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
First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026 9:00 & 11:00 A.M

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come."
- Mark 13:32-33

*Congregation standing as able. **Bold** is spoken by the congregation.

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome, Concerns, and Celebrations of the Church

Prelude	*People, Look East the Time is Near*	Dale Wood
Special Music	*For the Beauty of the Earth* *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*	arr. Nancy Faber arr James Bastien
Introit	*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*	arr. John Ferguson

*Call to Worship

Christ is coming!

We will keep awake!

Christ is coming!

We will be ready!

Christ is coming!

He will gather His people from the ends of the earth.

Praise be to God!

We will worship and prepare.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

9:00 Charles & Betty Reece

11:00 Keith & Elizabeth Grisham

*Hymn of Praise No. 2 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

Call to Confession

In scripture, we see people cry out to God with honesty and authenticity.

The Psalmists pray, "How long, O God?"

They beg, “Come and save us,” and “Let Your face shine upon us.”
From their raw honesty, we know that we can go to God
with just as much honesty about the truth of our lives.
So join me in the Prayer of Confession.
Join me in this moment of truth-telling.
Just as the Psalmists did, let us go to God in prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,
we have been known—
to bite our tongues,
to work through a broken heart,
to don our favorite rose-colored glasses.
We have been known—
to look for the bright side,
to sweep the pain under the rug,
to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss.
We have been known to keep the hurt in our heart to ourselves.
Forgive us for filtering our honesty.
Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament.
Forgive us for not turning to You first.
Remind us that You are a God who listens
and You are a God who restores.
With open hearts, we pray. Amen.

(Time of Silent Confession)

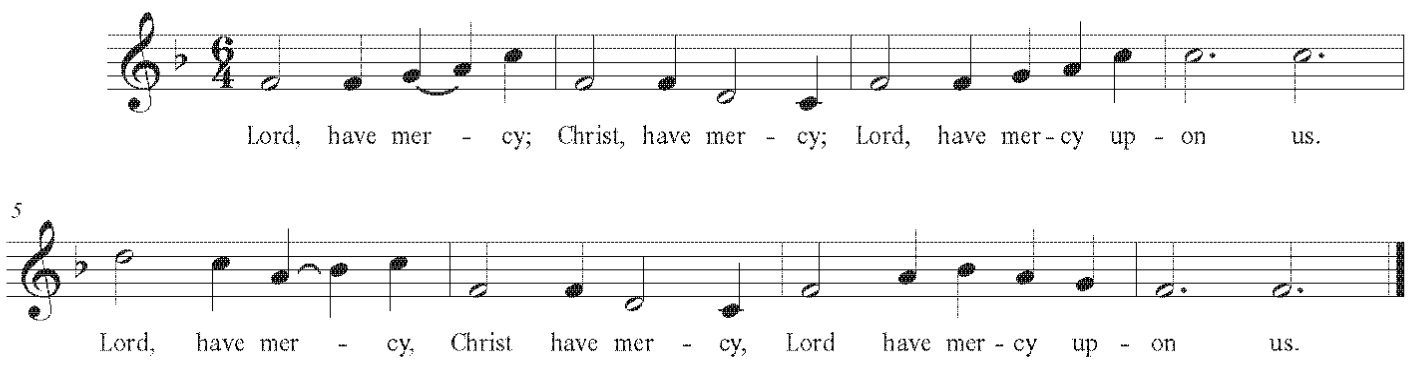
KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy
Kyrie Eleison

(CONGREGATION PLEASE SING)

American folk hymn

arr. Richard Proulx



Assurance of Pardon

Family of faith,
whether you pray like the Psalmists—raw and unfiltered—
or you can't remember the last time you were honest with God,
God still loves you. God sees you. And God longs to be in relationship.
So hear and believe 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

Unison Reading Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Children's Sermon

Old Testament Reading | Isaiah 64:1-9 | Pew Bible, pg. 694

Anthem | *Before the Marvel of This Night* | Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day our God has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love!

Gospel Reading | Mark 13:24-37 | Pew Bible, pg. 50

Sermon | "Liminal Space" | Rev. Ann Kelly

*Statement of Faith — *"Until the Dawn," Sanctified Art*

We believe
even on the longest nights—
when our steps are unclear and fear takes hold—
that the sun is still rising.
We believe in that sunrise
like we believe in God's promised day.
So instead of giving in to the great unknown,
we move, in spirit, toward that light.
We summon our courage.
We carry each other.
We dance under the stars.
We listen for the angels.
And we believe the good news of the gospel,
which says that God loves God's creation so fiercely

that God took on flesh to be with us.

This is the truth that sustains our journey.

In this, we believe.

*Hymn of Affirmation *There's a Song in the Air* CHRISTMAS SONG
(see insert)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Lord, in Your mercy,

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 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* *Eric Thiman*

*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

O God, grant us a sense of Your timing. In this season of short days and long nights, of grey and white and cold, teach us the lessons of beginnings; that both waitings and endings may be the starting place, a planting of seeds which bring to birth what is ready to be born—something right and just and different, a new song, a deeper relationship, a fuller love—in the fullness of Your time. Use these gifts which we return to You with grateful hearts and use us to bring about Your kingdom. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

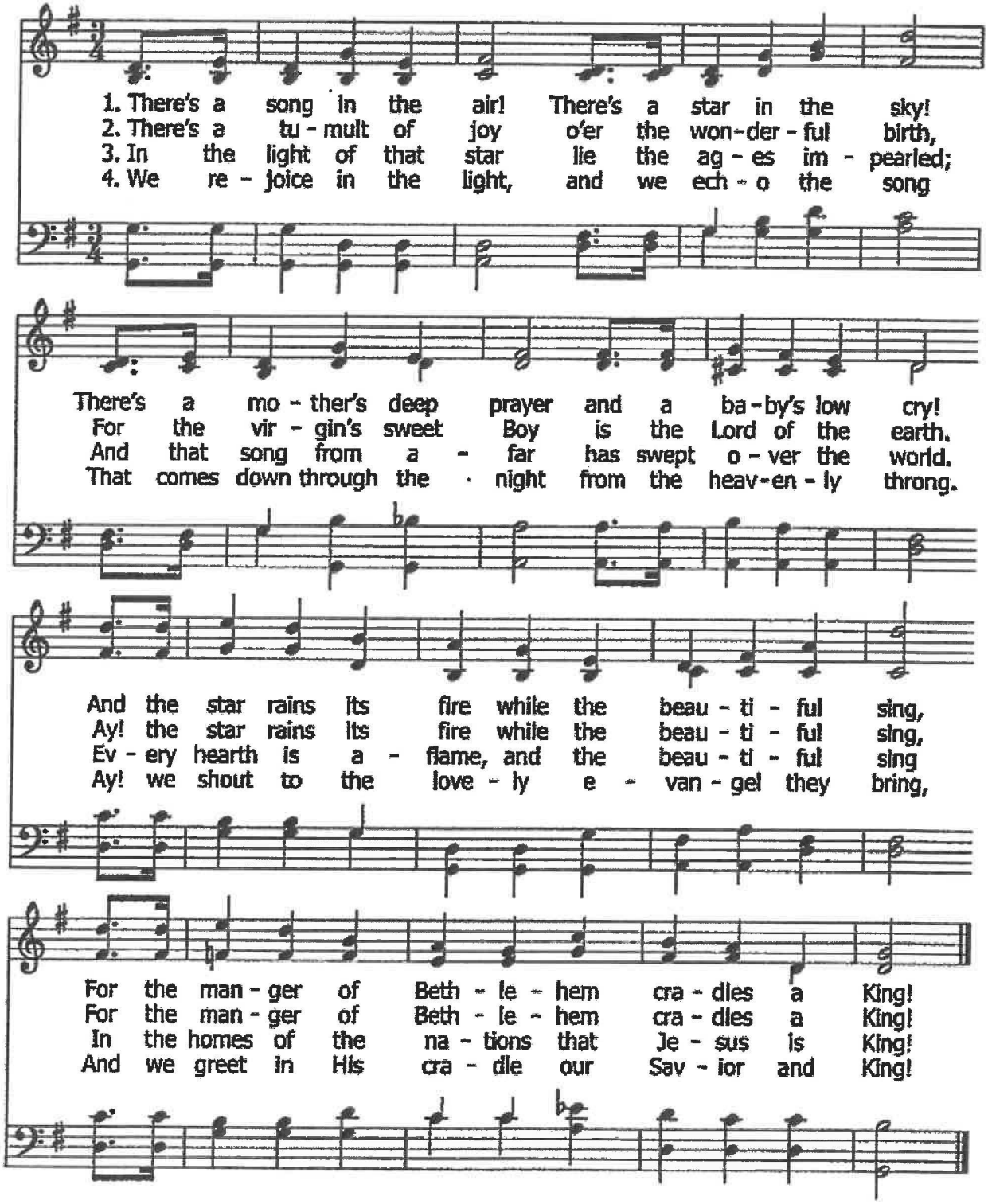
*Closing Hymn No. 9 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

Postlude *Echo Noel* Louis-Claude Daquin

*Benediction

There's a Song in the Air

Josiah G. Holland — Karl P. Harrington



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 are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Eugene and Margaret Anne Murphey by Margaret Murphey.

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 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 our Sunday service every 2nd and 4th Sunday. 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. Ann Kelly, Dr. Bob Taylor, Dr. Ray Harris
Liturgists: 9:00: Lucy Nash
11:00: Larry Crowell
Greeters: 9:00: Jeff & Mitzi Moore
11:00: Michael & Lee Herman, Mark & Helen Monts

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Our weekly Bible study will meet Tuesday, December 1, at 11:00 A.M. We will meet in the Bolton/Sistahood Room. This group enjoys engaging discussions and fellowship, and it is open to everyone. This week, we will study Proverbs 1:20-33.

For December 6, our scripture passages will be from **Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, and Mark 1:1-8.**

Our **Wednesday night supper and program** will take place in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, December 2,** at 5:30 P.M. The menu includes Chicken Alfredo, Steamed Broccoli, Glazed Carrots, a full Salad Bar, Rolls, & Dessert. This week, we will serve Pizza on the kids menu. Adults are $10/person, kids (12 & under) are $5/person, and there is a $40 maximum per family. The kids' menu is available to ages 13+ at adult pricing. Please specify when making your reservation. **Sign up by noon on Tuesday** by scanning the QR code or by calling the church office at 662-842-5681.

From our Financial Secretary: To receive contribution credit for this year, we need all contributions in by **December 31.** Honorariums and Memorials for this year need to be in by the **6th of December** to be counted towards 2026.

Information on our new **Church Pictorial Directory** will be out soon! We plan on taking pictures over the course of several Sundays, from 8:00 am until our first service, during our Sunday School hour, and 30 minutes after our second service. See Sandy Grimm, Kathy Wallace, or Amanda Davis for more information.

On Sunday, December 20, we will have one worship service at 10:30 led by the Chancel Choir singing **The Carols of Christmas**. At 9:30 that morning, we will also have a **reception to honor Melissa McDuffie** for her years of service with us. That evening, we will hold our **Longest Night Service**.

Prayers for this Week

Cancer Treatment: Emily Barber
Homebound: David Price, Charlie Barber, Mary Ann Chiles
College Students: Daniel Crotwell, Anne Crotwell, Afton Gable
Service Members: Patrick Hastings, Andrew Ray

Attendance Last Sunday

9:00 A.M.: 45 11:00 A.M.: 175

First Presbyterian Church

Your children are welcome to join us for a night of crafts - making Advent wreaths for your home, crafts to share with our shut-ins, and more - reminding us that even th smallest hands can share the greatest love this season. Come be a part of a night filled with warmth, creativity, and the spirit of giving!

Advent Made With Love



REGISTER:

INFORMATION:

Sunday, November 29
4:30 - 6:00 P.M.
For Children of All Ages
Crafts, Dinner, & Hot Cocoa Bar!

OUR ADDRESS:

400 W. Jefferson St.
Tupelo, MS 38804

First Presbyterian Church,
Fellowship Hall

This Week at FPC

Sunday, November 29

Communion, Two Cents a Meal Offering, All Saints Day, Daylight Savings Time Ends

9:00a: Worship
10:00a: Sunday School
11:00a: Worship
4:30p: Boy Scouts
4:30p: Advent Fair, Fellowship Hall

Monday, November 30

2:30p: CASA, Gym

Tuesday, December 1

Election Day

9:00a: T'ai Chi, Garden
11:00a: Bible Study, Bolton/Sistahood
1:00p: Mutual Culture Club & Forthian Club Meeting, Fellowship Hall
2:30p: CASA, Gym
7:00p: AA, Session Room

Wednesday, December 2

10:00a: Staff Meeting
2:30p: CASA, Gym
3:00p: Mah Jongg, Stewart Clayton Classroom
5:05p: Tower Ringers
5:30p Wednesday Night Program
7:00p Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 3

7:45a: St. Luke's Food Pantry
8:00a: Men's Breakfast, Talbot House
2:30p: CASA, Gym

Friday, December 4

12:00p: AA, Session Room
2:30p: CASA, Gym

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The Session

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

Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029
Heather Crotwell	Jim Bruce	Richard Hastings
Amanda Davis	Tatum Collins	Jimmy Milam
Beth Anne Ellzey	Lee Herman	Curtis Monts
Mac Godwin	Trey Phyfer	Mary Ellis Pace
Mary Margaret Gratz	Buddy Stubbs	Margaret Parker
Debra Robison	Virginia Toliver	Daintry Thomas
Liz Rose	Kathy Wallace	Al Wallace

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. John Brock, Pastor
Rev. Ann Kelly, Parish Associate
Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education
Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music
Dr. Ray Harris, Organist
Jeff Nock, 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

