



Worship Services

December 10, 2023
9:00 AM • 11:15 AM

*First Presbyterian is a Welcoming Church Community in Downtown Macon
Committed to Knowing Christ and Making Him Known.*

Welcome

TO OUR GUESTS

We want to welcome you today! More information about our church is available on our website at fpcmacon.org.

SPIRITUAL CARE

If you would like to speak to someone about what it means to know Jesus Christ or you have any spiritual need or question, please speak to one of the pastors after the service.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSON

We provide a Bible lesson and music for children in Pre-K through second grade during the services. Children will be dismissed from the service and escorted to their classroom before the sermon. Please pick up your children after the service or Sunday school on the second floor of Cornerstone. If this is your first Sunday at FPC, please walk your child to the Bible lesson to check them in.

NURSERY

Nursery is provided for 3K and under from 8:45 AM-12:15 PM. We also provide a mother/infant room located in the nursery with a live video feed of the service, as well as a "cry room" downstairs from the sanctuary for parents of "fussy" children with an audio feed. Ushers are available to direct you.

HEARING ASSISTANCE

Hearing assistance devices are in the Narthex for worshippers needing hearing assistance. You may also use a smartphone or bluetooth-enabled hearing aid to connect directly to the sound system. Connection instructions are in the Narthex. Please ask an usher or deacon for assistance.

FLOWERS

The poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given by many members to the glory of God and in loving memory or honor of their loved ones.

YOUR PRESENCE

Please let us know that you're here today by scanning the QR code.

Worshippers read text in bold.



Corporate Worship

*Welcome to First Presbyterian! We are thankful you have chosen to worship with us today.
It is our hope and prayer that through the reading of God's Word, prayer,
the corporate singing and readings, and the preached Word that you
will see Christ clearly and desire to know Him more.*

PRELUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing arr. Dan Forrest

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus arr. Dan Forrest

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

*Come, O Sov'reign Prince of Heaven; come, o wondrous Love Divine.
Earth and heaven bow before thee, everlasting Peace sublime.
O thou Source of joy and wonder, bless us as we seek thy face.
At thy manger grant us mercy, in thine Advent grant us grace.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.*

HYMN OF PRAISE - *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, Thou King of nations bring an end to all our suffering;
Bid every pain and sorrow cease and reign now as our Prince of Peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come again with us to dwell.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,
whom he appointed the heir of all things,
through whom also he created the world.
He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature,
and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.
After making purification for sins,
he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited
is more excellent than theirs.

****Seating Interlude****

ANTHEM

Let the Stable Still Astonish Dan Forrest

*Let the stable still astonish;
Strawdirt floor, dull eyes, dusty flanks of donkeys, oxen,
Crumbling, crooked walls, no bed to carry that pain,
And then, the Child, rag-wrapped, laid to sleep in a trough.*

*Who would have chosen this? Who would have said:
"Yes, let the God of all the heaven and earth be born here in this place."*

*Who, but the same God - who stands in the darker, fouler rooms of our hearts and says,
"Yes, let the God of all the heaven and earth be born here in this place."*

Let the stable still astonish; in this place, be born here in this place.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-35

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM 35-36

What does it mean that he "was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary"?

That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God,
took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit,
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,
a truly human nature
so that he might also become David's true descendant,
like his brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.

How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

He is our mediator and, in God's sight,
he covers with his innocence and perfect holiness
my sinfulness in which I was conceived.

O Holy Night!

A. Adam/v. 1: J.S. Dwight, v. 2-3: K. Hartnett

O ho - ly night! the stars are bright - ly shin - ing; It is the
Hum - bly He lay, *Cre - a - tor* come as crea - ture, born on the
 Come then to Him who lies with - in the man - ger, with joy - ful

night of the dear Sav - ior's birth. Long lay the world in
floor of a hay - scat - tered stall. *True Son of God,* yet
 shep - herds, pro - claim Him as Lord. Let not the Pro - mised

sin and er - ror pin - ing, Till he ap - peared and the soul felt its
bear - ing hu - man fea - ture, *He en - tered earth to re - verse A - dam's*
 Son re - main a strang - er; in rev - 'rent wor - ship make Christ your A -

worth. A thrill of hope - the wea - ry world re - joic - es, For
fall. *In tow - ering grace,* *He laid a - side His glo - ry, and*
 dored. E - ter - nal life is theirs who would re - ceive Him; with

yon - der breaks a new and glo - rious morn! Fall on your knees!
in our place, was sac - ri - ficed for sin. *Fall on your knees!*
 grace and peace, their lives He will a - dorn. Fall on your knees!

O hear the an - gel voic - es! O night, di - vine, O night
O hear the gos - pel sto - ry! *O night,* *di - vine, O night*
 Re - ceive the Gift of heav - en! O night, di - vine, O night

when Christ was born! *last* O night, — O ho - ly night, O night di - vine!
time
 when Christ was born!
only:
 when Christ was born!

PASTORAL PRAYER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Online giving may be done by texting **fpcmacon** to 73256 or visiting the church website at www.fpcmacon.org.

How Dark the Night G. Habegger and C. Anderson/arr. Molly James

*How dark the night in Bethlehem where trav'lers sought for rest;
How crude the cave they sheltered in while sheep and oxen slept.
Then light shone forth into the world, dispelling sin and strife.
The Child born to a virgin girl was Christ, the Light of Life.*

*How dark the night o'er pastures bleak where shepherds kept their watch;
How cold the wind which stole their sleep and chilled their weary flock.
Then glory pierced the midnight sky, and turned fatigue to fright;
"The King is born," the angel cried to hail the birth of Light.*

*How dark the night of fallen souls, by sin and guilt oppressed;
How hopeless our unspoken woe, asleep but not at rest;
Till Christ breaks through our mortal night and melts the heart of stone;
"All praise to God in heaven's height and peace to men below."*

*How dark the night that shrouds the world where war and anguish reign;
How fierce our swords, how sharp our words, how piercing is our pain.
O Christ, return like blazing dawn - the Morning Star of Light!
The Lord Himself will be our Sun, and day eclipse the night.*

HYMN 202 - O Little Town of Bethlehem

All: O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

(Continued next page)

Women: For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

Men: How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

All: O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

HYMN 203 - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. *(Refrain)*

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. *(Refrain)*

*Children K4-second grade are welcome to leave the worship service for a Bible Lesson
in Cornerstone. They will meet their teacher at the front. We encourage children
third grade and above to continue in corporate worship with their parents.*

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD - Chip Miller

What's In a Name?

Isaiah 9:1-7

HYMN OF RESPONSE - *Angels We Have Heard on High*

All: Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Men: Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

All: *Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

Women: Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

All: *Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

All: Hymns of praise then let us sing unto Christ our heav'nly King,
Who endured the cross and grave, sinners to redeem and save.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

BENEDICTION

Leading in Worship Today
Chip Miller, Senior Pastor
Todd Robinson, Assistant Pastor
Michael McGhee, Music Director/Organist
Rebecca Lanning, Choir Director
Tom Rule, Pianist
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL STAFF

Chip Miller

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CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

Class of 2023

Ves Berry
Kevin Bridges
Hal Foshee
Mike Peed
Tom Scott
Kim Thompson

Class of 2024

Doug Cole
Don Hall
Ken Harper
Shaun Hill
Bruce Leicht

Class of 2025

Paul Cable
Sam Jones
Matt Kitchell
Kort Peterson
Jerome Strickland
William White

The Diaconate

Class of 2023

Josiah Bisson
Cameron Garvin
Will Hooper
Kevin Lennon
Steven Rumford
Will Stanford

Class of 2024

Van Edmonds
Clay Jones
John Kitchens
Wynne Pearson
Koutsunis Prater
Robert Stamps

Class of 2025

Jave Bjorkman
Joey Brumbelow
Eric Hunt
Kent McCormick
David Milligan
Caleb Peed

Trustees

Rob Danner
Bruce Jones

Buddy Ponder
Ray Pearson

Lowry Tribble

Announcements



Join us on **Dec. 13th** for the annual Ladies Christmas Dinner. **Scan the code to register**



We invite you to the Children's Christmas Program, **Dec. 13th at 6:00 p.m.** Join us in singing Christmas Carols, and listen to the children perform special music inside the **sanctuary**. Afterwards, women can attend the Ladies Christmas dinner in the Fellowship Hall.



Join us today for Special Christmas Music and Brunch!

9 and 11:15 am Worship Services-Special Music

Drop in Brunch in the Fellowship Hall **9:45 - 11:45**



Cold weather items are needed, gently used or new. You may leave your donations in the bins in the Brickyard.



We are collecting blankets for the Homeless Christmas Dinner that is on December 11. Please bring blankets and place them in the bin in the Brickyard by Sunday, December 10. The goal is to collect 200 blankets.



The Communicants Class is for children in the **5th grade and it begins on Sun., Jan. 7th, during Sunday school**. This class is to prepare them to take the Lord's Supper, to give them an opportunity to make a clear public profession of faith and become a member of our church. Email Spring Rawlings for more information.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Generations Class is a new multi-generational Sunday School class that will begin **January 7th and will meet right below the sanctuary**. The purpose of this new class is to expand availability for those who desire discussion-based Biblical teaching, supportive fellowship and discipleship across age groups. The Newmans, Careys and Stanfords have volunteered to organize and lead the class. Any who would like to check it out are welcome!

CASA HOGAR CHRISTMAS

If you would like to participate in bringing Christmas joy to these children, you can

- 1) send cash or a check designated to "Casa Hogar Christmas" (682 Mulberry St. Macon, GA 31201)
- 2) Give on Realm or the App, Select "Casa Hogar"

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 10 -- Chancel Choir Christmas Program/Deacon's Brunch

December 10 -- Parent's Night Out/Children's Program Practice

December 11 -- Christmas Dinner for the Homeless

December 13 -- Children's Christmas Program

December 13 -- Women's Christmas Dinner

December 24 -- 10:30 a.m. worship, no Sunday School

December 24 -- Christmas Eve Services 4 and 6 p.m.

December 31 -- New Year's Eve, 10:30 a.m. worship, no Sunday School

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

682 Mulberry Street · Macon, GA 31201 · 478.746.3223 · www.fpcmacon.org