

December 21, 2025  
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  
(Aaron Vandermeer, Trumpet)

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

\*Call to Worship (Psalm 122 & Isaiah 2) Kristen Miller  
God-with-us, Immanuel.  
Arrives to give us our own Holy Family,  
here with the body of Christ this day.  
Rejoice and be glad! Amen!

\*Hymn 134 Joy to the World ANTIOCH  
(Aaron Vandermeer, Trumpet; Youth Bells)

Lighting of the Advent Candles The Malloy & Driggers Families

Invitation to Confession  
Assured that God hears our repentance, let us turn our minds to the truth,  
confessing our sins to God and one another.

Prayer of Confession  
Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you,  
neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people,  
trampling on the creatures and the plants you have made, taking from  
Earth what we cannot give back. WE have not helped our neighbors in  
need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted  
in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your  
compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let  
your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon  
“You are called to belong to Jesus Christ.” For the sake of the One God  
promised to send, named as God’s Son, who died, was raised, and through  
whom we receive grace, God forgives you all your sins. You are God’s  
beloved, called to be saints. Grace to you and peace.

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

\*Gloria Patri

Choral Anthem Be Born in Me Herms/Nordeman  
Everything inside me cries for order. Everything inside me wants to hide. Is this shadow an  
angel or a warrior? If God is pleased with me why am I so terrified? Someone tell me I am  
only dreaming. Somehow help me see with heaven's eyes, but before my head agrees, my  
heart is on its knees. Holy is he. Blessed am I.

(Chorus) Be born in me. Be born in me. Trembling heart, somehow, I believe that you  
chose me. I'll hold you in the beginning. You will hold me in the end. Every moment  
in the middle, make my heart your Bethlehem, be born in me.  
All this time we've waited for the promise. All this time you've waited for my arms.  
Did you wrap yourself inside the unexpected? So we might know that love would go  
that far (chorus).

I am not brave. I'll never be. The only thing my heart can offer is a vacancy. I'm just  
a girl. nothing more, but I am willing. I am yours (chorus).

We Receive God’s Word

Children’s Message

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16  
This is the Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25  
This is the Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God!

Sermon “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith (from the Confession of 1967)  
Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience  
were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of  
God’s promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the  
pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction  
and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

Hymn 143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE

Minute for Mission Christmas Joy Offering Avery Dickson

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer & 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  
(Aaron Vandermeer, Trumpet; Youth Bells)

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

\*Prayer of Dedication  
O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you  
use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, whose birth we  
celebrate and whose Lordship we praise. Amen.

Hymn 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES

Benediction Gentle Mary Laid Her Child Cook/MacMillan  
(Chancel Choir)  
Angels sang about his birth; wisemen sought and found him; heaven’s star shone  
brightly forth, glory all around him. Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the  
angels singing; all the plains were lit that night;  
all the hills were ringing. Amen.

Postlude Ding Dong! Merrily on High Callahan  
(Aaron Vandermeer, Trumpet; Youth Bells)

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

Acolytes: Kane & Blair Driggers

\*Special thanks to our youth bells, Mrs. Lindsay, and guest trumpeter, Aaron  
Vandermeer, for their time & talents by enhancing our Christmas music  
today!

**The Church This Week (12/21/2025)**

Today	10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship
Mon.	8:30 a.m. MMO
Wed.	8:30 a.m. MMO 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion
Thurs.	Church Office Closed-Merry Christmas
Fri.	Church Office Closed
Sun.	10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship

**Prayer List as of December 21, 2025**

Gerry Rogers  
Bea Sloop  
Benny Moore  
Bobbie Jones  
For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses  
B.J. Moore  
Louise Carpenter  
Shirley Brock  
Edward Tinsley  
Ruth Jackson  
Marion Murphy  
Nadia Harris  
Lesley Jean Watson  
Rebecca Harris Ott  
Pam Cook (Alison Chapman's mother)  
Wyatt Smith

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.

Thank you to our Chancel Choir for their beautiful Christmas Cantata last Sunday, and to those who helped with the reception afterwards. Merry Christmas!

**Christmas Joy Offering**

The annual Christmas Joy offering will be taken today. This offering of the Presbyterian Church helps to support retired clergy, missionaries, educators and their families, as well as the eight ethnic minority colleges around the USA. As you have been blessed during this holiday season, be a blessing to other people with your generous giving! Make your check out to “First Presbyterian Church” and mark it, “Christmas Joy.”

**Pledges/Contributions**

All **pledges and/or contributions** to First Presbyterian Church must be turned in by **Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> for year ending 2025.**

In addition, any checks that needs to be written for 2025 expenses must be turned in by Sunday, December 28, 2025.

**Nursery Volunteer Schedule for October - December**

Oct. 5	Heather Tucker
Oct. 12	Cathy Chapman
Oct. 19	Kelli Beck
Oct. 26	Jean Page Watson
Nov. 2	Maggie Barton
Nov. 9	Steve Cook
Nov. 16	Charlene Tillman
Nov. 23	Jessie Baker
Nov. 30	Laura Folger
Dec. 7	Mary Jane Evans
Dec. 14	Lainey Baker
Dec. 21	Kelli Beck
Dec. 28	Marietta Melton Burch

**Session of First Presbyterian Church**

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Kelli Beck	Mary Anderson	Mike Chapman
Avery Dickson	Andrew McLeod	Christie McLeod
Mary Jane Evans	Kristen Miller	Tracie Phillips
Jean Page Watson	Richard Pierce	Harold Watson

**The Church Staff**

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor	Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE
Mrs. Danielle Self, Secretary	
Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton	Mrs. Gini Eddins, Director MMO
Mrs. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper	
Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery	



**Our Vision**

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

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

First Presbyterian Church  
300 Market Street  
PO Box 552  
Cheraw, SC 29520  
(843) 537-7474

Email: [info@cherawfpc.org](mailto:info@cherawfpc.org)