

Serving Today

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS: Gerry Mayberry ~ Chapel
Roger and Agnese Goin ~ Sanctuary
SOUND: Dan Dietrich
LITURGISTS: Virginia Wooten ~ Chapel
Richard Meyer ~ Sanctuary
GREETERS/USHERS: Sharon Engel and Dee Dee Dietrich ~ Sanctuary

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED
TO THE GLORY OF GOD

in memory of Dr. William Blass "The Wizard" and
in honor of Bryan K. Underwood and his marvelous music
by Betty Blass

in honor of our church staff
by Dorothy Lightfoot

in honor of Mike and Donna Shelton and
Russ, Eva, Laine and Caroline Pearson
with love and appreciation for all that they do for our church
by Ivey and Sue Redmon

First Presbyterian Church

Kingsport, Tennessee

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



Service of the Lord's Day
December 15, 2024
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

BELLS OF GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME

MINUTE FOR MISSION (11:00) ~ Disaster Relief

Sarah Good

PRELUDE

(8:45)

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

(arr. Terrence Niska)

(11:00)

"A Joyful Ring"

(FPK Handbells)

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kin-dom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming.

"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3).

With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

People: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

Leader: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

SUNG RESPONSE:

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

(8:45) *HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 93 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

(11:00) HYMN SING

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, your love is wider than our sight; your grace is more wonderful than we can sing. Yet you chose to visit us as a child in a manger, love us as a friend and save us as a redeemer. We admit that there is much in us that is not ready to receive you. Our world is torn by horrors in distant countries and tensions on our streets. Our lives are busy to the point of exhaustion, and we carry so much worry that turns prayer dry and flattens our joy. Holy God, stop us long enough that we might hear a song on the darkest night, and we might sense joy and hope that flows from the strength of your care. Give us a heart of praise and a song of gladness. In Jesus we pray... *(silent prayer)*

KYRIE *Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.* D. Johnson

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. Hallelujah

People: Thanks be to God!

*SONG OF RESPONSE

(tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")

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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to the, O Israel.

*PEACE OF CHRIST

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 18: 1-15

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1: 5-25

SERMON

"Closing our Mouths, Opening our Hearts"

Mike Shelton

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 143

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

*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

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.

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

(8:45)

(11:00)

"What Child Is This"

"Angels are Making Their Rounds"

(arr. Kristen Allred)

(Pepper Choplin)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, your Word became flesh and lived among us. We have beheld his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. Let us respond to your grace with our tithes and offerings. Amen.

THE SENDING

HYMN OF SENDING NO. 137

"He Came Down"

(Please remain seated for the final hymn and concluding praise)

CONCLUDING PRAISE

(8:45)

(11:00)

"Christmas Is Coming"

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!"

(Vince Guaraldi)

(Mannheim Steamroller)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**Those who are able please stand*