

LOVE

NOW FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE REMAIN...
AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.



1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 (CEB)

First Presbyterian Church
4th Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025

Prelude *“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”* David Cherwien

Welcome, Greetings and Announcements

Introit..... *“Will We Know Him?”*Don Besig

Lighting of the Advent WreathJackie and Pat Edwards
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Christ, Be Our Light!
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: 'Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gath - ered to - day.' The melody is simple and suitable for congregational singing.

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for use by your congregation to join in with the choir while they sing this anthem. No other
use of this part is authorized for any other purpose.

Opening Prayer Ian Poole
Holy God, your Word speaks light into our darkness and life into our longing hearts. In this Advent season, open us to receive grace upon grace. May the Word made flesh dwell among us again, and may your light shine through us for the healing of the world. **Amen.**

* Hymn of Praise No. 22 “*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*” REGENT SQUARE

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of Light, in the beginning was your Word, and your Word came to dwell among us— yet we confess that we have ignored your coming. We have turned away from truth when it unsettled us, and from grace when it asked more of us than comfort. We confess that your Word became flesh, yet we have failed to honor your presence in the vulnerable, the forgotten, and the different. Forgive us. In this Advent season, turn us toward your Light, that we may live as children of God.

(A moment of silent personal confession)

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Glory to the Father (Gloria Patri) (Unison)Hymn No. 579

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. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination..... Ian Poole

First Scripture ReadingIsaiah 40:1-8OT Page 667

Time with Young Disciples

Anthem..... “*Once in Royal David’s City*” John Hess Beck

Second Scripture Reading..... John 1:1-14NT Page 91

Sermon And the Word Became Flesh Rev. Leslie Roper

* Hymn (See Insert)..... “*Who Would Think That What Was Needed*” WHITE ROSETTES

* Affirmation of Faith (Unison)-Apostle’s Creed Ian Poole

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 on 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.

Giving of Our Tithes & Offerings Ian Poole

- Offertory “*Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth*” Johann Pachelbel
- * Doxology – Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Hymn 592
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.
- * Prayer of Dedication Ian Poole
- Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer (Unison) Traditional, Hymnal Page 16
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.
- * Closing Hymn No. 29 “*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*” GO TELL IT
- * Charge & Benediction
- Postlude “*Trumpet Tune on ‘O Come, Divine Messiah’*” David Lasky

*It is the practice of this congregation to sit back down for the postlude.
Please join us in enjoying a few moments of reflection as our service concludes.*

*Congregation Standing (Please remain seated if standing is uncomfortable.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Poinsettia Donation List of those who contributed to the beautiful poinsettias that decorate the sanctuary can be found on the table outside the sanctuary heading towards the Fellowship Hall.

Birthday Sunday is today, where we will honor our members and friends celebrating birthdays in the month of December. Following worship, we invite members, friends and guests to the Fellowship Hall for birthday cake. Please join us!

Christmas Joy Offering: Fifty-percent of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. The other fifty-percent of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Christmas Joy Offering will be received today during worship.

Church Office Closure: The church office will be closed Wednesday, December 24, and Thursday, December 25, for the Christmas holiday. We wish you a Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve Service



Presbyterian Women's 5th Wednesday Out will be at the Grand Lagniappe Shoppe (811 W. Grand Ave.) on Wednesday, December 31, **11:30 a.m.** We will enjoy tasty, savory and sweet heavy hors d'oeuvres, cider, and Hugos. The cost is \$25 including tax and tip. Payment is due in advance. Please give your money to Sally Pierce or Tammy Abel. A sign-up sheet is hanging on the "Sign-Up Board" located in the Fellowship Hall right outside the kitchen.

Welcome Visitors! Please take a moment to fill out the visitor information card, located in the pew in front of you. Please drop them in the offering plate or hand them to an usher. We'd love to get to know you better! After Worship, join us for a time of fellowship and beverages in the Fellowship Hall. There, you'll find the Welcome Center, with more information about our church!

Children are always welcome in worship at First Presbyterian Church. Older children are encouraged to participate in worship and are welcome to pick up pre-packed activities on the table in the back of the sanctuary just for them. A nursery is available upstairs for children under 5. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

<p><u>December 1</u> Sophia Hardin</p> <p><u>December 3</u> Barbara Helm Cindy Meyers</p> <p><u>December 5</u> Gerald Murders</p> <p><u>December 6</u> Helen Murders</p> <p><u>December 7</u> Jim Matheney Johnnie Roebuck Taylor Simmons</p>	<p><u>December 8</u> Tom Hopkins Brady Leonhard</p> <p><u>December 15</u> Rev. Leslie Roper</p> <p><u>December 17</u> Marilyn Ridge</p> <p><u>December 19</u> John Talpas</p> <p><u>December 21</u> Mark Phillips</p> <p><u>December 26</u> Pam Christian Ann Westbrook Raines</p>	<p><u>December 27</u> Jacob Mills</p> <p><u>December 29</u> Kathy Farrar Cory Leonhard</p> <p><u>December 30</u> Frankie Ochsner</p> <p><u>December 31</u> Mike Muzny</p>
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DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

<p><u>December 10</u> Dus and Steve Spivey</p> <p><u>December 13</u> Candace and Grant Muzny</p>	<p><u>December 19</u> Barbara and Michael Helm</p> <p><u>December 26</u> Karolyn and Dick Mohrman</p>
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We are so very lucky to have a congregation that is willing to invest in our graduating seniors each year. Each month on the 3rd Sunday, members celebrating their birthdays that month are encouraged to make a special "Birthday Blessing" to our scholarship fund. We have been so blessed in the past to be able to contribute to the continuing education of our Youth. We hope that you will consider this month to give in honor of your birthday.



Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Office Lunch Hour:

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 21 – 4th Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Birthday Cake in the Fellowship Hall
11:30 a.m. Handbells

Monday, December 22

9:00 a.m. Bargain Box Marking
10:00 a.m. Jackson House Lunch Prep
1:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Church Office Closed

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service with Communion

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 28

9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Handbells

Save your Quarters for the Heifer Project! The quarter tube is located just inside the sanctuary doors near the steps leading into the sanctuary. **Save your Dimes!** All dimes put into the offering plates go to the Vera Lloyd Home to purchase Bibles. “Make a joyful noise to the Lord.”

There are many openings on The 2026 Flower Chart! Located on the wall by the 2 large closets in the Fellowship Hall, pick your date, add your name and special dedication. If you do not wish to write it on the board, or if space does not allow, please call, email or visit the office. You may do this at any time well in advance of your day. ***Cost is \$38.50***

Prayer Requests: Anyone who wants prayer from the Prayer Chain should email or call Jamie Williams, jsar43@gmail.com / 276-2852 or Patricia Mills, paulpatmills@yahoo.com / 545-5250 with your request. You may also email the Church Office office@firstpreshotsprings.org. A request can be for yourself, a family member, or a family friend. *You may ask that the request be kept confidential. Only the Prayer Chain members will be notified and they will also be told to keep it confidential.*

Please remember to recycle your bulletins by placing them in the blue recycle container in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

First Presbyterian Church
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www.firstpreshotsprings.org

Find us on:

Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs, Arkansas

Instagram: firstpreshs

Worship Leadership

The Rev. Leslie Roper, Pastor revroper@gmail.com

Ms. Deleen Davidson, Choir Director 504.382.3804

Dr. Ian Aipperspach, Organist and Handbell Director

Church Staff

Ms. Tammy Abel, Office Administrator office@firstpreshotsprings.org

Ms. Jessica Rowton, Financial Administrator bookkeeper@firstpreshotsprings.org

Mr. Randall Pierce, Sexton

Church Officers

Ms. Kathy White, Clerk of Session 501.626.4859

Mr. James Matheney, Treasurer 870.866.5242

Ms. Helen Bumpas, Moderator, Presbyterian Women 501.620.0348

Ms. Jackie Edwards, Moderator, Board of Deacons 501.625.2025

Who Would Think That What Was Needed

1 Who would think that what was need - ed to trans -
2 Shep - herds watch and wise men won - der; mon - archs
3 Cen - tu - ries of skill and sci - ence span the

form and save the earth might not be a
scorn and an - gels sing; such a place as
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ba - by laid in hay; God sur - pris - es earth with
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heav - en, com - ing here on Christ - mas Day.

TEXT: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987

MUSIC: John L. Bell, 2005

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WHITE ROSETTES

8.7.8.7.D

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