

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD  
(8:45)

(In the Bleak Midwinter)

*God, who came from heaven, far beyond this earth; God, whose mind is mystery, knelt to us in birth.  
Holy Sovereign of all life, Word in flesh made known; Holy Lamb of glory, you made us your own.  
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; what I can, I give him: give my heart.*

(11:00)

“Wexford Carol”

arr. J. Hoelscher

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God, we are here, offering to you what we can in anticipation of your coming again on earth. You give us so much, and we give you so little. Yet, you are gracious to bless what we give. Accept these gifts, and use them for your purposes as we make ready for the newborn Christ. Amen.**

### THE SENDING

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 145

“What Child Is This”

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CONCLUDING PRAISE  
(8:45)  
(11:00)

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”  
“The Seven Joys of Mary” (English carol)

arr. Melody Bober  
arr. Douglas Wagner

\*Those who are able please stand

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### *Serving Today*

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS:** Lois Carter and Virginia Wooten - Chapel  
Nancy Knisley, Norie-Anne Watts and  
Delaney Young - Sanctuary  
**LITURGISTS:** Mark Davis - Chapel  
Tammie Davis - Sanctuary  
**SOUND:** Dan Dietrich  
**WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY:** Youth Group Members  
**GREETERS & USHERS:** Claudia Byrd - Chapel  
**GREETERS & USHERS:** Carol Dixon and Sharon Engel - Sanctuary  
**TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES:** Russ Pearson

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

Kingsport, Tennessee

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



*Fourth Sunday in Advent*  
December 18, 2022  
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 (8:45) “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (Polish carol tune) arr. Jay Rouse  
(11:00) “O Come, Little Children (German carol tune) arr. Dale Wood

## LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Choir: *Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light! Shine in your church, gathered today.*  
*Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.*  
*Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.*  
All sing: **Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.**  
**Christ, be our light! Shine in your church, gathered today.**

One: The true light which enlightens everyone is coming into the world.  
All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**  
One: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.  
All: **Christ, shine in your church today...**

One: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”  
All: **May Christ reign in our hearts. May our lives show the light of God’s glory and grace to the world.**

ADVENT CAROL “Love Has Come” (vs.1,3) No. 110  
*Love is coming, a light in the darkness! Love will shine in the Bethlehem skies.*  
*See, all heaven will come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:*  
*Love! Love! God’s gift to you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high!*  
*Love is coming and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.*  
*Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our lives are seeking.*  
*Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!*

## (11:00) The Word Enacted: A Journey to Bethlehem

INTRODUCTION  
Hymn No. 106 (vs. 1, 3) “Prepare the Way, O Zion”  
OUR JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM  
Hymn No. 140 (vs. 1, 2) “Once in Royal David’s City”  
THE ANGELS  
Hymn No. 113 (vs. 1, 2) “Angels We Have Heard on High”  
THE SHEPHERDS  
Hymn No. 147 (vs.1, 4) “The First Noel”  
THE KINGS  
Hymn No. 151 (vs. 1, 5) “We Three Kings of Orient Are”  
THE FIRST CHRISTMAS  
THE SENDING HYMN  
“Go Tell It on the Mountain”  
(Congregation join as prompted)  
SONG OF CELEBRATION  
“Calypso Lullaby” J. Hairston  
*Tammie Davis, contralto; Mark Davis, baritone*

**Children’s Church pickup in Fellowship Center (all ages)**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we often place our trust in the things we can see, touch and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy, but to believe what is true! Forgive us when we doubt the ways you work; when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us when we question how you entered the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin—the One who has come to set us all free...**

*(silent prayer)*

KYRIE “Away in a Manger” MUELLER  
**Have mercy, Lord Jesus, come down from above; O infant so gentle, incarnate in love;**  
**Have mercy, dear Savior, forgive all our sin; our hearts be your manger, be born here within.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: This saying is true and worthy of full acceptance: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.  
Friends, hear the good news and believe: In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: **Alleluia, Amen!**

## \*SUNG RESPONSE

HARK THE HERALD  
**Holy God, to Thee we sing, Father of the coming King;**  
**Author of all time and space, Son who brings incarnate grace.**  
**Mild, he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,**  
**Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth;**  
**With the angels let us sing, “Glory to the coming King!”**

## \*PEACE OF CHRIST

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING *1 Samuel 1:3-20*

GOSPEL READING *Luke 1:39-56*

SERMON “What Child is This” Mike Shelton

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\*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.**