

First Presbyterian Church

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA



CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRIST

GOD DWELT AMONG US

December 24, 2023
3 & 5 p.m.

642 Telfair Street • Augusta, Georgia 30901
706.262.8900 • firstpresaugusta.org

Leading the Services
Rev. John Franks, 3 p.m.
Dr. Mike Phillips, 5 p.m.

Pre-K and older remain in the service.

***Prelude—Christmas Carol Medley**

Brass Quintet, Organ, and Percussion

Meditation—Ding! Dong! Merrily on High..... arr. H. Helvey

Grayson & Leigh Fleury, piano duet

†The Call to Worship.....from St. Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-440)

Leader: Let sinners rejoice,	All: For their Savior is born.
Leader: Let the just rejoice,	All: For their Justifier is born.
Leader: Let the sick and infirm rejoice,	All: For their Great Physician is born.
Leader: Let the captives rejoice,	All: For their Redeemer is born.
Leader: Let the slaves rejoice,	All: For their Master is born.
Leader: Let the free men rejoice,	All: For their Liberator is born.
Leader: Let all Christians rejoice,	All: For Jesus Christ is born.
Leader: The Lord be with you.	All: And with your spirit.
Leader: Let us worship God!	

***†Carol of Praise—O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELIS, HYMN #208**
Sung by all

†Invocation

Advent Candle Lighting (Christ)

3 p.m..... The Morris Family
Hardi and Joseph; Joby, Bear, Ada Mae, Savannah Grace

5 p.m. The Richardson Family
Katy and Jay; Ellie Claire, Jay, Mary Louise

We light the Advent candles and read Scripture in celebration of our Savior's birth. The three purple candles represent Hope, Love, and Peace, and the pink candle represents the Joy that is ours because of Christ's coming into the world and into our hearts and lives. The white candle in the center of the wreath is lit on Christmas Eve and represents the birth of Jesus. This tradition, dating back to A.D. 600, reminds us that the center of the Church and the center of our Christmas celebration is Christ Jesus.

†Advent Response—Good Christian Men, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO, HYMN #207
Sung by all

**Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

Christmas Video

The Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 65:17-25
Page 742 in the pew Bible

*"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.*

*But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.*

*I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people;
no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.*

*No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not fill out his days,
for the young man shall die a hundred years old,
and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.*

They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

*They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*

*They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD,
and their descendants with them.*

*Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
and dust shall be the serpent's food.*

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

Response

Leader: The grass withers and the flowers fall,

All: But the Word of our God stands forever.

†**Carol**—Infant Holy, Infant Lowly W ZLOBIE LEZY, HYMN #216
Sung by all

Homily—Heaven, Our Eternal Home Dr. Michael Hearon
John 1:14; Revelation 21:1-8
Pages 1053 and 1233 in the pew Bible

†Carol—Go, Tell It on the MountainGO TELL IT, HYMN #224
Sung by all

The Lighting of the Candles—O Holy NightA. Adam
Melissa Schultz, 3 p.m.
Tacy Fleury, 5 p.m.

†Carol—Silent NightSTILLE NACHT, HYMN #210
Sung by all Stanzas 1, 3, & 4

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels, let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

†Benediction (Please lift hands)

Postlude—Symphony No. 5, ToccataC.M. Widor

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

December 31, 2023

Morning Services
8:30 & 11 a.m.

No Sunday School

Evening Service
6 p.m.

New Year's Eve Fellowship
7-8:30 p.m.

January 7, 2024

Morning Services
8:30 & 11 a.m.

Parish Breakfast
9:45 a.m.

Evening Service
6 p.m.