

First Presbyterian Church

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT *HOPE*

The Life Dwelt Among Us

December 3, 2023

8:30 & 11 a.m.

706.262.8900 • firstpresaugusta.org

COMMENDING THE GREATNESS OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST
TO ALL PEOPLES AND ALL GENERATIONS

Prelude—Savior of the Nations, Come J. S. Bach
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence..... arr. J. Cotter
See hymn 193 to meditate on the lyrics.

***Preparation for Worship**—Carol of the Drum..... K. Davis
Chancel Choir

We invite you to use this time to quietly prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

Come, they told me (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
A newborn king to see (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
Our finest gifts we bring (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
To lay before the king (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
(Rum-pa-pum-pum, rum-pa-pum-pum)
So, to honor him (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
When we come.

Little baby (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
I am a poor boy too (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
I have no gifts to bring (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
That's fit to give a king (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
(Rum-pa-pum-pum, rum-pa-pum-pum)
Shall I play for you (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
On my drum?

Mary nodded (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
The ox and lamb kept time (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
I played my drum for him (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
I played my best for him (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
(Rum-pa-pum-pum, rum-pa-pum-pum)
Then, He smiled at me (pa-rum-pa-pum-pum)
Me and my drum.

†Call to Worship Isaiah 9; John 1

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

The one true God graciously invites us into his presence to worship him in spirit and in truth, and we eagerly respond in faith. This begins a dialogue which will continue to the end of the service as God initiates with us, and we respond to him.

All: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

Leader: In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

All: We have seen Christ's glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Leader: Let us worship God!

***†Hymn of Praise**—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel..... VENI EMMANUEL, HYMN #194
Sung by all Stanzas #1, 3, 4, 5

† Indicates the congregation standing. *Ushers may seat worshipers at this time.

†Invocation

Advent Candle Lighting and Scripture Reading (Hope)

8:30 a.m. The Downs Family
Judy and George

11 a.m. The Battle Family
Mary and Julian; Jethro, Silas, Sylvie

†Response—O Little Town of Bethlehem

Sung by all

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.**

Corporate Confession of Sin *(please kneel if able to do so)*

**Eternal God, you have rescued us from deep darkness and brought us into your glorious light. We were trapped in spiritual blindness and spiritual death. But now, because your son has been born and given to us, we have eternal joy, peace, and security.
Right now and forever you reign in glory, majesty, compassion, power, and justice. All kings, rulers, governments, and powers are pawns in your omnipotent hands. Yet, we refuse to believe that you are the eternal King, almighty God, tender Shepherd, and good Father.**

**We stress over world events. We fret over our circumstances. We are afraid. We fail to abide in the shalom you provide, and we fail to live at peace with one another.
Forgive us for our unbelief. Forgive us for our worry. Forgive us for our attempts to control. Forgive us for our small view of you. Forgive us for our misplaced trust in gods who cannot save or provide.
Cause us to rejoice in the salvation that is ours in Jesus Christ, God with us. Give us the gift of faith, and cause us to rest in your great power, goodness, wisdom, and grace. Amen.**

Personal Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardoning Grace 1 John 1:5-7

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Having confessed our sins, the minister declares a gospel promise assuring that God forgives us because Christ has fully atoned for all the sins of those who truly repent. Divine mercy frees us from our guilt and shame.

†Response—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Sung by all

**Hark! the herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Hail! the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail! the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild He lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King”**

†Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

All: 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.

Passing of The Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Having been reminded that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, in response to God’s grace, we gladly extend the peace of the gospel to one another.



NEW HERE?

- Scan the QR code to:
- Let us know you are a guest
 - Find out more about First Pres
 - Request prayer

Giving As an Act of Worship

Additional Ways to Give

- Online via the app or QR code above
- Text “Give \$” followed by the gift amount to 706.550.6813
- Mail checks to 615 Telfair Street, Augusta, Georgia, 30901

With grateful hearts for God’s extravagant mercy and blessing, we joyfully present our offerings to the Lord for the ministry of our church and community.

Dismissal of Children:

- 8:30 & 11 a.m. Children in Pre-K through 4th grade exit for catechism.

†Hymn of Preparation—My Savior Left His Throne Above
Sung by all

1. My Sav - ior left his throne a - bove, ex - changed his wealth for
2. He felt the storms of hu - man pain, he felt temp - ta - tion's
3. He kept the Fath - er's ev - 'ry word; the Law he fol - lowed
4. When Je - sus left his heav'n - ly home, his face was set on

pov - er - ty; He took my hate, and gave his love, all this and more he
whel - ming seas, He felt the tears of sor - row's rain, all this and more he
per - fect - ly; So all God's plea - sure he se - cured, all this and more he
Cal - va - ry, The steep - est hill he climbed a - lone, all this and more he

did for me. Be - cause he chose the low - ly way, and bowed be - fore his
felt for me. Be - cause he knows my ev - 'ry strife, and is ac - quain - ted
earned for me. Be - cause his right - eous life is mine, and all his mer - its
did for me. Be - cause he died once for all time, and bore the curse of

Fath - er's will, I can with all as - sur - ance say, "My God is near and
with my grief, I can't be sha - ken in this life: The Friend of sin - ners
now I own, I am a child of God on high; I am a - dop - ted,
death and hell, Fi - nal for - give - ness here is mine; So it is fin - ished,

loves me still. My God is near and loves me still."
walks with me; the Friend of sin - ners walks with me
loved, and known; I am a - dop - ted, loved, and known.
all is well; Yes, it is fin - ished, all is well.

Julie Vargas | Zac Hicks

New Testament Lesson John 1:1-4, 14; 1 John 1:1-4
pages 1053 and 1210 in the pew Bible

Response

Leader: This is the Word of God.

All: Thanks be to you, O God.

Sermon—The Secret in Life Dr. Michael Hearon

- ## 1. Fellowship with the Father

- ## 2. Favor from the Father

- ### 3. Family of the Father

The Lord's Supper

†Hymn of Response—Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus..... HYFRYDOL, HYMN #196

*Sung by all Stanzas 1–2 before the Lord's Supper
Stanzas 3–4 after the Lord's Supper*

†Benediction

Postlude—Toccata on VENI EMMANUEL P. Long

We invite you to join us for worship this evening and our Love Gift Celebration at 6 p.m.