

Gospel Lesson..... Luke 2:22-40

Hymn 744.....Arise, Your Light Is Come!

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Hebrew Lesson..... Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Sermon **Beyond the Pitiless Storm**
Dr. John Sheppard

An Affirmation for Christmas

We believe that stars shine in the sky.
We believe that shepherds keep watch over their flocks.
We believe that Mary gave birth to a baby.

Christmas is real.
Even though it happened
long ago and far away, the
birth of Jesus has made all
of life holy.

Jesus is real
Even though he was God's Son, Jesus lived a human life. He
knows our joy and sadness. He experiences our pain and
pleasure, but he does not sin.

Hope is real.
Even though the world is troubled, Christmas promises us that
God is love. We know that God's kingdom will come on
earth as it is in heaven.

Pastoral Prayer and Our 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

Giving and Receiving

Offertory *That Boy*
TOM COLVIN

*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessing flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Hymn 136 *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Refrain $\text{♩} = \text{♩} \text{ } \text{♩}$

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

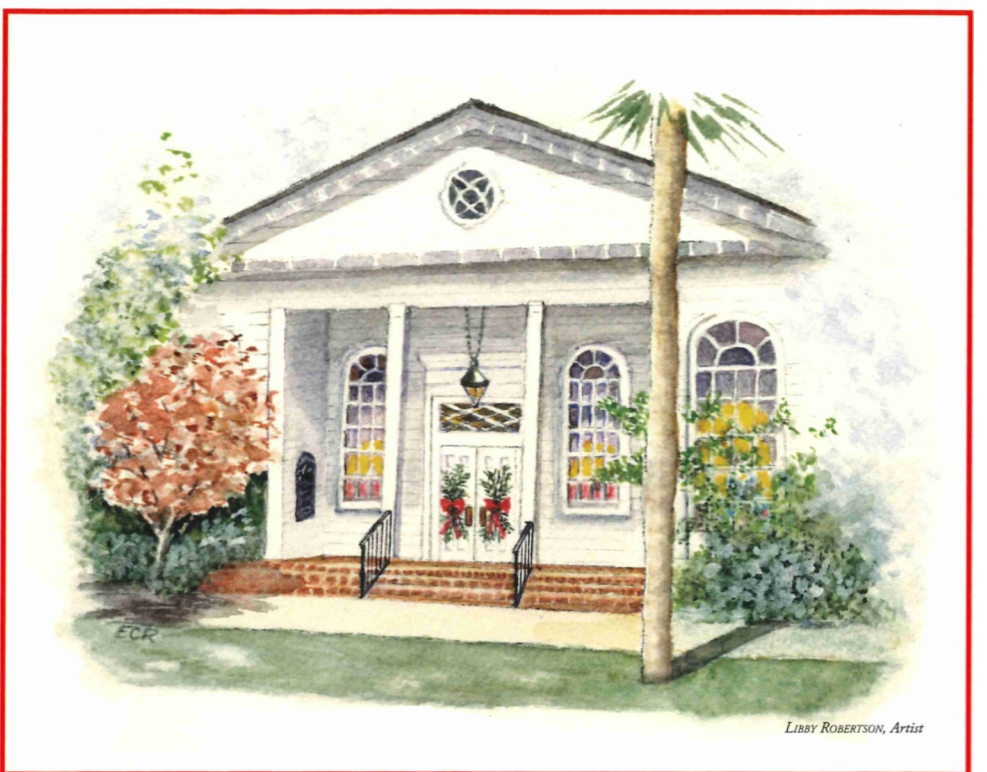
*Benediction

Postlude *The Snow Lay on the Ground*
LEO SOWERBY

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



A Service for the Worship of God
The First Sunday After Christmas
December 31, 2023
11:00 AM



*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 843-524-3051
www.facebook.com/firstpresbeaufort info@firstpresbeaufort.org



But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Galatians 4:4,5 (NSRV)

Striking of the Hour

Prelude *In Bleak Midwinter*
GUSTAV HOLST

Opening Words & Call to Worship Elder Geneva Baxley

Litany for Christmas

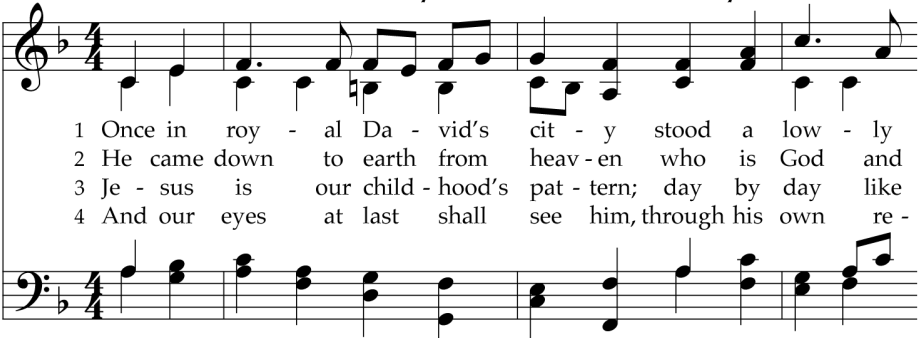
The Word was made flesh,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
And dwelt among us,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Jesus, Son of the Living God, splendor of the Father,
Light Eternal:
Glory to you, O Lord!
Jesus, King of glory, Sun of righteousness, born of Mary:
Glory to you, O Lord!
Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, everlasting Lord:
Glory to you, O Lord!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of Souls, perfect in holiness:
Glory to you, O Lord!
Jesus, Friend of all, Protector of the poor, Treasure of the faithful:
Glory to you, O Lord!
Jesus, Good Shepherd, inexhaustible Wisdom, our
Way, our Truth, and our Life.
Glory to you, O Lord!
Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of all the saints:
Glory to you, O Lord!

After a brief silence, the leader concludes the litany:

Christ is born! Give him glory!
Christ has come down from heaven! Exalt him!
O earth, sing to the Lord!
O you nations, praise him in joy.
For he has been glorified!
Amen. Let us worship God together!

Hymn 140 *Once in Royal David's City*
Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came,





among us as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or
trusted Good News to be good.
We have closed out eyes to glory in our midst,
Expecting little and hoping for less.

Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, that we might remember that
the birth of Christ is good news for everyone. Amen
(Let us continue in prayer silently)

Congregational Response

*Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
Incline thine ear to us and grant us thy peace. Amen.*

Words of Assurance

*The beginning of a new year approaches, and we know the truth of
these words: "The old has passed away." Also believe these words: "In
Christ God has visited us, God's people! We are no longer bound by
our sin.*

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

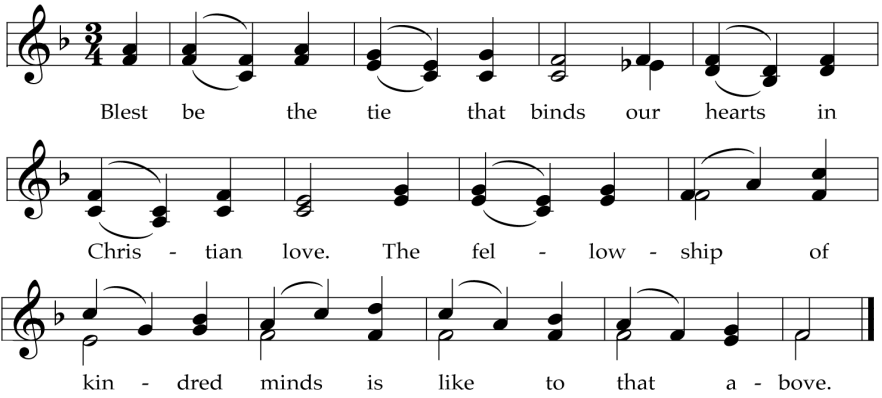
Musical Offering Still, Still, Still
Geneva Baxley, Soloist
Lily Cooper, Organist

Hymn 32 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*



Children's Sermon..... Geneva Baxley
As we sing *Jesus Loves Me*, all children are welcome to come down front.

Passing of the Peace



THE MONDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP'S NEW STUDY BEGINNING

David-shepherd boy, king of Israel, man after God's own heart-wasn't perfect; he was just a person who had an intimate relationship with his Creator, whom he credited with his accomplishments. He wrote in Psalm 18, "It is you who light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness. By you I can run against a troop. By my God I can leap over a wall."

You are invited to participate in The **Monday Bible Study** Group's new study beginning **January 8** with Dr. Eugene Peterson's **Leap Over a Wall**. The discussions held on Mondays from **6:00-7:30 PM** are **open to any adult**.

New and used copies of the text are available at a variety of on-line book sellers. If you have questions contact Rob Cooper (rhcoopoejr@cooperandcompany.com), Bert Owen (bandbert@gmail.com), or Dr. Perryman.



WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME to all who join us for worship today. If you are without a church home, you will be warmly welcomed into our fellowship. We are glad you are here! Please like us on Facebook and visit our website at www.firstpresbeaufort.org for sermons, news, and current events.

TODAY THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN to the Glory of God and in celebration of the Advent Season.

NO MEN'S BREAKFAST THIS WEDNESDAY.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS:

AWAKENING THE SPIRIT IN US TO BECOME MORE COMPASSIONATE.

"Sometimes, the scars on the inside take longer to heal than the ones on the outside." - Anonymous