

First Presbyterian Church

Serving Christ in Milledgeville

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061
478-452-9394; fpchurch@windstream.net; www.fpcmilledgevilleorg
Like us on Facebook

DECEMBER 8, 2024

advent worship

WORDS

FOR THE BEGINNING

— WE CAN'T GO ALONE —



This quilt square is called a “log cabin”, and is meant to symbolize that together we can hold one another up and make something better.

Followers of Christ, called to serve our community and be an actively-engaging light to the world.

We live into our faith, inspired by our worship, encouraged by our fellowship, empowered by our studies. As a Matthew 25 Congregation, we answer the call to provide food and shelter to those in need. As a More Light Presbyterians Congregation, we provide a safe and affirming worshipping community for LGBTQIA+ persons, celebrating the uniqueness and dignity of each person as they seek a home for their faith and confidence in the promises of God for them.

December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent
Come, Long-Awaited Savior

David Paxton

PRELUDE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are delighted that you have joined us this Lord's Day. If you'd like to learn more about our mission and ministry, we invite you to speak to Rev. Susan. Restrooms & changing table are at the end of the hall to the left. Thank you for being with us!

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT

Recall the truth

John Baptiste Calkin

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In a world that is lonely,

Congregation: we will save a seat for you.

Leader: In a world that is anxious,

Congregation: we will light candles against the gloom.

Leader: In a world that is weary,

Congregation: we will sing songs of joy and truth.

Leader: I am not alone.

Congregation: We are not alone.

Leader: For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

Congregation: Light the candles! Sing with joy! We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

ADVENT WREATH

Leader: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Congregation: Let us begin together. Let us begin arm in arm. Let us begin by holding each other up, instead of tearing each other down. Let us begin with words of peace.

Leader: Yes, let us begin with peace. Today we light the candles of hope and peace.

Congregation: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights mark a new beginning. May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.

Leader: Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side. May we begin again. Amen.

*HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

CALL TO CONFESSION

Family of faith, one of the beautiful things about the prayer of confession is it is a prayer we say together. There are times when we close our eyes, bow our heads, and exchange private words with our Creator. But there are other times when praying out loud as a community allows us to right our relationship with God and with one another as well. This is one of those moments. So as a community, please join me in our call and response prayer of confession. Join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in practicing grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: *I have tried to make my own way. I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith. I have said a thousand times, "turn back," as if I am fine on my own. But the days are long and I am forgetful. I need your help. Can you remind me?*

Congregation: We will remind you of this everlasting truth: You are not alone. Where you go, God goes. You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.

Leader: *Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.*

Congregation: Now we need your help. We, too, have tried to make our own way. We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths. We have said a thousand times, "turn back," as

if we are fine on our own. But the days are long and we are forgetful. We need your help. Can you remind us?

Leader: *I will remind you of this everlasting truth: You are not alone. Where you go, God goes. You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.*

Congregation: Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe. Alleluia! Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

CHORAL RESPONSE
GLORIA PATRI

In every age

John Baptiste Calkin
HYMN NO. 581

***Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end!
Amen, amen***

PEACE

SERMON
INVITATION TO OFFERING

Away From a Manger

Youth Group



Gracious God, may we, by your Holy Spirit, share love through our gifts. Take the gifts we will receive and help others flourish through our giving. In Jesus' name, Amen. You may present your offering at the front of the sanctuary, or if you prefer to contribute electronically, you can do so using the PayPal QR Code in your bulletin or visit our website at fpcmilledgeville.org.



Scan. Pay. Go.

OFFERTORY
*DOXOLOGY

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Edward Broughton

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Mary Marple Thies

Gracious God, you have shown your great love for your children by using commonplace things for your purpose- water to mark you children, bread and wine to feed and nurture us ordinary people to be disciples, a child in a manger to announce your grace. Take these commonplace things, these gifts of paper and metal and the lives that stand behind them. Bless and use them to proclaim your gracious love, for we offer them in the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 115

Away in a Manger

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Go in Peace. AMEN!

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Both you and I are intertwined*

John Baptiste Calkin

POSTLUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Lani Smith

The flowers today were given to the glory of God.

Liturgy written by Reverend Sarah Are Speed, Sanctified Art. Sermon by the youth written by The Skit Guys.



Cast of Characters

STAGE MANAGER	Astrid Callender
LAMB	Emily Bradley
GABE	Uriel Nwonkwo
MARY	Masoma Odihe
STAR	Maxime Tchamna
WISE MAN	Nathan Tchamna
SHEPHERD	TeriAnne Bradley
MRS. JENNINGS	HannahNwonko

Characters of a church Christmas pageant are thrown into investigative turmoil as their “baby Jesus” nursery doll comes up missing after an untimely power outage. Accusations soar and secrets are revealed as the cast sets out to find the true ‘leading role’ before the curtain opens!



CHURCH FAMILY:

Wesley Applebury, cancer recurrence and treatment, attending seminary in Atlanta, **Columbia Theological Seminary, D. Wesley Applebury, Box 289, 701 S. Columbia Dr., Decatur, GA 30030**
Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns
Ellen Thompson, waiting on double hip replacement

LIMITED MOBILITY

Helen Danuser

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Ivester with serious health issues
Mark Archer, Sunda Coleman's brother-in-law, hip replacement, recovering at home
Julie Balfour, Susan Balfour's sister, ongoing health issues
Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns
Nick Carruthers, Sunda Coleman's great nephew, recovering from car accident in hospital
Blake Connolly, Mary Lucik's great grandson, ongoing health concerns
Taylor Croghan, Craig Callender's niece, EDS diagnosis
Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer
Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer
Kathy Hall, Gini Wilkerson's mother, knee replacement surgery
Marshall Hodgman, Donna Gautier's son, recovering from heart surgery at home
Alonzo Kelley, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melanoma
Velma Kelley, Craig Callender's grandmother, ongoing health concerns
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns
Donald Lucik, Mary Lucik's son, recovering from back surgery
Charles Morgan, Jenifer Flory's father, in rehab center following surgery
Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues- at Carlyle House in Macon
Paul Orman, Barbra Orman's husband, ongoing health concerns
Ambriea Pearson, Sunda Coleman's granddaughter, ongoing health concerns
Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis
Shaylee Pearson, Sunda's great-granddaughter, ongoing health concerns
Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns
Gloria Roberts, Bill Werts' cousin, recovering from a traumatic fall
Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis
Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, ongoing health concerns
Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns
Ike Thomas, ongoing cancer treatments
Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, at home in hospice care
Wayne Woodard, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

IN ASSISTED LIVING

George and Nan Carpenter, PO Box 527, Jefferson, GA 30549
Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Nancy Holbrook, The Dublin Place, 504 Fire Tower Rd, Dublin GA 31021
Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Runette Pounds, Oaks at Lake Wildwood, Rm 109, 6191 Peake Rd, Macon, GA 31220
Suzy Smith, The Haven, 1061 Willow Run Rd., Unit 4, Greensboro GA 30642

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: December 8- December 15

Today	9:30	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Joint Worship with The Bridge UMC
	12:00	Chili Cook Off
	7:30	MSG Concert
Monday	6:30	PFLAG
Tuesday	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
Wednesday	6:30	Pot Luck and Bible Study
	6:30	The Bridge UMC Women Bible Study
Thursday	2:00	FPC Book Club @ Dick & Arlene's
	6:00	IOBI
Saturday	6:30	PFLAG Holiday Movie
Sunday	9:30	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
	12:00	Youth Group
	1:00	The Bridge UMC Worship
	5:00	PW Bible Study @ Mary Baker's



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



To give by phone, call 800-872-3283. To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to: Presbyterian Church (USA), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Offerings in December	\$4,451.00
Anticipated December expenses:	\$21,014.00
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)	



Join us for worship in-person, online at Facebook Live or on the radio at 102.3 WKZR radio every week.

Sunday: 9:30AM **Zoom Sunday School Class**, we are studying *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann*
www.Zoom.com, Meeting ID: 852 8172 1781
Passcode: 085809

Fellowship Sunday School Class, studying *Living the Resurrection* by Eugene H. Peterson, meeting in the Parlor Room

10:15AM **Children's Sunday School Class**, singing, crafts and stories, meeting in the Craft Room Upstairs

Wednesday: 6:30PM **Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study**, studying Letters to the Romans, meeting in the Fellowship Hall

To Be Known

WALTHAM 8.8.8.8

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

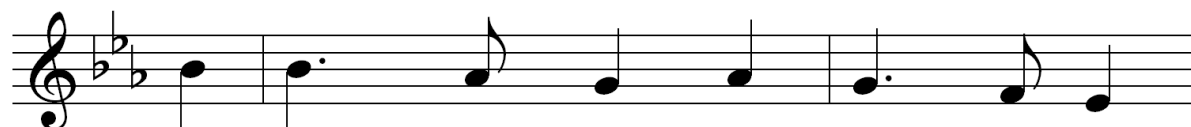
Music by John Baptiste Calkin, 1872



Re - call the truth that we once knew:
For in the gar - den God de - clared
In ev - ery age hu - man - i - ty
Both you and I are in - ter - twined



We were not made for sol - i - tude
That our brief lives on earth be shared
Re - lied on mu - tu - al - i - ty
The warp and weft of hu - man - kind



We need com - mun - i - ties of faith
With part - ners, friends, and fam - i - ly
Our God - breathed spi - rits weren't de - signed
So please don't try to go a - lone



Where we can feel God's warm em - brace
Who hold us in our joy and grief
To be di - vid - ed and con - fined
Your hu - man heart needs to be known

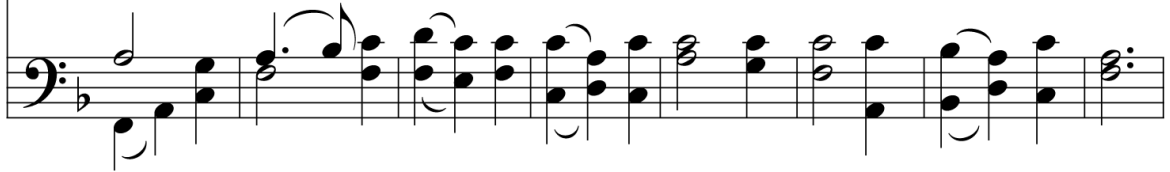
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.



With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

115

Away in a Manger

Capo 3: (D) F (G) B \flat (D) F

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(A7) C7 (D) F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(G) B \flat (D) F

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(A7) C7 (D) F (Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Though erroneously attributed to Martin Luther, this anonymous carol has North American roots, probably originating among Pennsylvania Lutherans. Although more than forty melodies have been connected with these words, this tune was among the earliest written for them.