

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

Tommy Clay, Jr.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

OPENING SENTENCES

Terry Albright

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord!

(Matt 3:3)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
As the Lord has promised, in days to come...

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down
with the kid,

**The calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down
together,**

And a little child shall lead them.

GATHERING PRAYER

**Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to
preach repentance and prepare the way for our
salvation. Give us the grace to heed their warnings and
forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming
of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with
you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.**

HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Hymn #82

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us. We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us. We have kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts. Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us Christ come in the fullness of our time.

In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

GLORIA PATRI "Glory Be to the Father" Hymn #581

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World
without end, Amen."

ANTHEM "Christmas Communion" Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

p.488, OT

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

p.125, NT

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

p.2, NT

Isaiah 11:1-10

p.488, OT

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall
be glorious.

Romans 15:4-13

p.125, NT

For whatever was written in former days was written for our
instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement
of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of
steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony
with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that

together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:1-12 p.2, NT

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region

around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“A Branch Shall Grow”

Cliff Lyda

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostle’s Creed)

Hymnal p.35

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (with the Lord’s Prayer)

Hymnal p.35

**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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERING MUSIC

Tommy Clay, Jr.

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Hymn #606

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.”

THE COMMUNION

HYMN

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Hymn #136

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior’s birth.

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

BLESSING AND CHARGE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place”

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

POSTLUDE

Tommy Clay, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Details on our website, Facebook, Realm & 386-385-3040.)

Church Activities

Small Groups-Sunday 9:15 am; Tues. 4:00 pm; Wed. 5:00 pm.

Presbyterian Women-Circles meet every 2nd Tuesday,
10:30am & 6:30pm in the Garden Room.

Outreach Ministries

Bread of Life-December needs are Ranch Dressing and Mayonnaise packets, Jar Mayonnaise, Turkey Gravy, Brown Gravy and Pork Gravy Packets, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Ziploc Bags - sandwich size, Ziploc Freezer bags.

Social Connections-Thurs. 1pm in Zoom Rm. Contact Shaaron Kohl 864-378-7032.

Quilting Group-Friday's at 10:00 in the Zoom Room,
Welcoming new members.

Shower Ministry-Thurs. from 2-6pm

PC3 Ministry-Monday 2-6pm

Meridian/Grace Market Place-Thurs. 2-4pm in the Bartram
Rm a representative for assistance.

CDC (Chemical Dependency Counseling)-Mon. 8-12; Tues.
8-6, Wed. 8-6, Sat. 8-6.

New Opportunities

Ascend Music Ministry-contact Felecia Nelson for an
interview/audition starting October 11th at
pinkorchidjfn@aol.com.

Financial Report – Through November 30th Revenue YTD
\$224,000.; Expenses YTD \$262,000.; Deficit YTD \$38,000.

The Brick Opportunity *to build a space rooted in legacy,
community, and faith, one brick at a time. (#15)* For more
details go to our website fpcpalatka.com.