

First Presbyterian Church

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA



The Lord's Day Morning Worship

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT *Joy*

December 22, 2024

8:30 & 11 a.m.

Welcome!

We are so glad you are worshipping with us today! We'd like to get to know you better, so please visit the Welcome Desk located in the Commons.



Scan the QR code to:

- Let us know you are a guest
- Find out more about First Pres
- Request prayer

Prelude—Celtic Toccata (Angels We Have Heard on High).....G. Macchia
Tidings of Great Joy. arr. T. Biddle
Emily Blom, violin; Jo Long, piano

***Preparation for Worship**—Fum, Fum, Fum..... arr. P. Kern
Chancel Choir

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

On December five and twenty, Fum, Fum, Fum.
On the day that Christ was born we sing with joy this happy morn.
With the bells of heaven ringing, all the angels now are singing, Fum, Fum, Fum.

Come ye birds from out the forest, Fum, Fum, Fum.
You're invited all to bring your praises to the King.
Come and sing your happy chorus for the Savior laid before us, Fum, Fum, Fum.

Stars that twinkle in the sky sing, "Fum, Fum, Fum."
Come and shine upon the child so meek and mild.

He's a Savior who is crying, for our sins he will be dying, Fum, Fum, Fum, Fum, Fum!
With the bells, all the angels sing. Hear the bells as they ring and the angels who sing on Christmas Day! Christmas Day!

†Call to Worship..... from Galatians 4:4-7 & John 3:16

Leader: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

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 God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

***†Hymn of Praise**—Angels, We Have Heard on High GLORIA, HYMN #214
Sung by all

†Invocation

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

Advent Candle Lighting and Scripture Reading (Joy)

8:30 a.m.

The Collier Family (Sanctuary)
Jordan & Meagan; Emmy, Harper, Gibson, Walter

The Rogers Family (St. Andrews Hall)
Alan & April; George, Patrick, Sam

11 a.m.

The Albanese Family (Sanctuary)
Zach & Caroline; Oliver, Hazel, Camille, Theodore

Response—While by the Sheep, We Watched at Night JUNGST HYMN #215
Sung by all Stanzas 1, 2 & 4

**While by the sheep we watched at night,
glad tidings brought an angel bright.**

Refrain:
How great our joy!
Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy!
Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

**There shall be born, so he did say,
in Bethlehem a child today. [Refrain]**

**This gift of God we'll cherish well,
that ever joy our hearts shall fill. [Refrain]**

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

O Christ our Savior, the Word made flesh.
You rent the heavens and came down to destroy the works of the devil, and
make us new creations in Christ.
But we have failed to resist the evil one, put off the old man with his deeds, or
renounce the works of the flesh. Please forgive us.
You are King of Kings but we have tried to rule our own lives. Please forgive us.
You came to seek and save the lost, but we have shown little regard for the
eternal souls of your image bearers. Please forgive us.
You came that we might have abundant life, but we have sought fulfillment in
cheap counterfeits and worthless idols. Please forgive us.
You have come to bear witness to the truth, but we have trusted the lies of the
evil one. Please forgive us.
You have come to call sinners to repentance. We repent and receive your mercy.
You came to give your life as a ransom for many, redeeming those who were
under the law. We offer our lives to you and desire to walk in newness of life.
You came to dispel the darkness. We no longer want to walk in darkness.
You came to do the will of your father; we ask for grace to do his will too.
In the name of Jesus, Immanuel our Savior, we pray. Amen.

Personal Confession of Sin

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

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—Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne Above

Sung by all

**Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy
kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem’s home was there
found no room
For Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.**

**Thou camest, O Lord, with the living
word
That should set Thy people free;
But with mocking scorn, and with
crown of thorn,
They bore Thee to Calvary.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.**

†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.**

Offering

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.

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.

Dismissal of Children:

- 8:30 a.m. Pre-K through 3rd grade exit.
- 11 a.m. Pre-K and kindergarten exit.

*|Hymn of Preparation—See Amid the Winter's Snow
Sung by all



1. See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,
2. Lo, with - in a man - ger lies, he who built the star - ry skies:
3. Sac - red in - fant, all di - vine, what a ten - der love was thine,
4. Teach, O teach us ho - ly child, by thy face so meek and mild,



see the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
he who, throned in height sub - lime, sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
thus to come from high - est bliss down to such a world as this!
teach us to re - sem - ble thee, in thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

Refrain



Hail, thou ev - er - bless ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

E. Caswall, J Goss

Old Testament Lesson Micah 5:4-15
Page 926 in the pew Bible

Response

Leader: This is the Word of God.

All: Thanks be to you, O God.

Sermon—The Ruler from Bethlehem, Part 2.....Dr. John Franks

- 1. Chastisement for Sin (v. 1)
- 2. Consolation from God (v. 2)
- 3. Characteristics of King Jesus (vv. 2-5)
- 4. Consequence of His Coming (vv. 5-15)

What ultimate difference does Christmas make for followers of Jesus?

†Hymn of Response—Once in Royal David's City.....IRBY HYMN #225
Sung by all Stanzas 1 and 2 before the Lord's Supper
 Stanzas 4 and 5 after the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper

†Benediction

Postlude—Magnificat: Gloria M. Dupré

Celebrate Advent With Us!

Tonight

*Andrew Peterson's Behold the Lamb of God
Livestream Premiere performance at 6 p.m.
filmed at the historic Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, TN.*

*Come at 5 p.m. to hear additional songs from touring artists
and to help prepare your heart for the concert. This opening set
has become a highlight of the tour over the past 25 years.
You won't be disappointed if you arrive early!*

Christmas Eve Family Service
3 and 5 p.m.