

December 29, 2024
First Presbyterian Church
1st Sunday of Christmas

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *What Child is This?* Hesford

Welcome and announcements Cam Beck

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship** Cam Beck

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

On those who live in a land of deep darkness, God's light has shined.

For a child has been born for us a son given to us.

Authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful

Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

He will establish and uphold his kingdom with justice and with righteousness.

The Zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this! (from Isaiah 9)

***Hymn** 151 *We Three Kings of Orient Are* KINGS OF ORIENT
(vs. 1,2,5)

Invitation to Confession (the congregation is seated)

As the scriptures tell us, "*If we say that we have not sinned, then the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, our God is faithful and just to forgive us, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (1 John 1.8-9)

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Almighty God, another year in your loving grace has quickly passed by. We confess that we have not always been your loving people; we have not always forgiven; and, sometimes we have sought our own welfare more than the welfare of other people. Forgive us, O Lord, for all the ways that we have failed you in the past year. Cleanse our hearts and minds. With the birth of Jesus in our hearts, let us begin anew. Fill us with the Spirit of the newborn Christ Jesus, so that we might be more and more like him in every way, in this year and the next. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The scriptures also tell us, "*God demonstrated his own love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*" (Romans 5.8). Before we moved towards God, God had already moved toward us, and initiated a relationship with us based on God's gracious love for all.

Response: In Jesus Christ, we are God's forgiven people. Thanks be to God!

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.

Message to the Children Cathy Chapman

We Receive God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 11.1-9

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading Philippians 1.1-11

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Message "Overflowing Love" Dr. Dan Sansbury

***Hymn** 110 *Love Has Come* BRING A TORCH

Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem *Away in a Manger* Hayes

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn** 366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* HYFRYDOL

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *Go, Tell It On the Mountain* Callahan

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 welcome Dr. Dan Sansbury to the pulpit this morning.

The Church This Week (12/29/2024)

Today	10:00 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

Prayer List as of December 29, 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 29 Alison Chapman and Michael Chapman

The Christmas decorations will be taken down on January 3rd at 10:00 a.m.



Our Vision

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

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

Sunday, December 29, 2024

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