

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 21, 2025

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### THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Fantasia on “Adeste Fidelis”

Lani Smith

### GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Michelle & Talmadge Williams, Michael & Addie

CONGREGATION IN UNISON: ... *God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, God of love, into our darkness come.*

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elaine Barber, Liturgist

Leader: In the midst of darkness, God brings a new light.

People: **Thanks be to the God of light.**

Leader: In the midst of confusion and fear, God brings hope and peace.

People: **Thanks be to the God of peace.**

Leader: In the midst of strife and stress, God comforts and soothes us.

People: **Let us praise God who truly loves us and brings us new life. AMEN.**

\*HYMN #179 (see bulletin)

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Arr.: J.W. Peterson/FRENCH CAROL

#### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please join me as we pray together.

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)

*Gracious God, we sing your praises, for your love endures forever. The Virgin Mary bore the ultimate revelation of your divine love, the baby Jesus. And now we thank you for the privilege of bearing your love in the world. We confess that often we have failed you in this commission. At times, we have questioned this call, saying “How can this be?” Other times, we have failed to offer love out of fear of rejection or self-involvement. Send your Holy Spirit upon us. Strengthen us and show us where revealing your love can bring new life.*

*Our prayers continue in silence...*

#### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Know this, that the assurance of our forgiveness has come. “For to us a child is born, unto us a son is given...of the increase of his government, and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.” We have been washed clean through the waters of our baptism.

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

#### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Share the peace of Christ with one another.

\*HYMN #193 (see bulletin)

“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

Sears/Willis

## WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH OFFERINGS AND PRAISE

### CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Hear these words from the prophet Haggai: "I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts, and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts." Trusting in God's abundant provision, let us offer our gifts with generosity.

### THE OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

"Verset 3"

Boëly

#### \*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we remember that we are called to belong to you. As we offer our gifts, we dedicate them to your service and the spread of your good news. May our lives reflect the grace and peace that we are about to receive again through the birth of Baby Jesus. Strengthen us to live lives of faithfulness and to use these offerings for impact across our local community and beyond. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

RELEASE TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH (*5th grade or younger*)

## WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST READING:

Isaiah 7:10-16

#### ANTHEM

"How Far Is It to Bethlehem?"

Harlan

#### SECOND READING:

Matthew 1:18-25

#### SERMON

"Dreams and Circumstances"

Rev. Rick Douylliez

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

*The Nicene Creed*

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

### \*HYMN #182 (*see bulletin*)

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

Montgomery/Smart

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go now into the world, strengthened by God's grace. May your love build bridges, not walls; may it surround hearts so that all may love each other and all creation; and may it sustain your spirits so that you are never afraid to proclaim and live the Gospel. May our actions in the Christmas season ahead become instruments of peace to our world, for Immanuel, God is with us. Amen!

### \*POSTLUDE

"Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern"

August Reinhard

(\*) *We stand as we are able*

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,*

*Love, Kevin, Rhonda, Brenna, Emma and Will Blanton.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ELDERS OF THE MONTH:** Aileen McNair & Melody Jenkins

***Please support FPC with a pledge for 2026. Blank pledge cards can be found in the lobby.***

**Sunday, December 21 at 2:45 p.m. CHRISTMAS VISIT WITH COLQUITT MANOR RESIDENTS**

**Sunday, December 21 at 4 p.m. YOUTH PROGRESSIVE DINNER**

**Monday, December 22 at 5:30 p.m. STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Tuesday, December 23 at 9 a.m. ADVENT STUDY (at Shalom Cafe)**

Tuesday, December 23 from 11:30 am-2 pm PRAYER & REFLECTION

Wednesday, December 24 *office will close at noon*

**Wednesday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION**

Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26 – *office closed*

**Sunday, December 28 – FINAL DEADLINE for year-end giving**

Tuesday, December 30 from 11:30 am-2 pm PRAYER & REFLECTION

Wednesday, December 31 at 1 p.m. office closes for New Year's Eve, closed Jan. 1 & 2

**Sunday, January 4 Called Session Meeting & Congregational Meeting to elect Nominating Committee**

## **SANCTUARY OPEN TUESDAY FOR PRAYER & INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION**

Set aside a few minutes for prayer & reflection in the sanctuary on Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., now through Jan. 6th.

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: COME SING CAROLS WITH US THIS AFTERNOON**

The Presbyterian Women will be delivering Christmas presents to the residents at The Homestead at Colquitt Manor assisted living facility on Sunday afternoon, December 21st. We will deliver Christmas bags, sing some Christmas carols, and visit with the residents to brighten their day. We invite the congregation to join us in the project. All ages are welcome! Please meet in the church parking lot at 2:45 on the 21st. We will carpool to the residence because parking at the facility is limited.

## **2026 FLOWER CHART**

Holly Beard is working on the flower chart for 2026. If you are interested in a particular Sunday, please call or text her at 229-798-0669. ***Dates will be first come, first serve.***

## **WATCH SUPPERS**

***SUPPERS WILL RESUME WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14***