

December 22, 2024
First Presbyterian Church
4th Sunday of Advent

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Angels We Have Heard On High* Wood
(Terri Hurley, trumpet)

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship** Tom Hammer
My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
With Mary, our spirits rejoice, and we sing God's praise.
Let us honor God with our worship this fourth Sunday of Advent.

***Hymn** 134 *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH
(Youth Bells; Terri Hurley, Trumpet)

Lighting of the Advent Candles First Presbyterian Youth Group

Invitation to Confession (the congregation is seated)
The prophet Micah tells us that the "one of peace" will come from Bethlehem. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us confess our sins and set ourselves on Christ's path.

Prayer of Confession

Soon we will celebrate the Prince of Peace, but we are not a people at peace. We glorify violence and dismiss the pacifist as weak. We dominate and demean turning dialogue into debate. We wage war with enemies and invest in self-defense before giving non-violent strategies a chance. Lord, forgive us. Help us work towards your peaceable kin-dom, where swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (*Psalms 34:22*)

"And he will stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace." In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us now greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

***Holy Interruption** *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

***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.**

Choral Anthem *Gloria*, RV 589 Antonio Vivaldi
(Chancel Choir)

Children's Message

We Receive God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Micah 5:2-5

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-55

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Message "Do You Hear What I Hear?" Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith (*from the Book of Common Worship,
Colossians 1:15-20*)

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

***Hymn** 143 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE
(Terri Hurley, Trumpet)

Announcements

Pastoral Prayers & 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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *In the Bleak Midwinter* Holst/Wilson
(Youth Bells; Terri Hurley, Trumpet)

***Doxology** *Gloria, in excelsis deo. Gloria in excelsis deo.* GLORIA

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, with Mary we seek to magnify you in our worship and in our deeds. Accept these gifts and bless them for Christ's ministry. May they lift the lowly and fill the hungry. May they reveal your glory present with us today and still yet to come. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn** 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES
(Terri Hurley, Trumpet)

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** *Savior of the Nations, Come*
NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND
*Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home. Marvel now,
O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth. Amen*
(Chancel Choir)

***Postlude** *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* Callahan
(Youth Bells & Terri Hurley, Trumpet)

Please wait until the end of the benediction response by the choir before exiting.

*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk

We thank Terri Hurley, our guest trumpeter for her time & talents during worship this morning.

Acolytes for today: Kane and Blair Driggers

The Church This Week (12/22/2024)

Today	10:00 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Tues.	5:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
Wed.		Merry Christmas
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

Prayer List as of December 22, 2024

Gerry Rogers
 Ina Coggeshall
 Gray & Bea Sloop
 Bennie and Benny Lou Moore
 Bobbie Jones
 For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses
 Ruth Jackson
 B.J. Moore
 Marion Murphy
 Edward Tinsley
 Louise Carpenter
 Friends and families affected by Hurricane Helene

The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. For individuals with hearing aids, please activate your T-coil to utilize this feature. Spare headsets are also available.

If you would like to place flowers or a plant in the sanctuary for worship service, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. You can also call or email Cathy Chapman and she can sign you up for a date.

Nursery for December

If you are unable to help on the day assigned, please switch with someone. Thank you for your help in this.

December 22 - Brittany Tillman and Heather Tucker
 December 29 – Alison Chapman and Michael Chapman

Session of First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2024

Marietta Melton Burch
 Cathy Chapman
 Dan Tillman, III
 Charlene Tillman

Class of 2025

Kelli Beck
 Avery Dickson
 Mary Jane Evans
 Jean Page Watson

Class of 2026

Mary Anderson
 Andrew McLeod
 Kristen Miller
 Richard Pierce

The Church Staff

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor
 Mrs. Carolyn S. West, Secretary
 Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton
 Mrs. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper
 Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery

Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE

Mrs. Kim Brabham, Director MMO
 Mrs. Sally Powell, MMO
 Mrs. Gini Eddins, MMO

Mission Partners

Mr. Mark Hare/ Mrs. Jenny Bent, Costa Rica
 Mrs. Ellen Smith, (mission co-worker) Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Poland



Our Vision

*Rooted by God's Grace,
 Growing in the Spirit,
 Reaching Out with Christ's Love*

Sunday, December 22, 2024

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