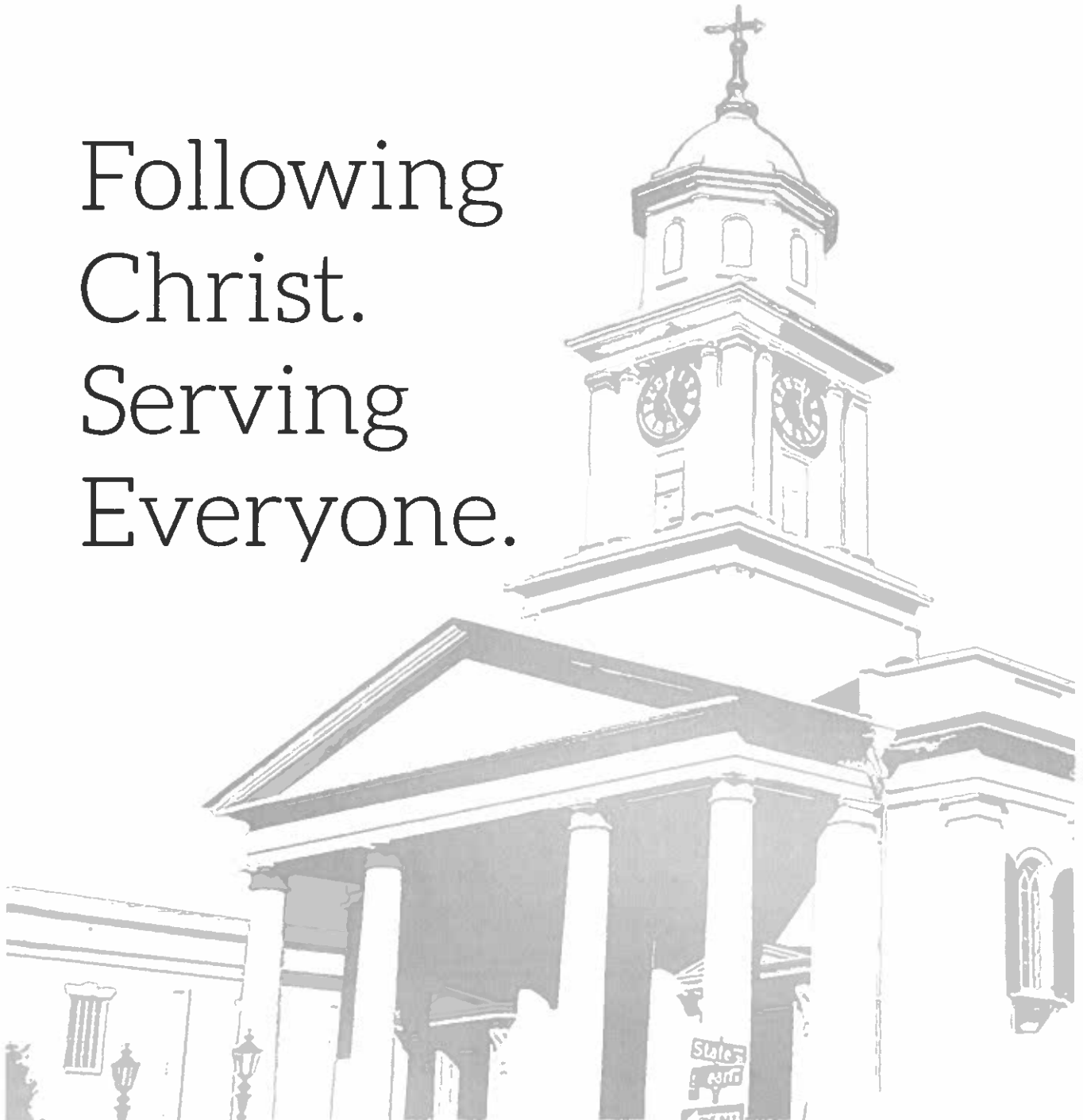




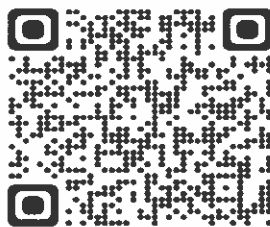
First Presbyterian Church of Natchez

Following  
Christ.  
Serving  
Everyone.



## *Welcome!*

We are delighted you have joined us in worship at First Presbyterian Church Natchez. So that we might get to know you a little better, please take a moment to fill out a connect card by scanning the QR code below.



You may also send your contact information to [fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net](mailto:fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net).

# First Presbyterian Church Natchez

## Morning Worship

### Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 2024 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Minister

Rev. Chase Caldwell, Associate Minister

Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Offering our lives in the life of Christ's church

*Join in the ministries of your church as God calls you!*

#### THE GATHERING

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##### Westminster Chimes

The chiming of the hour signals to us that it is time to worship.

Now let us direct our hearts to the One who calls us here!

Prelude

*Veni, Veni Emmanuel*

Gerald Near

Call to Worship

Isaiah 42:6-9

God speaks: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you.

**I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations.**

The Lord will open the eyes that are blind, bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sat in darkness.

**I am the Lord; that is my name.**

My glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

**See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare.**

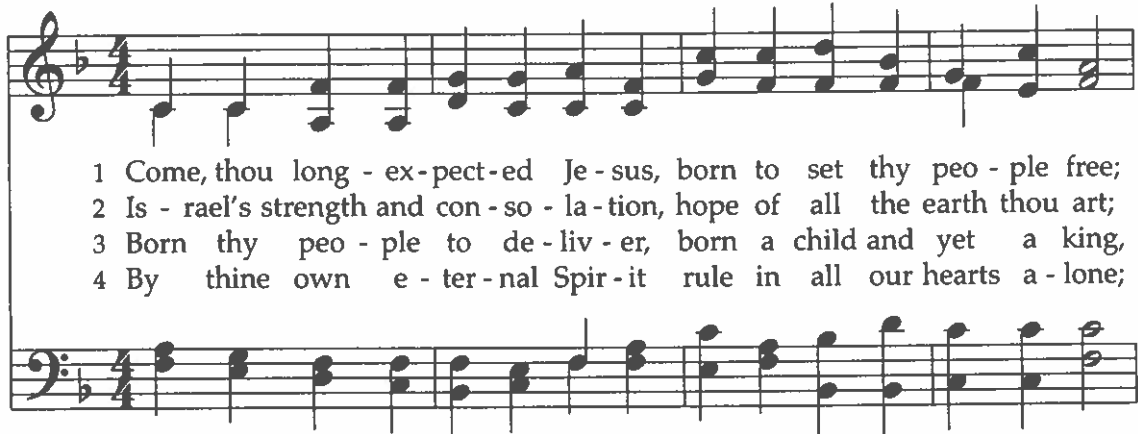
Praise the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**

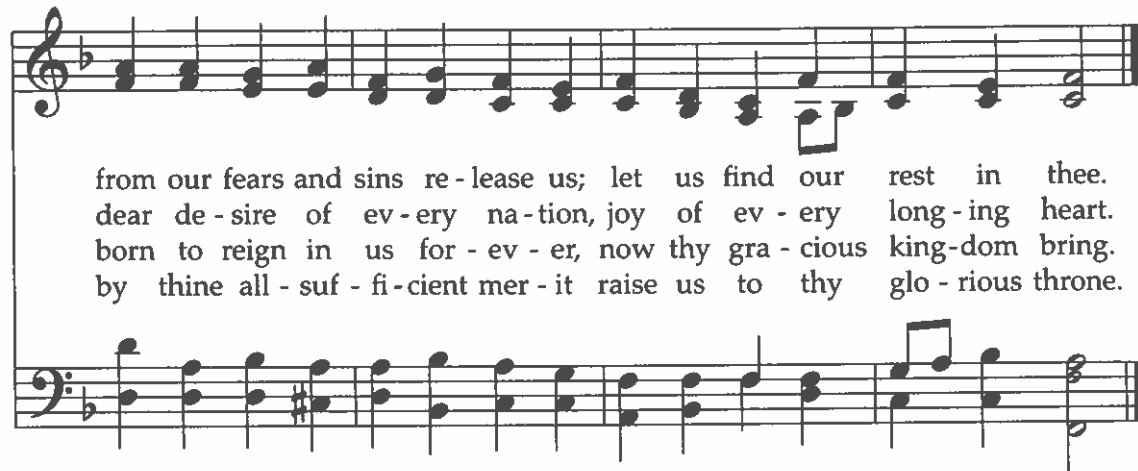
\*Processional Hymn 83: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

STUTT GART

# 83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744  
MUSIC: Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

STUTT GART  
8.7.8.7  
(alternate tune: HYFRYDOL, 82)

## Lighting the Second Advent Candle

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for these days:

Isaiah 2:4

When the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Isaiah 11:6

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb.  
The leopard shall lie down with the kid.  
The calf and the lion and the fatling are together.  
And a little child shall lead them.

## Advent Prayer

God of all wisdom, our hearts yearn for the warmth of your love, and our minds search for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior, and strengthen us to grow in love, that at the dawn of his coming we may rejoice in his presence and welcome the light of his truth. Through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

(The refrain is sung first by the choir, then by everyone. The choir sings a verse, after which everyone sings the refrain.)

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain: "Come, come Em - man - u - el. Come, Em -". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of the refrain, which is repeated twice: "1. man - u - el." and "2. man - u - el.". The notes are quarter notes and half notes, with a repeat sign at the end of the second line.

## Confession of Sin

The congregation joins in Call to Confession and Unison Prayer of Confession.  
After silent prayer, all sing the *Kyrie* (*Lord, Have Mercy*)

### Call to Confession

See Hebrews 4:14-16

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin.

**Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

### Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of the future,**

**You are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.**

**We confess that we have not expected your kingdom.**

**We live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.**

**We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, and abuse the earth.**

**We refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us.**

**Grant us wisdom to welcome your way and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.**

### Time for Silent Confession

*Lord, Have Mercy upon Us*  
(Choir and congregation sing.)

*Kyrie*



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Declaration of Forgiveness

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

\*Response Hymn 581

*Gloria Patri*

GREATOREX

**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.**

\*Greeting and the Peace

*Leader:* The peace of Christ be with all of you today.

*All:* **And also with you.**

## THE WORD

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Story and Prayers for Young Disciples

*Afterwards, children may return to their seats or go to children's class.*

Prayer for Illumination

Katie McLemore, reader

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

*Pew Bible Page 1088*

Second Reading: Luke 1:68-79

*Pew Bible Page 70*

Epistle Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

*Pew Bible Page 239*

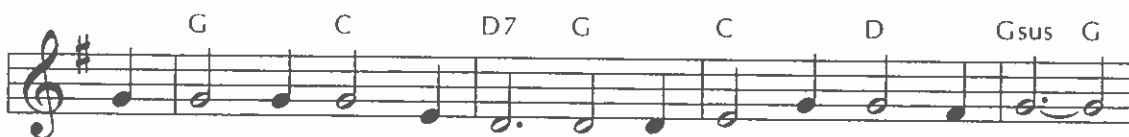
\*Gospel Hymn 106: *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

BEREDEN VAG FÖR HERRAN

# Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,

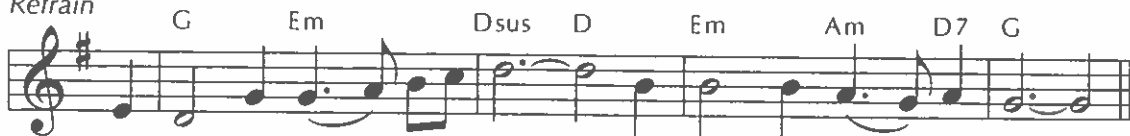


Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

*Refrain*



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812; rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;  
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930  
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN  
 7.6 7.6.7.7 with refrain



Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

*Pew Bible Page 72*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

"Into the Way of Peace"

Rev. Gandy

Affirmation of Our Faith

\*Apostles' Creed

Traditional

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

*(debts/debtors)*

**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.**

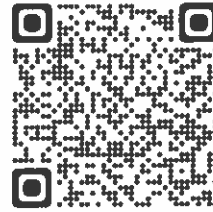
## THE THANKSGIVING

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### Call for the Offering

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,  
the world and those who live in it.*

Psalm 24:1



Scan FPC QR code here to give online

### Offertory

#### Offertory Anthem

*Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

Text: Charles Wesley

Music: ARNE/MARTIN

Lo! He comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;  
Those who set at nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers;  
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture gaze we on those glorious  
scars!

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

\*Response Hymn 606

*Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

## THE SENDING

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\*Hymn 96, verses 1 & 2: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*      WINCHESTER NEW

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*Paeon*

Colin Hand

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sidney D. Bunch Sr. and Hazel Geohegan Bunch, our grandparents, by the Bunch family.*

**Music Notes:** The Prelude this morning is a meditation on the Advent chant, *Veni, Veni Emmanuel (O Come, O Come Emmanuel)* by American organist and composer Gerald Near (b. 1942). The Anthem at the Offertory is a setting of a wonderful Advent hymn that we will be singing on the fourth Sunday of Advent, *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*. The hymn tune *Helmsley* is by English composer Thomas Arne (1710-1778), and arranged here as a choir anthem by American composer Roland E. Martin (b. 1955). This fantastic tune, very singable and uplifting, is a favorite the world over. *Helmsley* has the distinction of being the original tune with which this text was paired. The Postlude is *Paeon* by English organist and composer Colin Hand (1929-2015).

# 96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our  
 4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Men's Prayer Breakfast meets this week:** The Men's Prayer Breakfast will meet Tuesday, December 10, at 7 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

**Pastor's Bible Study:** The Pastor's Bible study is 11 a.m. Tuesday in the Stratton Chapel parlor. Scriptures this week are Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; and Luke 3:7-18.

**Children's Pageant:** Dress rehearsal Wednesday, December 11, at 4:30 p.m.

**Christmas Program and Pageant:** Mark your calendars, and plan to be present on Sunday, December 15, at 5 p.m. for *The Sounds of Christmas*, a program of beautiful instrumental music of the season, and a children's Christmas Pageant with costumes as the centerpiece. Music will include organ and organ with trumpet, violin, and cello, played by local professional musicians. You won't want to miss this program!

**Caroling on the Steps:** Christmas carols on the porch and steps of the church will be Friday, December 20, at 5 p.m. Music Director Vincent Bache will be at the piano and Chris Borum will bring hot chocolate. Prepare to attend – and bring the family and your friends and neighbors for this exciting time as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child. All are welcome!

**Lessons and Carols:** One of our most beautiful services, Lessons and Carols, will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 22. All are welcome!

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship:** The Christmas Eve worship service is at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24. Please join your congregation and many visitors who will attend to celebrate this holy night of the birth of the Lord. All are welcome to attend this beautiful Christmas Eve service.

**Grief Support Group at FPC:** First Presbyterian Grief Support Group meets at 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

**Wonderful Wednesday:** Wonderful Wednesday begins at 5:15 with supper. You are invited to Bible study afterward or to play games in Fellowship Hall. Bible study for December 11 is Mark 11:1-33.

**Sanctuary Choir:** The Sanctuary Choir rehearses Wednesdays, at 6 p.m.

**Third Thursday Book Club:** The Third Thursday Book Club will not meet in December but will meet January 16, 2025, at 5 p.m., to discuss the next book: *The Oceans and the Stars*, by Mark Helprin.

**Sunday School:** Adult classes on Sunday morning meet with Sammy Gore in the Westminster Room 9:15-10; with Chuck Borum in the parlor 9:15-10; or with Rev. Chase Caldwell upstairs in Stratton Chapel 9-9:45.

**Acolyte Formation:** Acolytes meet with Rev. Gandy on Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

**Monday Prayer:** Community prayer in the Prayer Room, located adjacent to the sanctuary, is held Mondays at 11:30 a.m. This prayer time is informal and offers opportunity to pray with others for people and things that are on each heart.

**Pickleball at FPC:** The FPC Fellowship Hall Pickleball Court is available to use Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The court must be reserved at least 24 hours in advance for 1 hour. To make a reservation, visit or call the church office at 601-442-2581. All users must check-in with the church office prior to play.


**New Members Welcomed:** If you are interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian, you will be warmly welcomed. The first step is to let the minister know of your interest. You may see her before or after worship; or call the church at 601-442-2581 to speak with her.

**Photo Gallery Docents:** Visits by tourists will begin to increase now that fall has arrived. Natchez in Historic Photographs is a favorite destination! Are you available to serve as a docent, welcoming and giving a few words of explanation about the church and photographs? Please consider donating a couple of hours to the museum as a docent. The exhibit is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Rosemary Hall or the church office to sign up.

**AA Meetings:** Open Gates AA Meeting meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12 noon in the downstairs meeting room in Stratton Chapel. These are open discussion meetings.

**Pastoral Visits:** If you have special needs and wish to share them with the minister, please plan a visit so that you can talk about what's going on in your life. Contact the minister at 601-442-2581.

# DECEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Communion Advent begins  <b>1</b>  <b>Sunday Schedule</b> 9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship	<b>02</b>  8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 5 Deacons 7 Boy Scouts Troop 157	<b>03</b>  10:30 Pack Food Boxes 11 Bible Study 5 Children Pageant rehearsal	<b>04</b>  8:30 Exercise class 10 PW Christmas coffee 10 Food Boxes Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study; 6 Choir	<b>05</b>  4 Children's Pageant Rehearsal	<b>06</b>  Last day for donating Toys for Tots  Noon AA	<b>07</b>  Invite a friend to join you for worship tomorrow!
<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>8</b>  9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship	<b>09</b>  8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 4:15 Finance Com. 5 Session 7 Boy Scouts	<b>10</b>  11 Bible Study	<b>11</b>  8:30 Exercise class Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:30 Pageant dress rehearsal 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study; 6 Choir	<b>12</b>  4 Youth caroling at nursing homes & Christmas party at Rev. Caldwell's home	<b>13</b>  Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while.  Noon AA	<b>14</b>  Invite a friend to join you for worship tomorrow!
<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>15</b>  9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship 5 Christmas Program	<b>16</b>  8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 4:15 Finance meeting 7 Boy Scouts	<b>17</b>  11 Bible Study	<b>18</b>  8:30 Exercise class Noon AA 4 Grief Support Group 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Bible Study; 6 Choir	<b>19</b>  5 Book Club	<b>20</b>  10:30 Playschool Christmas Party Noon AA 5 Caroling on the Steps	<b>21</b>  Invite a friend to join you for worship tomorrow!
<b>Stewpot Sunday</b> <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>22</b>  9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir 10:30 Worship 5:30 Lessons & Carols	<b>23</b>  8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts Troop 157	<b>24</b>  CHRISTMAS EVE  5:30 Christmas Eve worship	<b>25</b>  CHRISTMAS DAY  	<b>26</b>  Church Offices and Playschool Closed	<b>27</b>  Visit or call someone you haven't seen in a while.  Noon AA	<b>28</b>  Invite a friend to join you for worship tomorrow!
<b>29</b>  9:15 Sunday School Coffee Time 9:45 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship	<b>30</b>  8:30 Exercise Class 10 Staff meeting 11:30 Prayer Group Noon AA 7 Boy Scouts Troop 157	<b>31</b>  Church Offices Closed  Playschool Closed	<b>Jan. 1</b>			



# The Sounds of Christmas

December 15, at 5 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church Natchez

You are invited to a program of beautiful instrumental music of the season, and a children's Christmas Pageant with costumes as the centerpiece. Music will include organ and piano with trumpet, violin, and cello, played by local professional musicians. You won't want to miss this program!



### **Church Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Pastor  
The Rev. Chase Caldwell, Associate Pastor  
Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist  
Aretha Davis, Playschool Director  
Pam McNeil, Office Administrator  
Mary Ann Peoples, Financial Secretary  
Deon Buford, Sexton

### **Officers of the Church**

#### **ELDERS**

**Class of 2024:** George Bates, Stratton Bull, Bobby Meason, Cara Moody  
**Class of 2025:** Chuck Borum, Sandra Burkes, Marc Doyle, Jay Fitch, Sammy Gore  
**Class of 2026:** Mary Lessley, Helen Smith, Anne Vidal Suen

#### **Officers Elect**

**Class of 2027:** Bobby Meason, George Bates, Danna Mooney, and Ralph Loe

**Clerk of Session:** Rosemary Hall

**Assistant Clerk of Session:** Danna Mooney

#### **DEACONS**

**Class of 2024:** Kristen Abney (Moderator), Everette Ratcliffe, Hubert Smith

**Class of 2025:** Edie Christian, Rusty Jenkins, and Randy Smith

**Class of 2026:** Leigh Anderson, Ken Price

#### **Officers Elect**

**Class of 2027:** Kristen Abney, Hubert Smith, and Sharon Williams

Thank you to Charles Hall (Director), Lance Harris, Ryan Sharp, Slade Gagnard,  
Robert Seyfarth, and Jon Borum for livestreaming and video services.

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**117 South Pearl Street**

**(Mailing Address: 400 State Street)**

**Natchez, Mississippi 39120**

**601-442-2581**

**[www.fpcnatchez.org](http://www.fpcnatchez.org)**

**[fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net](mailto:fpcnatchez@bellsouth.net)**

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