

CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION

We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who spoke all creation into being, who loves us and sends us Jesus.

We believe in Jesus Christ: God with us—first as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit: giving us life and love, and sending us to love others.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ. Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE 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

MUSICAL OFFERING.....*Gesu Bambino*
JORDAN PLAIR & MEREDITH HALOPOFF, DUET TRADITIONAL

LITANY OF LIGHT

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.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest.

The light of God shines on us tonight.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

There will be vast authority and endless peace for David’s throne and for his kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever.

The light of God shines on us tonight.

CANDLE LIGHTING

* CAROL*Silent Night*



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heaven - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu - ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Musical interludes between verses

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Joy to the World*
HUGO GEHRKE

*All Who Are Able Please Stand | + Ushers Will Seat Latecomers



We are so glad your family has joined us for worship! Should you need it, the FPC nursery is open for babies 3 months - 2 years

The nursery is located across the street on the first floor of our Education Building.



First Presbyterian Church of Beaufort

A Service for the Worship of God
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023 at 5:00 PM



*To all who are weary and need rest,
To all who mourn and need comfort,
To all who are lonely and need friendship,
To all who are glad and would serve their neighbors,
To all who are complacent and need disturbing,
To all who sin and need a Savior,
This church opens wide its doors
In the name of Christ and bids you welcome.*

Sanctuary: 410 Church Street

Office, Education & Outreach Building: 1201 North Street

firstpresbeaufort.org

www.facebook.com/firstpresbeaufort

firstpresbeaufort

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PRELUDE *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*
A. HOFLAND

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP Elder Geneva Baxley

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
Full of grace and truth.

*We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father,
Son of God, light that shines in the dark.*

Child of joy and peace

Help us to come to you and be born anew
this holy night.

+* CAROL.....*Joy to the World*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.

heaven and na - ture sing,

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATHNan & Gordon Krueger
and family

* CAROL *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.

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

MUSICAL OFFERING..... *A'Soalin*
 VIC VARNER, Music Director TRADITIONAL
 BEEKMAN WEBB, Mandolin
 JORDAN PLAIR & MEREDITH HALOPOFF, DUET

CHILDREN'S SERMON Geneva Baxley
As we sing the refrain from *The First Nowell*,
all children are welcome to come down front

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

*CAROL*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.

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



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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *What Child Is This?*
LILY COOPER, Organist HUGO GEHRKE

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-20

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION.....Dr. Patrick Perryman