

First Presbyterian Church



*210 S. Wayne Street Milledgeville, GA 31061
(478) 452-9394, milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com*

**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 worshiping 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, 2025
Christmas Eve Service

PRELUDE

A Rose E'er Blooming
Gesù Bambino
Zion Hears the Watchmen Singing

arr. Evelyn R. Larter
Pietro A. Yon
Johann Sebastian Bach

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Word has become flesh and dwells among us, full of grace and truth.

Congregation: We rejoice in Christ, the Light of the World!

We are delighted that you have joined us this Holy Day. If you'd like to learn more about our mission and ministry, we invite you to speak to the Pastor or an Elder.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Bradley Family

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy and Merciful God, our hearts overflow with awe and gratitude. We confess the magnitude of your love, which brought you low to lift us high. May the brilliance of the Christ Candle illuminate the truth in our lives and inspire us to carry the Light of Christ into every corner of the world. Amen.

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

arr. Richard Proulx

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ANTHEM

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

arr. John Finney

LESSON 1: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Carrie Cook

CAROL 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (v. 1-2)

LESSON 2: Luke 1:26-38

Jan Hoffman

CAROL 145 *What Child Is This* (v.1 congregation, v.2 choir)

arr. Malcolm Archer

LESSON 3: Luke 2:1-7

Glory Nwonkonta

ANTHEM

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

arr. Andrew Risinger

LESSON 4: Luke 2:8-20

Elisa Naber Allen

CAROL 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

LESSON 5: John 1:1-5, 14

Becky Humphrey

CAROL 119 *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

arr. Richard Proulx

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO OFFERING



From the fullness of God we have all received grace upon grace. Let us offer our lives to the Lord. 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

In The Bleak Mid-Winter

arr. Mark Schweizer

*DOXOLOGY

*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!*

SEALING GOD'S WORD

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

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.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

Holy, Holy, Holy

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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.

Great is the mystery of faith....

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.

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

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

CANDLELIGHTING

*HYMN 122 *Silent Night, Holy Night* (v. 1-3)

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*HYMN 134 *Joy to the World* (v.1, 4)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Only Son from Heaven

Johann Sebastian Bach

Liturgy provided by Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts, and is used with permission.

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,

Lord, hear our prayers

CHURCH FAMILY:

Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns

Nan Carpenter, ongoing health concerns

Sunda Coleman, recovering from surgery after a fall

Louise Sallstrom, recovering at Lynn Haven Health and Rehabilitation in Gray, Georgia

Ellen Thompson, recovering from a broken hip at home

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns

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

Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns

Taylor Croghan, Craig Callender's niece, EDS diagnosis

Don Goggans, Elaine Goggans' son, stage four cancer

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

Charles Morgan, Jennifer Flory's father, ongoing health concerns

Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, ongoing health issues- at Carlyle House in Macon

John J. Murphy, Kathy Carroll's father, recovering from kidney operation

Paul Orman, Barbara Orman's husband, ongoing health concerns

Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis

Renee Pearson, Sunda Coleman's daughter-in-law, diagnosed with congestive heart failure, at home

Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns

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

Nan Carpenter, PO Box 527, Jefferson, GA 30549

Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Laura King, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive

Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Runette Pounds, in hospital, moving soon to Fellowship Home

Suzu Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210

Nursery Volunteers

December 28 ~ Susan McGill/ Margaret Ivester

Liturgist

December 28 ~ Ruby Werts

December 24 ~ Andrew Allen



THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: December 24-28

Wednesday	5:30	Christmas Eve Service
Saturday	7:30	NA Meeting
Sunday	9:45	Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
	12:00	Milly Free Fridge

The Church Office will be open from 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Monday and Tuesday next week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bicentennial Christmas Ornaments are available for sale before worship or in the Church Office. The cost is 1 for \$15 or 2 for \$25. All proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to support the Bicentennial celebration in 2026.

Offerings in December \$ 18,307.55
Anticipated December expenses: \$21,014.00
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)

**Join us for worship in-person or online
on Facebook Live every week.**



9:45 AM Sunday School Class (meets in Betty Newton Campbell parlor), we are studying *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently* by Amy Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. Please contact Joel Burns, joeldburns@gmail.com if you are interested in attending via Zoom.

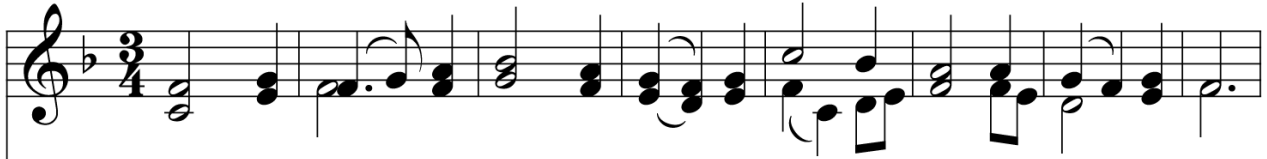
Sunday: 9:45 AM Fellowship Sunday School Class (meets in small room next to office at end of hall), studying *Being a Presbyterian in the Bible Belt* by Ted V. Foote Jr. & P. Alex Thornburg.

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

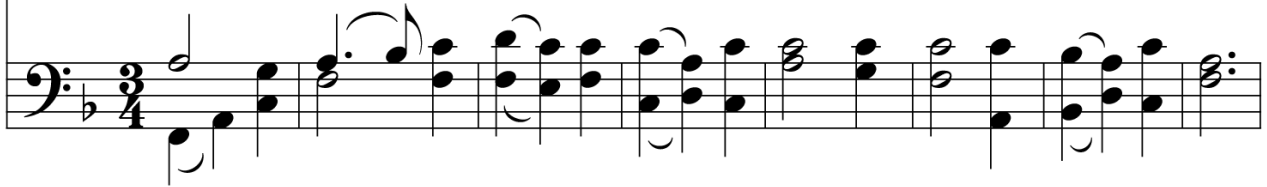
Sunday: 12:00PM Youth Group (Youth Room)

Wednesday: 6:30PM Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study, studying *Uppity Women of the Bible* by Hebrew Bible professor Dr. Lisa Wolfe, (meeting in the Fellowship Hall).

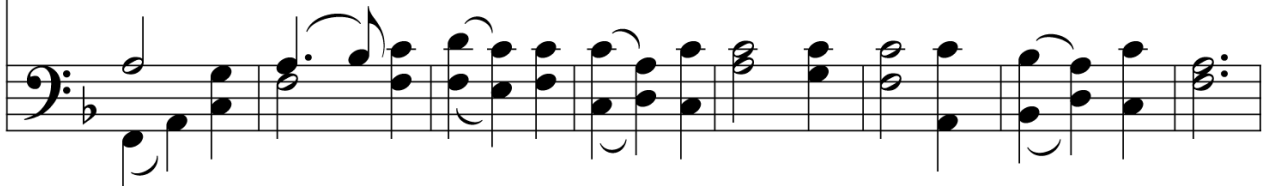
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



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.



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What Child Is This



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.



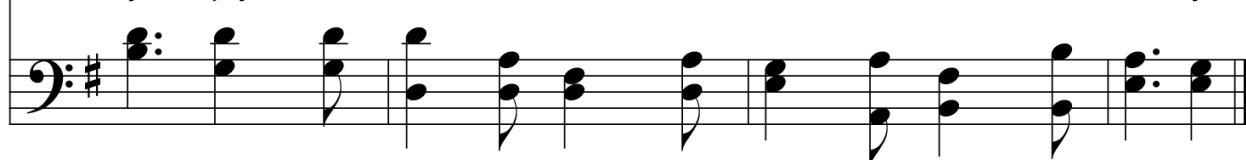
Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
 The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



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!



113 Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth-le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.



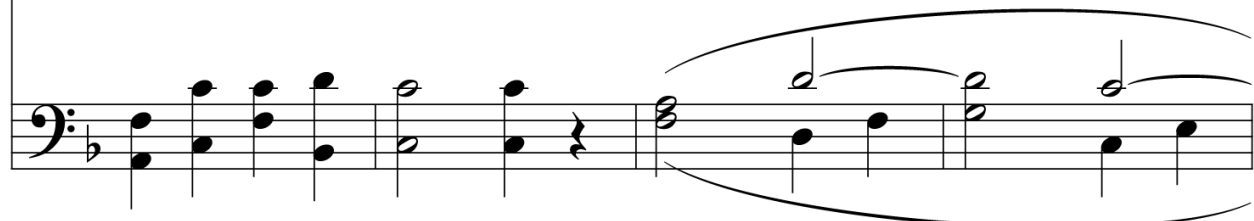
Refrain



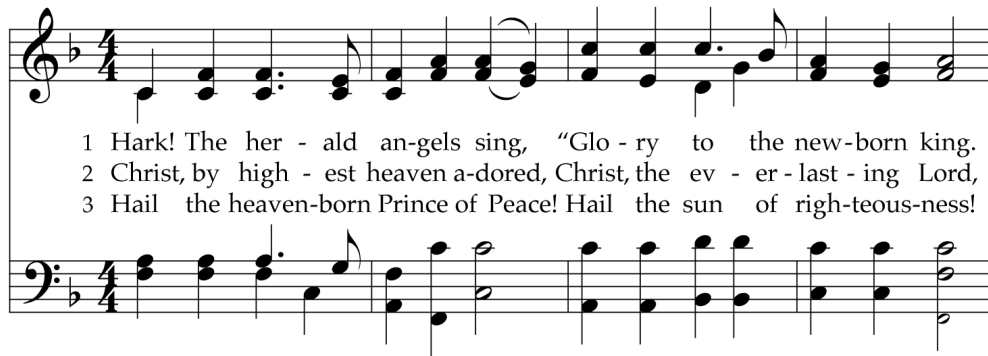
Glo - - - ri - a




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



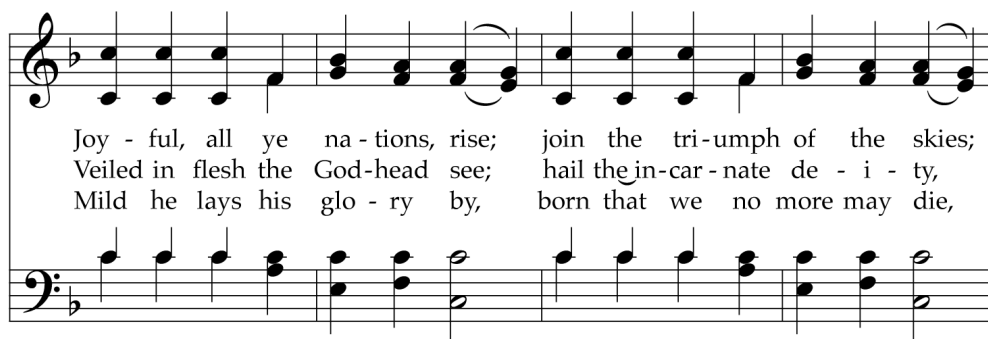
119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



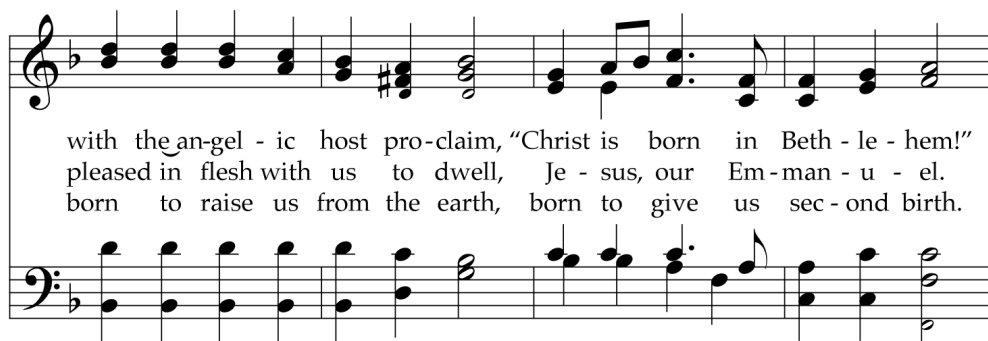
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"