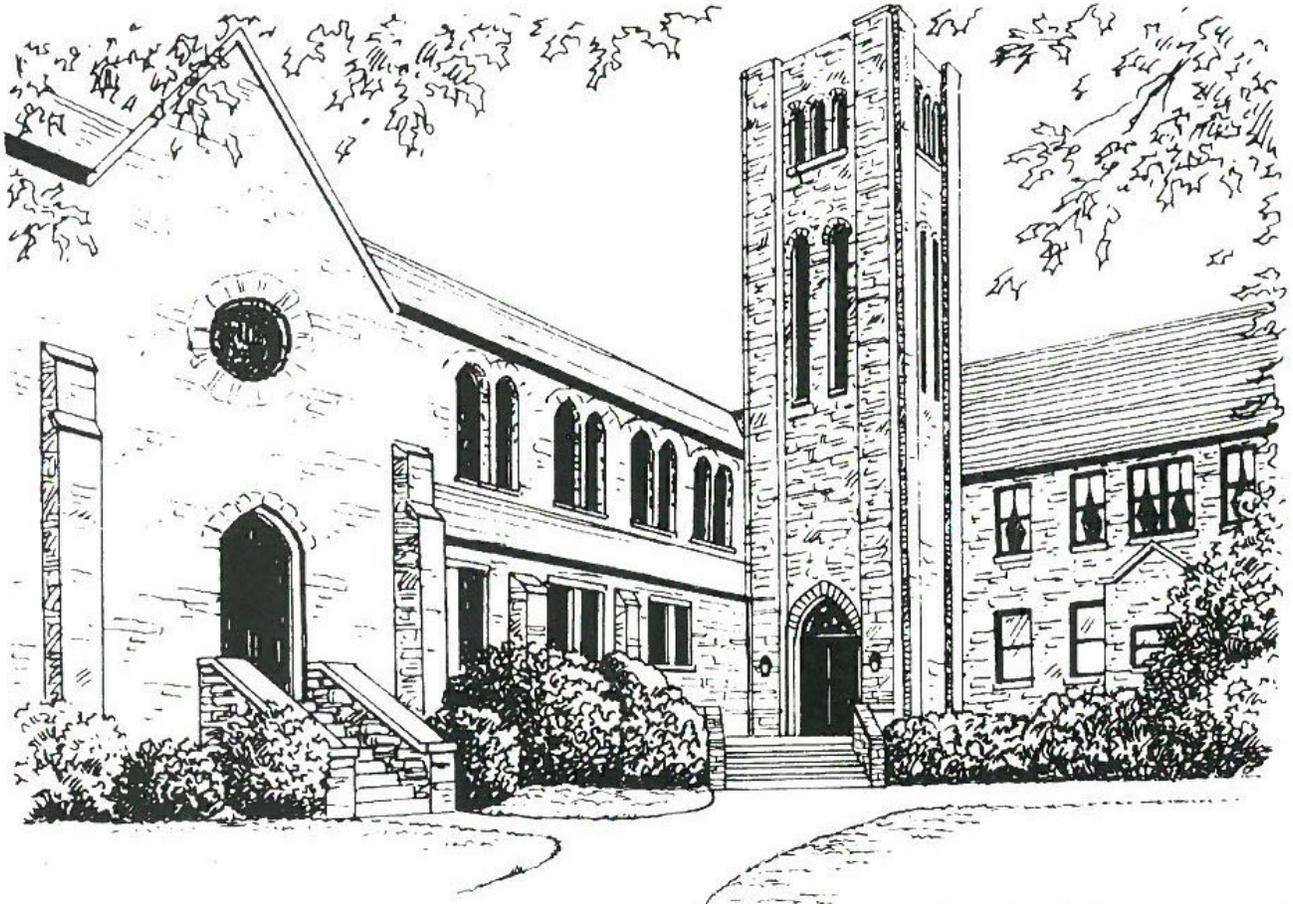


# First Presbyterian Church

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 of Advent*

December 7, 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

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

JOHN FERGUSON

INTROIT

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

ARR. MACK WILBERG

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

A shoot shall come forth from Jesse's stump,

**And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him.**

He will judge the poor with righteousness, and the meek with equity;

**He will be clothed with righteousness and faithfulness.**

The wolf and the lamb will live peacefully together,

**The leopard and the kid will lie down side by side.**

The cow and the bear will graze together; the lion will eat straw like the ox,

**And a little child will lead them all.**

They will neither hurt nor destroy on God's holy mountain,

**For the earth will be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters fill the sea.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 8

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

TRURO

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

9:00: Jim & Hudson Fisher

11:00: Tim & Ellie Myers

## CALL TO CONFESSION

We hear the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD and make God’s paths straight.” Let us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ as we confess our sin together:

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for You to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation Your grace will bring. Yet You are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on Your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with You and one another.**

*(Time of Silent Confession)*

## KYRIE

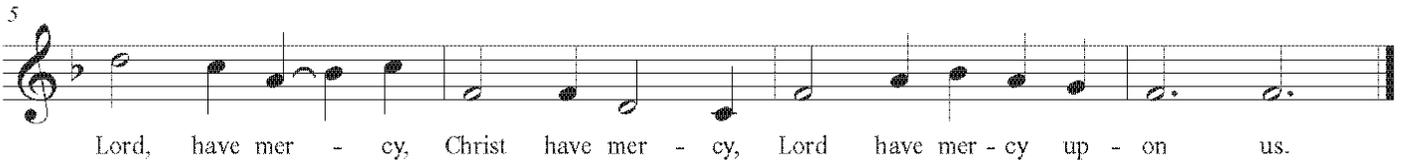
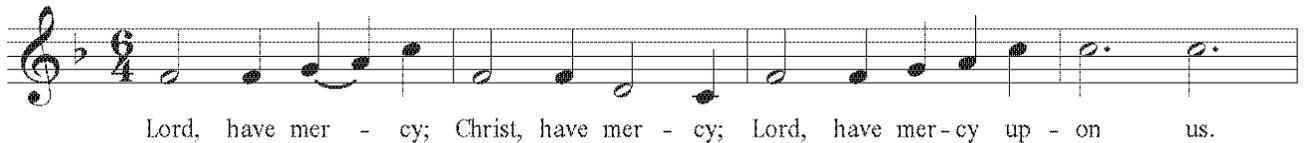
## Lord, Have Mercy

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

Kyrie Eleison

American folk hymn

arr. Richard Proulx



## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news: God’s mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Before we repent and change our ways, God’s love has already claimed us as God’s own. Proclaim with me the good news of the gospel:

**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 72:1-7, 18-19

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.

**May he judge your people with righteousness  
and your poor with justice.**

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.**

May he live while the sun endures  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth.**

In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.**

Blessed be his glorious name forever;  
may his glory fill the whole earth.

**Amen and Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

TWO CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 15:4-13

PEW BIBLE, PG. 163

ANTHEM

*Love Came Gently*

MARTY FUNDERBURK

*Love came gently, soft as a baby born to a lowly virgin girl;  
Wrapped in rags and laid in a manger love came gently to our world.  
Only shepherds and the wisest found Him beneath the star so bright;  
While the nations lay deep in slumber love came gently in the night.*

*No applause, no fanfare of trumpets heralding hope had come to earth  
For the promise tenderly entered choosing instead a humble birth.*

*Love came gently, sweetly to save us knowing the price He'd have to pay,  
And to all who trust in the Savior love comes gently still today.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 11:1-10

PEW BIBLE, PG. 640

SERMON

“Waiting for a Different World”

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. 505    *Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread*                      ST. FLAVIAN

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY                                      *Break Thou the Bread of Life*                      ALBIN WHITWORTH

\*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

**God of hope and peace,  
You promise a world made new, where justice lifts the poor  
and Your peace embraces all creation.  
Take these gifts—and take us—  
and use them to bear Your hope in weary places.  
By Your Spirit, help us abound in joy and peace,  
so that our lives may point to the harmony You desire for the world.  
We dedicate ourselves and these offerings  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our coming King.  
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

*I Come With Joy*

DOVE OF PEACE

POSTLUDE

*Echo Noel*

LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

\*BENEDICTION

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### PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

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

**Homebound:** Ruby Kathryn Patterson, Barbara Price, Jack Price

**College Students:** Reid Hardison, Olivia Hastings, Lewis Herman

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

### ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 A.M.: 37    11:00 A.M.: 109

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Weekly Budget: \$17,025

Amount Received 11/30/25: \$16,382

YTD Budgeted Income: \$936,357

YTD Income Received: \$957,484

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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.

**The flowers** are presented in remembrance of Chauncey Rivers Godwin Sr. and Allan Cooney with love and adoration by Mac, Sarra, Andy, and Aurora Godwin.

**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](http://www.firstprestupelo.org).

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

**Liturgist:** 9:00: Virginia Toliver

11:00: Larry Crowell

**Greeters:** 9:00: Lisa Nichols, Bill & Lori Dickerson

11:00: Lisa Johnson, Gay Abney, Debra & Rud Robison

**Crucifers:** 9:00: Carter McDuffie

11:00: Jonathan Crowell

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our weekly Bible study will NOT meet this Monday, December 8.** 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 14, our scripture passages will be from **Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, Luke 1:46b-55, James 5:7-10, and Matthew 11:2-11.**



**Sign up by noon Wednesday to hold your place for our Wednesday Night Supper and Program** by using the QR Code provided, by using today's Attendance Register, or by calling the church office at 662-842-5681. The cost for supper is \$7 per person, and the menu includes Chicken Casserole, Fried and Grilled Chicken Tenders, Build-your-own Beef Tacos, Tater Tots, Homestyle Green Beans, Corn Spoon Bread, Rolls, Fresh Fruit, Full Salad Bar, Assorted Desserts! **Our program** will be Showers of Love. We hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall for supper and fellowship at **5:30 P.M. Wednesday, December 10!**

**An Advent Lessons & Carols Service** will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church today at 5:00 P.M. The choirs from All Saints and First Presbyterian will lead the music of the service, which is free and open to the public with a reception to follow.

**The Joy Gift Program**, featuring a special presentation by our Cherub and Elementary Choirs, will be on Sunday, December 14 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.

**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.**





CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



# PREPARE THE WAY

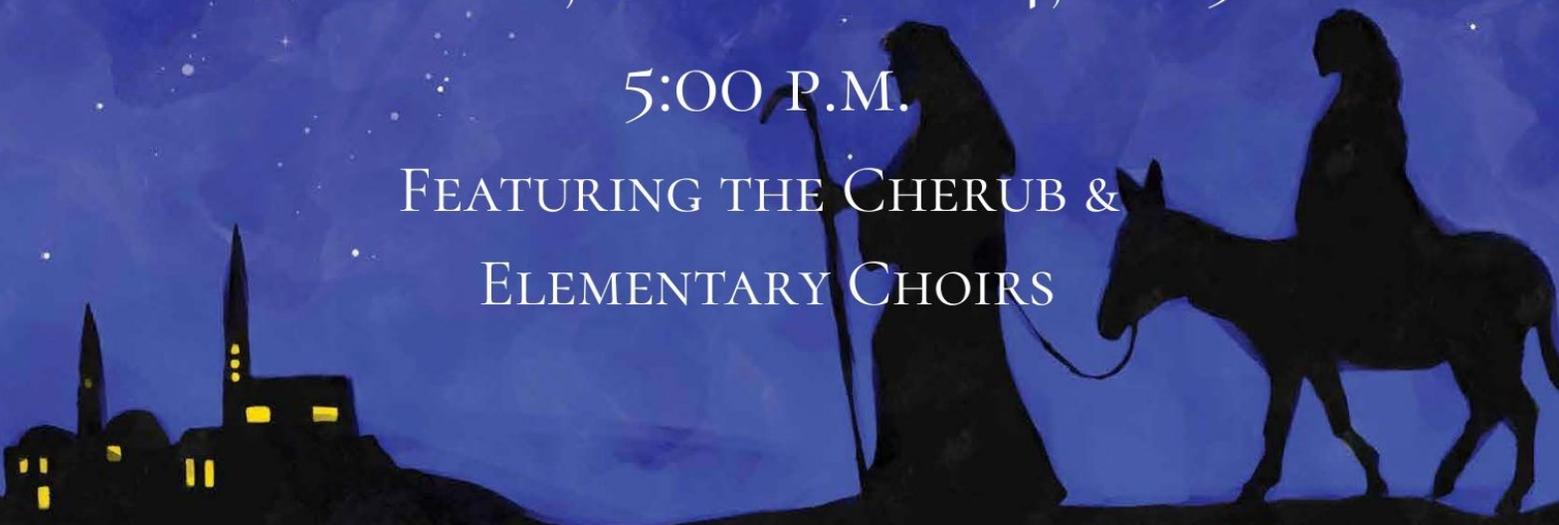
ISAIAH 40

JOY GIFT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

5:00 P.M.

FEATURING THE CHERUB &  
ELEMENTARY CHOIRS



THE PERFECT GIFT.

Text **CHRISTMASJOY** to **91999** to learn more or to give  
or visit [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy).



# This Week at FOC

## Sunday, December 7 - Communion

9:00 am Worship Service

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

2:00 pm Penny Cochran Memorial Service (mother of Julie Gibens)

4:30 pm Boy Scouts, Rm. B205

## Monday, December 8

2:30 pm Casa, Gym

5:30 pm Committee Meetings

## Tuesday, December 9

9:00 am Tai Chi Chih

12 pm Circle 24, Sheffield Room

2:30 pm Casa, Gym

6:00 pm Circle 5, Busylad

7:00 pm A.A. Meeting

## Wednesday, December 10

10:00 am Staff Meeting

2:30 pm Casa, Gym

3:00 pm Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton SS Room

5:00 pm Tower Ringers

5:30 pm Wednesday Night Program - Showers of Love

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

## Thursday, December 11

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

2:30 pm Casa, Gym

4:00 pm Northeast & Ice Choirs, Sanctuary

## Friday, December 12

12:00 pm AA Meeting

2:30 pm Casa, Gym

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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

