

Serving Today

LITURGIST: Russ Pearson
SOUND: Bob Stoots
WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY: Youth Group Members
GREETERS & USHERS: Lynetta Johnson and Gerry Morie - Sanctuary
TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES: Russ Pearson

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
and presented by Anna Gamble and Family
in loving memory of Bill Gamble.

First Presbyterian Church

Kingsport, Tennessee

*Seeking to see the face of Christ...
Striving to be the hands of Christ*



First Sunday of Christmas

January 1, 2023
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

BELLS OF GOD’S PRESENCE

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: He was born in a stable.

People: **But at his birth angels sang, plain folk worshiped,
and kings paid homage.**

Leader: He grew up in obscurity.

People: **When he declared himself, it was as if a new sun had risen.**

Leader: He lived a life of love, and died a death of shame.

People: **But the life he lived was for our instruction;
the death he died was for our redemption.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 158

“Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Jesus, compassionate friend, you call us in all of life’s seasons. You urge us to follow you, but we hold back. We question how we can know your voice. We look for the grand task; you give us the common work of caring for those near at hand. We look for recognition; you want others to see you more. Loving Jesus, compassionate friend, take us by the hand and lead us into your future, assured of your presence...

(silent prayer)

KYRIE

*Still, still, still, we bow in humble prayer; O baby so tender, Lord, have mercy;
Grow within us, Christ, have mercy; still, still, still, we need your mercy and care.*

“Still, Still Still”

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God is gracious, abounding in steadfast love. There is nothing you can do to make God love you more, or love you less. In Christ, you are forgiven.

People: **Alleluia, Amen!**

SUNG RESPONSE

***No more let sin and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found;
In Him let life abound; in Christ our Lord, let life abound!***

“Joy to the World”

PEACE OF CHRIST

HEARING GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 1:1-4

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 2:39-52

SERMON

“Out of the Carpentry Shop”

Mike Shelton

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

“O Carpenter, Why Leave the Bench” *Tune: “In Christ There Is No East or West”*

***O carpenter, why leave your bench where wood yields to your art,
and take instead, to try your skill, the stony human heart?***

***O carpenter, why leave the tools to carry out your plans,
and go instead to do God’s work with empty, open hands?***

***O carpenter, why leave the world of table, bed, and house,
To face the empire’s carpentry, to lift a Roman cross?***

***O carpenter, why leave repairs with wood and clamp and glue,
And rise from death, to seek instead to make the whole world new?***

***O carpenter, who else could do the work that you have done?
What can we do, but sing your praise, O Savior, Mary’s Son!***

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

“Mary, Did You Know?”
Mark Davis, baritone

M. Lowry/B. Greene

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of all creation, we present these monetary gifts, as well as our very selves, to you. It is our prayer that all our gifts would be used to your glory. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 177

“I Will Come to You”

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONCLUDING PRAISE

*Those who are able please stand