Morning Worship Service

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021 9:00 & 11:00 A.M.

I wait quietly before God, for my victory comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will never be shaken. – Psalm 62:1-2

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* John Ferguson

INTROIT *Joy to the World* arr. Mack Wilberg

*CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: All creation holds its breath,
People: the time is almost here.
Leader: The heavenly choir waits for its cue to sing,
People: Excitement is all around us.
Leader: Make yourself ready! The grace of God is coming!
People: May God open our eyes to the areas still in need of preparation.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE
(9:00) Tatum, Sally Kate & Shep Collins
(11:00) Kimmel, Julia & Adelaide Monts

CALL TO CONFESSION
Leader: Because it is so hard to wait, it is not easy to live through Advent's days. But watch what God does during this time. God waits for us to turn from our old ways to find the right paths; God waits for us to admit what we have done, and failed to do, so we might be forgiven and graced with new life. Let us approach the One who waits - for us!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Leader: When we "hide" our sins from God, we fool only ourselves. God sees all we do, all we don't do, all we say and all we don't say. God sees all of this, and loves us anyway. Let us confess to the God who knows us better than we know ourselves.

People: God, the light is scary. It exposes parts of ourselves we aren't very proud of. It displays parts of ourselves that we like to keep hidden. It forces us to be honest with ourselves and with You. God, give us the courage to look in the mirror. Forgive us, God, for convincing ourselves that we do not need you. Forgive us, Holy Father, for the sins we can't seem to stop committing. Forgive us, Refining God, for the times we ignore the things we know we are called to do. May the Light of Christ show us your way; may the Love of Christ overflow from our lives to others; may the Life of Christ be our model as we seek to be your people (*Pause for reflection and self-examination*) **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: "Jesus spoke to the people (and still to us today) once more and said, 'I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to live in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.'" God's light breaks into our hearts and shows us the way! In the name of Jesus,

People: we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ANTHEM (11:00) *Christmas Lullaby* John Rutter

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:1-25; 57-64

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON **Shut Yo' Mouth!** Melissa McDuffie

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) from *A Declaration of Faith, PCUSA*

God sent the promised Deliverer to his people. Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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 No. 2 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Noël Étranger* Louis-Claude Daquin

*Congregation standing—as able

- Before the service, speak to God.
- During the service, let God speak to you.
- After the service, speak to one another.

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Are you looking for a church home? If so, please speak to our minister following worship.

As a courtesy to those around you, kindly turn off or silence cell phones and personal communication devices.

The Flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the glory of God and in memory of Ruth and Al Knobbe, Winnie Latimer, and Sam and Edna Erle Marshall.

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. However, all children are welcome in worship! If you excuse yourself and your child, you can hear the service over speakers in McFadden Hall (directly behind the Sanctuary).

Both the 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. services are 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: Melissa McDuffie, Director of Christian Education and Youth; Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music; Dr. Ray Harris, Organist
Liturgists: 9:00 A.M.: Trey Leeke
11:00 A.M.: Lori Dickerson

Greeters: 9:00 A.M.: Leslie Geoghegan Kathy McMurry
11:00 A.M.: Julie Gibens, Holly Rogers, Judy Thomas

Please remember to dedicate your offering this morning. Field Thomas made the two beautiful offering plate stands which are placed in our Narthex. Please remember to dedicate your gift to First Presbyterian Church by placing your offering in one of these plates. Contributions may also be mailed to: FPC, P.O. Box 1725, Tupelo, MS 38802.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Service of Inurnment for Betty Black will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Monday, November 29, in the Columbarium. All are welcome to attend.

Looking ahead—As has been our tradition in recent years, we will have only one worship service at 10:00 A.M. on the Sunday following Christmas—Sunday, December 26, with no Sunday School. There will also only be one service at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday, January 2, with no Sunday school.

Save the date! FPC's Joy Gift program will be at 6:15 P.M. on Wednesday, December 8 in the Sanctuary. We will have supper at 5:30 P.M.

St. Luke UMC Food Pantry is a food bank that serves families each Thursday from 8:00 A.M. until Noon. They need volunteers on **Thursday, December 2** to assist in food distribution. There are two time slots—7:45 A.M.-10:00 A.M. and 9:45 A.M.-12:00 P.M. If you are interested or need more information about this local mission opportunity, please call or text Sally Kate Collins at (662) 871-3761.

The Tupelo Christmas Parade is Wednesday, December 1. **There will be no Wednesday night activities or supper that night.** At the last Session meeting, it was also decided that FPC will not host an Open House this year. Enjoy the parade!

If you have not turned in your pledge card, please do so at your earliest convenience. If you need a pledge card, they are available from an usher or the church office. Let your financial covenant with FPC emerge from a true sense of thanksgiving for what this church means to you and for how this fellowship of Christian friends has enriched your life. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Our Blanket Drive for Meals on Wheels has been a tremendous success, and we thank all who have generously given blankets and other items. We are no longer collecting blankets, but several items are still needed. These are: lotion, powder, word search books, and fun, fuzzy, warm socks! Please bring all donations to the box located near the library.

The Outreach/Missions Committee needs you! Our church members are scheduled to work on Saturday, December 4, from 7:30 A.M. until 2:30 P.M. on Habitat's FaithBuild 2021 project. This is a coordinated effort with several area churches to build a house for a local family**. We need more people to work on this project.** Chauncey Godwin is providing lunch for the FPC team and asks that you sign up to participate by contacting Helen or Debbie in the office (662-842-5681). If you need more information, contact Chauncey at 662-791-9345 or email him at hbhtupelo@bellsouth.net.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Cancer Treatments: Sam Pace, Julie Seiler, Mike Thomas
Homebound: Betty Nash, Claudia Neelly, Sarah Parker
College Students: Walker Gibens, Tyler Goad, Reid Hardison

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

In-Person Worship Services: 9:00 - 27 11:00 - 156
YouTube Streaming Service Views as of 11/23/2021: 46

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP AND WORK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28
9:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary and streaming on YouTube
10:00 A.M. Sunday school
11:00 A.M. Worship Service, Sanctuary and streaming on YouTube
5:30 P.M. Youth

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29
2:00 P.M. Inurnment Service for Betty Black, Columbarium
2:30 P.M. Mah-Jongg, Library
7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30
9:00 A.M. T'ai Chi Chih
7:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1
No Wednesday Night Activities

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2
7:30 A.M. Men's Breakfast, Holiday Inn

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3
12:00 P.M. A.A. Meeting

The Session
Rev. Dr. Olin McBride, Moderator
Clerk of the Session, Lisa Nichols

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Steve Bryson	Kirk Biddle	Kim Burleson
Anne Marie Littrell	Susan Boone	Cindy Faucette
Pete McMurry	Amy Fagan	Leslie Geoghegan
Mary Pace	Mitzi Moore	Michael Gratz, Jr.
Buddy Stubbs	Aubrey Patterson, Jr.	Chauncey Godwin
Virginia Tolivar	Grayson Robbins	Alice Rogers
David Williams	Debra Robison	Mike Thomas

First Presbyterian Church Staff
Rev. Dr. Olin McBride, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ron Richardson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care
Melissa McDuffie, Director of Youth and Christian Education
Heather Crotwell, Children's Church Director
Dr. Bob Taylor, Director of Music
Dr. Ray Harris, Organist
Seth Shelnut, Audio/Visual Technician
Danielle Frerer Ratliff, Director of Elementary and Youth Choirs
Nannette Comer, Church Librarian
Margaret Anne Murphey, Music Librarian
Helen Curtis, Church Secretary
Kay Stanford, Financial Secretary
Debbie Merritt, Receptionist
Eddie Baker, Maintenance Superintendent
Joyce Richardson, Housekeeper
Rev. M. McCoy Franklin, Pastor Emeritus

Stewardship is a response to our love for Christ. It is a grateful response to the blessings God showers on us. I/We pledge in acknowledgement of the work of Christ in our lives. This pledge, when offered with the whole community of First Presbyterian Church, is the light of caring that shines into the city with the passion and heart of Jesus.

Name_____

Address_____

Email_____

I/We pledge _____ per ○ week ○ month ○ year

○ I/We wish to receive offering envelopes.

○ I/We are interested in an electronic bank draft (See reverse).

○ I/We will pray for the mission of First Presbyterian Church.

○ First Presbyterian Church is remembered in our estate planning.

○ Please send stock transfer information.

First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 1725, Tupelo, MS 38802

First Presbyterian Church, Tupelo, MS—Authorization Agreement for Automatic Withdrawal from Checking Account

I (we) hereby authorize First Presbyterian Church of Tupelo, MS, hereinafter called FPC-Tupelo, to initiate debit entries to my (our) checking account as indicated below, at the depository financial institution named below, hereinafter called Depository, and to debit the same to such account. I understand and agree that FPC-Tupelo will not be responsible for any insufficient funds fees on my account resulting from this authorized withdrawal. **These drafts will be taken out on the 4th Friday of each month.**

_____/_____/_____/_____

Financial Institution Name City State Zip Code

_____/_____

Routing Number from Check Account Number from Check

YOU MUST ATTACH A COPY OF A VOIDED CHECK FOR THIS ACCOUNT UNLESS YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY SET UP DRAFT

Amount to be withdrawn: $_____

Begin Date: Month & Year:_____ End Date: Month & Year _____

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until FPC-Tupelo has fulfilled my pledge requirements or received written notice from me of its termination in such time and manner as to allow FPC-Tupelo and Depository a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

_____

Name(s) on Account-Please Print

_____/_____/_____

Date Signature Signature

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

THE Carols OF Christmas

CHANCEL CHOIR &
INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

Sunday, December 19

9 & 11 a.m. services

JOY GIFT 2021
The Wonder of Christmas
Wednesday, December 8
6:15 p.m.
Sanctuary
featuring
the Elementary Choir of First Presbyterian
with introit by
the Cherub Choir

Save the Dates!

Sunday, November 21
Thanksgiving Luncheon at Noon, CLC/Gym
Hanging of the Green following the Luncheon

Sunday, November 28
First Sunday of Advent

Sunday,December 5
Second Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 8
5:30 P.M. Supper in the Fellowship Hall
6:15 P.M. Joy Gift Program, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 12
Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 19
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Chancel Choir Program
9:00 & 11:00 A.M. Worship Services

Friday, December 24
Christmas Eve Services, 5:30 P.M. & 11:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 26
First Sunday of Christmas
10:00 A.M.—One Worship Service, No Sunday school

Sunday, January 2, 2022
10:00 A.M.—One Worship Service, No Sunday school

Thursday, January 6, 2022
Day of Epiphany, Service TBA

Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Wednesday Nights Resume