

GATHERING

PRELUDE “A Carol Medley for Christmas Eve” arr. Sikes

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

+PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Processional for Christmas”

Benjamin Harlan
(Choir and Congregation)

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him.
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him.
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing a new song to God, all the earth!
The oceans roar, the forests sing for joy.
For God has shattered the yoke
And tossed the boots of the oppressor into the fire.
**Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace
Among all people of goodwill!**
Do not be afraid, for good news thrills creation:
Today our Savior has been born!

LITURGY FOR CHRISTMAS: CHRIST

Sam and Callie Strickland

Isaiah 9:2-7

Glory to God in the highest!
Aleluia! Amen!

+HYMN 110 “Love Has Come” BRING A TORCH
Stanza 1

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Trusting in God's salvation, faithfulness and merciful love, let us confess our sin as we lift our voices together.

Emmanuel,
You have given us a gift that we can never deserve.
You do not ask us to be worthy.
You do not ask us to earn your love.

**Yet the ways we have fallen short
Threaten to overtake us.
But we know we can come to you,
Even on this holiest of nights,
To seek the forgiveness you offer so freely,
Grateful for your mercy.**

(Silent Confession)

KYRIE #551

*Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy upon us.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to us all!
With Christ's birth comes forgiveness and redemption.
**Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And on earth peace among those whom God favors!**

+RESPONSE #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”
GLORIA

Refrain
Gloria, in Excelsis Deo!

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

THE WORD

A Service of Lessons and Carols
(Congregation may remain seated during the singing of carols)

Hymn #140 “Once in Royal David's City” IRBY

A Bidding Prayer

Rev. Dr. Daniell Hamby

THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15

HYMN #121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Marta Hoover

ST. LOUIS

THE SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22:15-18

HYMN #88 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Michele Hawkins

VENI

THE THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

HYMN #123 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Wayne Fiquett

CAROL CMD

THE FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-4; 6-9

HYMN #129 “Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming”

Teresa Barrett

ES IST EIN'ROS

THE FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38

HYMN #119 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Cathy Childree

MENDELSSOHN

THE SIXTH LESSON: Matthew 1:18-23

“O Holy Night”

Jake Taylor, Bass

Sam Strickland

Arr. John Leavitt

THE SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16

HYMN #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Callie Strickland

GLORIA

THE EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11

HYMN #151 “We Three Kings”

Bill Barrett

KINGS OF ORIENT

THE NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14 **Rev. Dr. Daniell Hamby**

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION **Rev. Dr. Daniell Hamby**

THE OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY

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

THE EUCHARIST

The Invitation to Holy Communion
The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
Holy Communion
Prayer after Communion

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

+HYMN 134 “Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

SENDING

A LITANY OF LIGHT

Leader: In the beginning and in the midst of darkness, God spoke.
All: Let there be light.

Leader: In the beginning was the Word. And the Word came and dwelt among us. And the Word was the light of all peoples.
All: Let there be light.

Leader: We light our candles, knowing that the One who is the source and promise of all light is the One whose birth we celebrate.
All: Let there be light.

Leader: We are here to seek a little light by which we can see, by which we can live, by which we can love.
All: Let there be light.

Leader: We need to know that we are part of something greater than the flicker of our own little candles. We long to be assured that the light of Christ is with us even in the moment.
All: Let there be light.

Leader: So we light our candles in gratitude for the love and light that shine through the babe born in Bethlehem who became the Redeemer of us all.
All: Let there be light.

Leader: May we be so emboldened as to share the love of God with a world longing for light and hope, purpose, and love. May our actions and generosity shine in a world under the shadow of despair.
All: Let there be light.

Leader: We join the chorus of those whose carols have echoed through the years— “Silent Night, Holy Night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King. Christ the Savior is born. Christ the Savior is born.”

All: Let there be light.

+RECESSONAL HYMN #122 “*Silent Night, Holy Night*”
STILLE NACHT

*Departure is in silence as we carry His light out into the world.
+ *Congregation Standing*

First Presbyterian Church of Eufaula is a church in transition. Our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is working diligently with God's leading to find the right person to shepherd our church into the future. If you have any questions about our church or are interested in joining our congregation, please speak to one of the ushers or a session member. Thank you for your support, patience and especially for your prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Daniell Hamby to our pulpit this evening.

We warmly welcome you to worship this morning and ask that you please sign the Friendship pad in your pew. Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the Triune God. In worship we acknowledge God, who is present in the world and in our lives. As we respond to God's claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, we are transformed and renewed. In worship, we offer ourselves to God and we are equipped for God's service in the world.

Visitors: We extend a special welcome to those who are visiting with us this morning. We invite you to come back and worship with us as often as possible. If you would like more information about our church, please see one of our Elders.

Wednesday Noon Prayer Service will resume in January 2026.

Giving Fence needs items. If you have anything that you don't need or want and think it is in good shape, please donate it for our Giving Fence.

Can Cross needs food items. Please give what you are able to help those who need food in our community. Please place your items in the Can Cross in Fellowship Hall.

Large print editions of the **Glory to God Hymnal** are available for use and can be obtained from an usher.

Offering: You may now give online if you prefer using your debit/credit card. Go to <https://firstpresbyterianefaula.org/give> on your phone and the website will direct you.

Cares and Concerns: Kaitlin Hoover Black, Betty Suddath, Judy Umstattd, Eden Coates, Fred McWaters, Carter McDonald, Darryl Kornegay, Melissa Scholl, Della Huffman, Carla Collins, Linda Creel, Lincoln, Christine Fisher, Teresa Orr, Margaret Beasley, Bill Elkins, Don Wood, Andrew Peak – address 5058 River Road, Jakin, GA 39861, Vonnie Harzig, Cody Owens; the family of Anne and Richard Hawks. Please pray for our church and the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Worshippers at Home: Pegge Abraham, Jane Price

Military Members: Nicole Barrett

College Students: Jake Cournoyer, David Dixon, James Dixon, Haley Helbing, Benjamin Powers, Tabetha Taylor, Hailey Beard, Jake Taylor, Logan Adams, John Stephen Powers, Gray Mitchell

Weekly Calendar

Thursday, December 25th Christmas Day Church Office Closed

Friday, December 26th Office Open 10:30 – 2:30

Sunday, December 28th

10:15 AM - Coffee and Fellowship
11:00 AM – Worship, Rev. Shebbie Shields/Gray Mitchell, Musician

Wednesday, December 31st New Year's Eve Office Closed / WOW 5:15

Thursday, January 1, 2025 New Year's Day Office Closed

Friday, January 2, 2026 Regular Office Hours Resume

SESSION

Class of 2025

Edie Fiquett
Emily Parrish
Al Peak

Class of 2026

Callie Strickland
Doug Winkleblack
Teresa Barrett

Class of 2027

Arnie Cutchen
Ginny Hornsby

First Presbyterian Church

“Seeking to know Christ and make Christ known”

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Nativity of the Lord Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025



History of A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The King's College Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White,



who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. (He devised our Advent Carol Service in 1934, and was a liturgical pioneer and authority during his twenty two years as Dean of York.) The music was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, Organist 1876–1929. The choir included sixteen trebles as laid down in King Henry VI's statutes, but until 1927 the men's voices were provided partly by Choral Scholars and partly by older Lay Clerks, and not, as now, by fourteen undergraduates.

A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn 'Once in royal David's city'. In almost every year some carols have been changed and some new ones introduced by successive Organists: Arthur Henry Mann; Boris Ord, 1929–57; Harold Darke (his substitute during the war), 1940–45; Sir David Willcocks, 1957–73; Philip Ledger, 1974–82 and, from 1982, Stephen Cleobury. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged.

The original service was, in fact, adapted from an Order drawn up by E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 pm on Christmas Eve 1880. AC Benson recalled: 'My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop.' The suggestion had come from GHS. Walpole, later Bishop of Edinburgh. Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. A wider frame began to grow when the service was first broadcast in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass (and also all heat) had been removed from the Chapel and the name of King's could not be broadcast for security reasons. Sometime in the early 1930s the BBC began broadcasting the service on overseas programs. It is estimated that there are millions of listeners worldwide, including those to Radio Four in the United Kingdom. In recent years it has become the practice to broadcast a digital recording on Christmas Day on Radio Three, and since 1963 a shorter service has been filmed periodically for television. Recordings of carols by Decca and EMI have also served to spread its fame.

In these and other ways the service has become public property. From time to time the College receives copies of services held, for example, in the West Indies or the Far East and these show how

widely the tradition has spread. The broadcasts, too, have become part of Christmas for many far from Cambridge. One correspondent writes that he heard the service in a tent on the foothills of Everest; another, in the desert. Many listen at home, busy about their own preparations for Christmas. Visitors from all over the world are heard to identify the Chapel as 'the place where the Carols are sung'.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and words of the Bible'. Local interests appear, as they do here, in the bidding prayer, and personal circumstances give point to different parts of the service. Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage 'all those who rejoice with us but on another shore and in a greater light'. The center of the service is still found by those who '*go in heart and mind*' and who consent to follow where the story leads.

TO-NIGHT ungather'd let us leave
This laurel, let this holly stand:
We live within the stranger's land,

And strangely falls our Christmas-eve.
Our father's dust is left alone
And silent under other snows:
There in due time the woodbine blows,
The violet comes, but we are gone.
Let cares that petty shadows cast,
By which our lives are chiefly proved,
A little spare the night I loved,
And hold it solemn to the past.
But let no footstep beat the floor,
Nor bowl of wassail mantle warm;
For who would keep an ancient form
Thro' which the spirit breathes no more?
Be neither song, nor game, nor feast;
Nor harp be touch'd, nor flute be blown;
No dance, no motion, save alone

What lightens in the lucid east
Of rising worlds by yonder wood.

Long sleeps the summer in the seed;
Run out your measured arcs, and lead
The closing cycle rich in good.

'IN MEMORIAM, CV'
ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON

