

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
<https://www.facebook.com/FPCTupelo>

662.842.5681

Morning Worship Service

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

“The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.”

- ISAIAH 11:2

*Congregation standing as able.

Bold is spoken by the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. BACH

INTROIT

Still, Silent Night

RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

*CALL TO WORSHIP

What if joy were to break out unrestrained in our world? What would we notice?

The wilderness and dry land would be glad; the desert rejoice and blossom.

The blind would see, and the lame would walk. Lepers would be cleansed, and the deaf would hear.

The dead would rise, and the poor would receive good news.

May joy break out in our worship today as we anticipate the One who comes into our world!

Come thou long expected Jesus!

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 12

People, Look East

BESANÇON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

9:00: Pete & Kathy McMurry

11:00: Keith & Elizabeth Grisham

CALL TO CONFESSION

There are two great equalizers among us. One is that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory. The other is that we are all now justified by God's grace through the gift of Christ Jesus. Confident of both, let us admit where we have fallen short and receive grace without limit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and wonderful God, we confess that we have closed our eyes to what You are doing. We prefer to concentrate on problems, bad news, and violence. When we do, we miss all the healing, freeing, and helping You accomplish in our world. We pass up opportunities to participate in Your Good News. We rob ourselves of so much joy. Forgive us, and give us eyes to see, ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to treasure Your mission in the world. Fill us with unquenchable joy at the coming of Jesus. Amen.

(Time of Silent Confession)

KYRIE

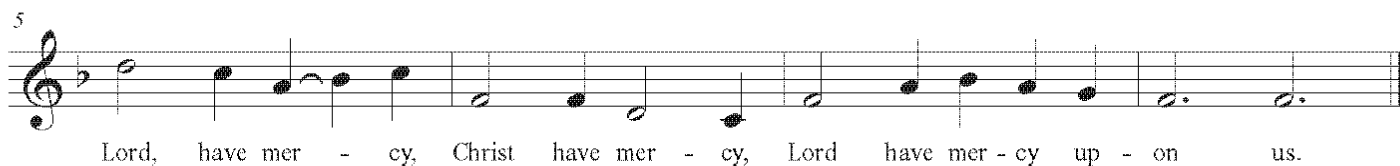
Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

American folk hymn

Kyrie Eleison

arr. Richard Proulx



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The angel told Joseph, "You are to name the baby Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah! 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.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING

PSALM 146:5-10

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

**who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;**

who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

**The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

**The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 5:7-10

PEW BIBLE, PG. 231

ANTHEM

What Child is This

ARR. BRYAN DUNNEWALD

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 11:2-11

PEW BIBLE, PG. 11

SERMON

“What Did You Go Out to See?”

REV. JOHN BROCK

*STATEMENT OF FAITH — from *The Heidelberg Catechism*

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must

work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION No. 5 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

PICARDY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of Salvation,

Hear our 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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night

ADOLPHE ADAM, ARR. SPEVACEK

*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 thank You, God, for all the ways You work, and heal, and bless, and free us. Accept these gifts given in great gratitude and in anticipation of Christ's return. Multiply them for Your glory and for the good of all people. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #15

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

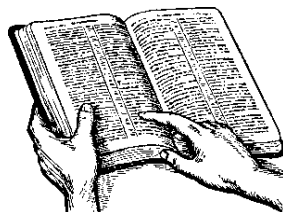
LLANGLOFFAN

POSTLUDE

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts from Christmas Oratorio

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS

*BENEDICTION



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.

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.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God in memory of Maggie Thompson Phipps, Whitney Cassilly Thompson, and Patton Thompson from the family of Kory and Ben Hunter.

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. This fall, we will meet weekly through December 14 to give us extra time to prepare for the Joy Gift program. 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.

Leading the worship service today: Rev. John Brock, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris

Liturgist: 9:00: Joey McDuffie

11:00: Melissa McDuffie

Greeters: 9:00: Nancy Brown & Jimmy Milam

11:00: Helen & Mark Monts, Daintry Thomas, Garra Owens

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatment: Ginger Mark, Scarlett Reeder, Jim Seiler

Homebound: Annette Thornton, Gladys Wilson, Mary Ann Chiles

College Students: Magalie Martin, Isabella Posey, Ashton Posey

Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 48 11:00 A.M.: 125

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$21,281

Amount Received 12/7/25: \$14,958

YTD Budgeted Income: \$1,021,480

YTD Income Received: \$966,876

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly Bible study will NOT meet this Monday, December 15. We will resume meeting in the Bolton/Sistahood Room on Monday, January 5 with our Intro to Acts.

In Worship during the month of December, we will focus on the theme of *Advent*. For December 21, our scripture passages will be from **Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, and Matthew 1:18-25.**

The Joy Gift Program, featuring a special presentation by our Cherub and Elementary Choirs, will be tonight at 5:00 P.M. in our Sanctuary. We ask that each person come prepared to give from their hearts to provide support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need. The donations will also help provide leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. We will have a light dinner following, and all are welcome.

The Carols of Christmas, sung by the Chancel Choir, will lead the worship service at 10:30 on Sunday, December 21. Sunday School will be at 9:30.

***Through the Darkness into the Light* by Lori Dickerson** is now available on Amazon!

The Longest Night Service is December 22 this year. Join us as we celebrate a night of hope, reminding people they are not alone in their pain, and that even in the longest night, light and hope will ultimately prevail.

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.



Joy Gift
December 14, 2025
First Presbyterian Church
5:00 pm



*Light Dinner to follow our program by the Elementary and Cherub Choirs.
(pizza, finger foods, & cookies)
All are welcome to attend!*



*The Carols
of Christmas*

ONE SERVICE AT 10:30
SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 21, 2025



This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 14

9:00 am Worship Service

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

1:00 pm Peter's Family Baby Shower

4:30 pm Boy Scouts, Rm. B205

5:00 pm Joy Gift

Monday, December 15

2:30 pm Casa, Gym

5:00 pm Steering Committee

Tuesday, December 16

9:00 am T'ai Chi Chih

2:30 pm Cook for the Salvation Army, Kitchen

2:30 pm Casa, Gym

6:00 pm Session Meeting, John's House

7:00 pm A.A. Meeting

Wednesday, December 17

10:00 am Staff Meeting

2:30 pm Casa, Gym

3:00 pm Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton SS Room

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 18

8:00 am Men's Breakfast, Hilton Garden Inn

1:30 pm Shepherd's Center Meeting, Rec.

2:30 pm Casa, Gym

Friday, December 19

12:00 pm AA Meeting

2:30 pm Casa, Gym

Saturday, December 20

9:00 am Helping Hands Volunteers

December Graduates

THE FUTURE IS YOURS! *Graduate!*

Reid Hardison



Lindley Gibens



Dream big. Work hard. Achieve greatness.



First United Methodist Church
invites all their neighbors 65+ to join them for:

PRIMETIMERS

Christmas Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025

11:30 A.M.

WESLEY HALL

PLEASE RSVP TO PATSY BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 15
(PATSY@FUMCTUPELO.COM OR 662-690-8100).

Lunch: \$7 donation

Entertainment:
The Bollingers



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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

