please sign the attendance register and pass it down your pew. Please read the names, greet one another, and meet new members and visitors.

**All children are welcome in worship!** Children's activity bags and special bulletins are available for all ages and are located with our regular worship bulletins in the Narthex. 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.

**Children in first through fifth grade are invited to join our Sunday version of Faithbuilder's during the 11:00 A.M. Sunday service.** We meet **after the children's sermon** for a fun and engaging time of learning about the structure of our church service, with activities to help kids grow in their understanding and participation in worship. If your child attends, you can pick them up in the gym area after the service.

**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. John Brock, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris

**Liturgist:** 9:00: Lori Dickerson

11:00: Anne Marie Littrell

**Greeters:** 9:00: Bobby and Martha Dale

11:00: Judy Thomas, Margaret Parker, Tom & Judy Billups

**Crucifers:** 9:00: Emma McDuffie

11:00: Anne Crotwell

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our weekly Bible study will meet this Monday, January 5 at 11:00 A.M.** We will continue meeting in the Bolton/Sistahood Room. This group enjoys engaging discussions and fellowship, and it is open to everyone. This week, we will study an Introduction to Acts.

**For January 11,** our scripture passages will be from **Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, and Matthew 3:13-17.**

**Cuba Mission needs your support!** We are in need of over the counter medicine - such as Tylenol, Advil, Aspirin, Aleve, - vitamins for children and adults, cold and cough medicine, bedpans, oral hydration packets—such as Liquid IV, PurAqua Hydration, etc.—toothbrushes, sunglasses, and regular glasses. Please place all donations in the **Cuba Mission Box** in the Breezeway. **Pills, chewable, and gummies are preferred to liquids due to weight reasons.**

 **Sign up by noon Wednesday to hold your place for our Wednesday Night Supper and Program** using the QR Code provided, using today's Attendance Register, or by calling the church office at 662-842-5681. This week the cost is \$7 per person, and we will enjoy Beef Pot Roast with Potatoes and Carrots, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Homestyle Green Beans, Tater Tots, Rolls and Cornbread, Fresh Fruit, Full Salad Bar, and Assorted Desserts! **Our program** will be an Epiphany "Star Word" Service. We hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall for supper and fellowship at **5:30 P.M. Wednesday, January 7!**

Sunday, January 25, we will have our **Annual Congregational Meeting** at 10 A.M. We will not have adult Sunday School that day.

**PYC Retreat** will be January 16-18.

**The Church Office will be closed** on Monday, January 19 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



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### **PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK**

**Cancer Treatment:** Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

**Homebound:** Jack Price, Annette Thornton, Gladys Wilson

**College Students:** Daniel Crotwell, Afton Gable, Maggie Gibens

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

### **ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY**

10:00 A.M: 118

### **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

Weekly Budget: \$21,281

Amount Received 12/28/25: \$24,249

YTD Budgeted Income: \$1,021,480

YTD Income Received: \$1,051,059

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## SUPPORT OUR CHURCH YOUTH

- DONATE WHAT YOU WOULD SPEND ON A MEAL IF YOU ATE OUT
- SOUPS SERVED: VEGETABLE BEEF, CHICKEN, CHILI, AND SOMETHING FOR THE CHILDREN

**We thank you for your support**

First Presbyterian Church  
400 W. Jefferson St.  
Tupelo, MS 38804

[www.firstprestupelo.org](http://www.firstprestupelo.org)  
662.842.5681



# Cuba Water Mission

## How You Can Help:

- Sponsor a family or individual that is going to Cuba
- Share our cause with your network
- Donate the items listed below to our collection box in the breezeway:
  - over-the-counter medicine - such as Tylenol, Advil, Aspirin, Aleve
  - vitamins for children and adults
  - cold and cough medicine
  - bedpans
  - oral hydration packets—such as Liquid IV, PurAqua Hydration, etc.
  - toothbrushes
  - sunglasses and regular glasses

*Your generosity can make all the difference. By donating, you help children and families in need get access to basic necessities and a brighter tomorrow. Join us in making an impact!*



## Medical Supplies

**Pills, chewable, and gummies are preferred to liquids due to weight reasons.**

**Please place all donations in the Cuba Mission Box in the Breezeway.**

**Monetary Donations Appreciated**

# This Week at FPC

## Sunday, January 4 - Communion

### Confirmation Retreat

9:00 am Worship

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

4:30 pm Boy Scouts, Rm. B205

## Monday, January 5

6:45 pm Circle 3, Member's Home

## Tuesday, January 6

9:00 am T'ai Chi Chih

2:30 pm CASA

7:00 pm A.A. Meeting

## Wednesday, January 7 - Epiphany Service

10:00 am Staff Meeting

2:30 pm CASA

3:00 pm Mah Jongg

5:30 pm Wednesday Night Program

## Thursday, January 8

8:00 am Men's Breakfast

2:30 pm CASA

## Friday, January 9

12:00 pm AA Meeting

2:30 pm CASA

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Lead others to the Word of God in love.

### **THE SESSION**

Rev. John Brock, Moderator  
Lisa Nichols, Clerk of the Session

#### **CLASS OF 2026**

Glen Davidson, Sr.  
Jim Fisher  
Ben Hunter  
Bob Lence  
Corey Littrell  
Helen Monts  
Aubre Wells

#### **CLASS OF 2027**

Heather Crotwell  
Amanda Davis  
Beth Anne Ellzey  
Mac Godwin  
Mary Margaret Gratz  
Debra Robison  
Liz Rose

#### **CLASS OF 2028**

Jim Bruce  
Tatum Collins  
Lee Herman  
Trey Phyfer  
Buddy Stubbs  
Virginia Toliver  
Kathy Wallace

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. John Brock, Pastor  
Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education  
Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music  
Dr. Ray Harris, Organist  
John Buchman, Audio/Visual Technician  
Claire Leeke, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs  
Dr. Kathy McMurry, Treasurer  
Cindy Faucette, Church Librarian  
MJ Whitt, Church Secretary  
Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary  
Penny O'Quinn, Morning Receptionist  
Lucy Wells, Afternoon Receptionist  
Ricky Kimbrell, Maintenance Superintendent  
Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

