



CHRISTMAS EVE,  
DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 | 3:00PM & 5:00PM  
✖please stand as you are able

**PRELUDE** *Of the Father's Love Begotten* **ARR. HELD**

## WELCOME & MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

*\*Please sign the attendance pads located on the end of each row.*

## CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ISAIAH 9

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

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them 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.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace.

**The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

Come, let us worship the One who holds the cosmos yet lies in a manger.

¶ APOSTLES' CREED UMH 881

¶ GLORIA PATRI

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST'S CANDLE

3:00 PATRICK, KELLY, PALMER, AND PEYTON BEARDEN

5:00 ABBY, JONES, AND HALLIE MANNING

Throughout Advent we have lit candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, watching and waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled.

Tonight, we light the Christ candle to proclaim that promise has come. 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. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all on whom his favor rests.

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

## OFFERTORY

*Sleeping Adonai (3:00)*  
*No Golden Carriage (5:00)*

JENNA HOOD  
CHANCEL CHOIR

## ¶ DOXOLOGY

HYMN

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

UMH 230

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of glory and grace, as your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, let your light dwell in us tonight, so that in hearing your Word, we may behold your glory, full of grace and truth. **Amen.**

✖ SCRIPTURE

*John 1:14-18*

SERMON

*The Cradle That Held the Cosmos*

CONFESSiON AND PARDON

**God of the manger and the stars, you enter our world in vulnerability and love, yet we confess that we often prefer strength to humility and comfort to compassion. We rush past your mystery, seeking brightness without the wonder, and gifts without the giver. Forgive us, O God. Make room in our hearts for your presence, that we may receive you with awe and joy.**

Hear the good news:

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

✖ PASSING OF THE PEACE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~ THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

✖ HYMN

*Silent Night*

UMH 239

*Joy to the World*

UMH 246

*verses 1&4*

✖ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

ARR. KIM

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**ACOLYTEs:**

3:00

Darby Butler, Juliette Jones, Evans

Brasfield

5:00

Dayton Bills, Lincoln Bills

**PREACHER:**

Rev. Michael Precht

**USHER:**

Head Usher, Mark Woodrow

Tiffany Beasley

**MEDIA:**

Colin Richardson,  
Hackett Robertson

**MUSIC**

Chancel Choir  
Director, Tom Hood  
Accompanist, John Richardson  
Soloist, Jenna Hood

## THIS WEEK

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:30am Traditional Worship  
9:45am Sunday Schools  
11:00am Combined Traditional Worship

\*No Children's Sunday School or Children's Church on 12/28

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

3:00pm Grief Support Group

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

9-11:00am TJ's Food Ministry

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

New Year's Day-Office Closed

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

9-11:00am TJ's Food Ministry

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

8:30am Traditional Worship

9:45am Sunday Schools

11:00am Traditional Worship

11:00am Gathering Worship

2:00pm Discovery Drama Team

### SAVE THE DATE

### Rita Sweatt Speaks | January 7<sup>th</sup>

Rita Sweatt brings the Book of Ruth to life in a moving dramatic monologue. This timeless story highlights Ruth's perseverance and God's enduring faithfulness. The event will be held at 5:45 pm in the CLC Fellowship Hall. Register today using bulletin QR Code or church website.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Elementary Retreat at Blue Lake | Register by Jan. 5

3rd-6th graders are invited to a weekend at Blue Lake, *January 30-February 1*! Register using the bulletin QR code. For more info: Jenna Hood, [jenna.hood@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:jenna.hood@fairhopeumc.org)

### Discovery Weekend | January 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>

Discovery Weekend is a spiritual retreat that helps middle schoolers experience God's love in a fun and meaningful way. This church-wide event relies on many hands. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Miles([students@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:students@fairhopeumc.org))!

### Embrace Alabama Kids | Special December Offertory

Our December communion offering will support

**Embrace Alabama Kids**, a ministry of the United Methodist Church providing safe homes, hope, and healing for children and families across our state. If led to give please use the QR code to donate online.

### College Scholarship Deadline | January 11<sup>th</sup>

Please have your application for the 2026 school year submitted by January 11<sup>th</sup>. For additional information email [scholarships@fairhopeumc.org](mailto:scholarships@fairhopeumc.org)

### District Conference | January 11<sup>th</sup>

FUMC will be hosting the annual gathering of the Southwest District, led by our District Superintendent, Rev. Sheila Bates. This gathering will bring together clergy and laity from across southwestern Alabama for a time of worship, training, and exciting announcements about the shared missions and ministries of the churches in our area.

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MEDICAL PERSONNEL | FIRST RESPONDERS | MILITARY PERSONNEL

**Monthly Finance Report:** Through October, income and expenses remain on track with our 2025 budget. We anticipate ending the year with a small increase in reserves.

## End-of-Year Giving

As we approach the close of the year, we invite you to prayerfully consider your end-of-year gifts to support the ministry and mission of Fairhope UMC. Your generosity helps us finish the year strong and continue sharing Christ's love with our church family and community. All gifts received or postmarked by December 31 will be credited to the 2025 giving year.

If you would like more information about church membership, contact one of our pastors or attend **Coffee with the Pastors on January 11<sup>th</sup> @ 9:45AM in the Christian Life Center Parlor**. Look for directional signs on Sunday morning.

**ONE LINK. ALL THE INFO.** Want to sign up? Volunteer? Register your kids? RSVP for an event? Scan the QR code to access all of Fairhope UMC's resources in one place! Stay in the loop...**SCAN NOW!**



**"LOVE BOLDLY, CASTING THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD"**

REV. MICHAEL PRECHT, SENIOR PASTOR  
DR. KRISTEN CURTIS WRIGHT, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

REV. SHEILA BATES, SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT  
BISHOP L. JONATHAN HOLSTON, ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE

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