

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 24, 2024 AT 5:30 PM

Christmas Eve

WORDS

FOR THE BEGINNING

— LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME —

*First
Presbyterian
Church*
OF MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA

**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 24, 2024
Christmas Eve
Words for the beginning: Love knows your name

PRELUDE *A Rose E'er Blooming* Evelyn R. Larter
Gesù Bambino Peter A. Yon
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring J.S. Bach

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. Thank you for being with us!

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT *O Holy Night*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In those days, in the beginning, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. He was to be registered, and she was expecting a child. The time came for Mary to give birth, so she delivered her child, wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger.

Congregation: And the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace to all whom God favors."

Leader: Let us worship our with-us God.

Congregation: Let us sing songs of praise!

*HYMN 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (Vs. 1,3,4)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace— We are leaning forward. We are craning our necks, straining to hear a murmur of the angels' song, or an echo of a gloria. We always long for you, but on this night, on this holy Christmas Eve, we long for you to feel as close as possible. So as we prepare to hear this ancient story once again, we ask that you would awaken something new in us. Awaken in us a fire for your Word. Awaken in us proof of your proximity. Awaken in us your love, which is bigger than the sky, and as close as our very breath. We are listening. We give thanks. Amen.

ANTHEM *Of the Father's Love Begotten* arr. Arlen Clarke

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 9:2-7 Pew Bible Page #
GOSPEL Matthew 1:1-18 OT P 638
NT P 1

SERMON Reverend Susan Balfour

*HYMN 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Vs. 1, 4)

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING (see insert)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM *Gabriel's Message* arr. Tony Alonso

***Please stand as you are able.**

READING Luke 2:1-20
 HYMN 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Vs. 1, 3 and 4) arr. Richard Proulx
 READING Luke 2:21-35
 HYMN 145 *What Child Is This* (Choir only on vs. 2) arr. Malcolm Archer
 READING Luke 2:36-40

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING



Scan. Pay. Go.

Loving Christ, when the shepherds heard that you were born, they dropped their things and ran. They trusted the angels' invitation. They believed that your love existed for them. Remind us that your love is personal and specific. Remind us that the good news of this day is for us. As we celebrate your birth and wait for your coming again, we bring the offerings of our lives before you. 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 or website QR Code in your bulletin.



OFFERTORY *Still, Still, Still* arr. Edward Eicker
 *PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

God of every good and perfect gift, the angels are singing: unto you a child is born. It is a love that is personal. It is a love that knows your name. In this season when so many gifts are given and received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we offer now. Use them according to your purposes and plans, bringing your good news of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

READING Genesis 1:1-5

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

HYMN 122 *Silent Night* (Vs. 1-3) arr. Tim Sharp
 READING 1John 1:1-5, 14
 *CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Go in Peace. AMEN!
 *HYMN 134 *Joy to the World* (Vs. 1, 4) arr. Richard Proulx
 POSTLUDE *The Trumpet Shall Sound* G.F. Handel, arr. Harrison Oxley

We thank the following musicians helping us worship today:

*Elise Naber-Allen, flute
 Andrew Allen, saxophone
 Cliff Towner, trumpet
 Allison Ryder, soprano
 Sara McDonald, soprano
 Tyler Harris, tenor
 Jacob McDonald, bass*

Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Pastor, Rev. Susan Balfour, revsebalfour@gmail.com
 Children & Youth, vacant
 Admin. Asst., Lois Callender, fpchurch@windstream.net
 Music Director, Dr. Jennifer Flory, jennifer.flory@gcsu.edu
 Organist, Kate Phillips
 Treasurer, Joel Burns

OFFICE HOURS

9am ~ 1pm M-Fri.

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS

10am ~ 1pm, Tues.-Fri.

If you would like to schedule an appt. with Rev. Susan, please call the office (478) 452-9394.



MORE LIGHT
 PRESBYTERIANS



CHURCH STAFF



Radio Ministry
 WKZR (102.3FM)

Under the Palm

Podcast: <https://anchor.fm/susan-balfour0>



Lord, hear our prayers

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

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 Connly, 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, Jennifer Flory's father, back in hospital

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 Coleman'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

Suzu Smith, The Haven, 1061 Willow Run Rd., Unit 4, Greensboro, GA 30642

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: December 24- December 29

Today 11:00 AM The Bridge UMC Worship
5:30 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday- Friday Office Closed

Sunday 9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Children's Sunday School
11:00 Worship
12:00 Milly Free Fridge Service Opportunity

Offerings December:	\$20,821.90
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*



MATTHEW 25

Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann

www.Zoom.com, Meeting ID: 871 5078 2729

Passcode: 881336

Fellowship Sunday School Class, studying *Who Needs God* by Harold Kushner Meeting in the Fellowship Sunday School Room

10:15 AM **Children's Sunday School Class**, songs, prayers and stories, Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you

Congregation: And also with you

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy...

... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy

552

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D)
F C F B^b C F

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(A) (D/F[#]) (F[#]m) (G) (A) (Bm)
C F/A Am B^b C Dm

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: American folk melody; adapt. Marcia Pruner, 1980; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Adapt. © 1980 Church Pension Fund

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

LAND OF REST

According to Christ's commandment: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory...

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SERVICE MUSIC

553 Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G)(A) (D) (A) (D/F#)(F#m)
 F C F B^b C F C F/A Am

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

(G) (A)(Bm) (G) (D) (A)(Bm) (Em7) (A)(Dsus)(D)
 B^b C Dm B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text

MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

LAND OF REST

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Silent Night, Holy Night

1 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.

2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born. Christ the Savior is born!

3 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.

Joy to the World!

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders, of His love.

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; Sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid, Whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 come, a - dore on bend ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a


in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - -

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!


145

What Child Is This


Choir only



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.