

GATHERING

PRELUDE “Sing We Now of Christmas” arr. Gordon Young

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

+CALL TO WORSHIP Ruby Burggrave

Soon parched lands will blossom into life
And burst into joyful song – very soon.
Say to those who are drowning in fear,
“Take courage! Here is God, coming to save you.”
Soon, every creature will have what it needs in abundance.
All peoples of all dis/abilities and ages
Will shout for joy in freedom – very soon.
A highway stretches heavenward, smooth and level.
All may walk or roll there unimpeded.
Soon happiness and joy will overwhelm us!
Grief and groaning will flee for good – very soon.
Amen.

+PROCESSIONAL HYMN #82 “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”
HYFRYDOL

LITURGY FOR ADVENT: JOY – Cindy & John Murray

ADVENT PRAYER

O Lord, our redeemer,
you lead us from languishing in sorrow’s shadows
into laughter’s joy over your abundant restoration.
Thank you that you are coming for us
to lead us home along your Way, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

CALL TO CONFESSION Ruby Burggrave

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Subversive God, you revel in reversing human hierarchies.
Inspire us to sing with teenage Mary of tyrants toppled; and
the last made first.
Ignite our hearts until we truly understand
what this means.
Embolden us to risk everything for the chance to serve as
midwives to your new creation,

So that, with Mary, our spirits will rejoice
In God our Savior – Jesus Christ her son –
And magnify Christ’s love in all we do.
Amen.
(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 Ruby Burggrave

Let us never forget you, O Lord, nor your goodness.
Let the remembrance of your mercy
be always engraved on our minds.
Hear and believe the good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

+RESPONSE #581 GLORIA PATRI
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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Ruby Burggrave

THE WORD

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10
Pew Bible p. 663 Bill Barrett
Gospel Reading: Luke 1:46-55
Pew Bible p. 57 Bill Barrett

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Carols for Choir and Congregation
The Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church

(See insert)
“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” arr. Elliott Goodwin
“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” Michael Praetorius
“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” arr. Larry Shackley
“Blessed Be That Maid Marie” arr. John Leavitt
“Breath of Heaven” arr. Roger Emerson
Tabetha Taylor, Soprano
“There is No Rose of Such Virtue” Hal Hopson
“Gesu Bambino” Pietro A. Yon
Hailey Beard, Soprano
“Carols Around and Around” arr. Carl Nygard, Jr.
“O Holy Night” arr. John Leavitt

Jake Taylor, Bass

“The Nativity” a Poem by Susan Noyes Anderson
Logan Adams
“Joy to the World” G.F. Handel/Kuykendall

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD’S PRAYER Bill Barrett

THE OFFERTORY
There are multiple ways to contribute to the ministries of First Presbyterian Eufaula: An offering
plate is located in the rear of the sanctuary or you may mail your contribution to First
Presbyterian Eufaula at 201 N. Randolph Eufaula, AL 36027, drop it by the church office, or
give online at www.firstpresbyterianeufaula.org/give.

+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 Bill Barrett

SENDING

+RECESSIONAL HYMN “O Come, All Ye Faithful” arr. David Willcocks

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!
God of God, Light of Light, Lo he abhors not the Virgin's womb.
Very God, Begotten, not created.
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore
him, Christ the Lord!
Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
Sing all ye citizens of heav’n above.
Glory to God in the highest.
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.
Jesu to thee be 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!

+BENEDICTION Bill Barrett

O Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, the Lord's anointed, come, all hail to Thee, thou David's son.
Thy kingdom here on earth to bring, Eternal praise to Thee we sing.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Sun of righteousness, and here on earth thy people bless.
Thy kingdom come from shore to shore, rule Thou our hearts forevermore.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming **Michael Praetorius**

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.
It came a flower et bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

Of the Father's Love Begotten **arr. Larry Shackley**

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world's began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy
Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race, and the babe the world's
Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore him, angel hosts, his praises sing: powers,
dominions, how before him, and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

This is he who seers and sages sang of old with one accord;
Whom the writings of the prophets promised in their faithful word.

Now he shines, the long expected: let creation praise its Lord.
Evermore and evermore! Amen!

Blessed Be That Maid Marie **arr. John Leavitt**

Blessed be that Maid Marie; born He was of her body.
Very God ere time began, born in time the Son of Man.
Eja! Jesu Hodie Natus est de Virgine.

Sweet and blissful was the song chanted by the angel throng.
"Peace on earth, alleluia, in excelsis Gloria."
Eja! Jesu Hodie Natus est de Virgine.

Make we merry on this fest, In quo Christus Natus est,
On this Child I pray you call, to assail and save us all.
Eja! Jesu Hodie Natus est de Virgine.

Breath of Heaven **arr. Roger Emerson**

I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe inside.
And I wonder what I've done. Holy Father,
You have come and chosen me now to carry Your Son.

I am waiting in a silent prayer, I am frightened by the load I bear.
In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now.

Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, breath of Heaven.
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me your holiness
For You are holy. Breath of Heaven.

Do you wonder, as you watch my face, if a wiser one
should have had my place?
But I offer all I am for the mercy of your plan.
Help me be strong. Help me.

Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, breath of Heaven.
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me your holiness
For You are holy. Breath of Heaven.

There is No Rose of Such Virtue **arr. John Leavitt**

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu; Alleluia!
For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space; Resmiranda.
By that rose we may well see there be on God in persons three. Pares forma.
Then leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyous birth.
Transeamus. Pares forma. Resmiranda. Alleluia.

Gesu Bambino **Pietro A. Yon**

When blossoms flowered mid the snows upon this winter night.
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced.
And at His blessed birth, the stars their exultation voiced.

O come let us adore Him. Christ the Lord!

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light.
Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell,
From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.

O come let us adore Him. Christ the Lord!
O come, O come, O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

Carols Around and Around **arr. Carl Nygard, Jr.**

Dona nobis pacem.
The first Noel the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old.
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.

Noel! Born is the King of Israel.
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed.
It came upon the midnight clear, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
They looked up on Christmas day, the world in solemn stillness lay.
Away in a manger, and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far.
Noel! Born is the King of Israel. Amen.

O Holy Night arr. John Leavitt

O Holy night the stars are brightly shining,
it is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world, in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees, oh hear the angel voices! O night divine O night
when Christ was born! O night, O Holy night, O night divine.

Truly he taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His Gospel is peace;
Chains shell He break for the slave is our brother,
And in His name, all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all with us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord, oh, praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

Joy to the World G.F Handel/Kuykendall

Joy to the world the Lord is come; let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the world the Savior reigns; let men their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove

The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love.

Joy to the world the Lord is come!

REFLECTION “The Nativity” a poem by Susan Noyes Anderson

We all have heard the story, it's been told and then retold, about
the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem of old. Yet every
Christmastide the tale bears telling once again, as we reflect on
that sweet babe, born to redeem all men. A decree went out from
Caesar, and so it came to pass, that Joseph and sweet Mary
went to David to be taxed. Though Mary journeyed wearily, for
she was great with child, when Joseph wept to see her pain, she
looked at him and smiled: “Fear not for me, dear Husband, among
women I am blessed, but now my time draws near, and we must
find a place to rest.” In desperate need of shelter, they pushed on
to Bethlehem, only to find the inns were full, no room was offered
them. Still Joseph knocked on every door till one innkeeper said,
“Seek refuge in my stable—Here's some straw to make a bed.”
And Mary gratefully sank down into that new-mown hay, and gave
birth to the Savior that first, sacred Christmas Day. A shining star
rose in the sky above that holy place, as Mary gazed upon her
child and touched His radiant face. The shepherds and the wise
men came, led by that glorious star, and angels sang out praises
as they journeyed from afar. They somehow knew the child was
sent to bring the world His light and their hearts were filled with
wonder as they looked on Him that night. So was our Lord and
Savior born, in humble majesty, to save us from our earthly sins
and seal our destiny. On this and every Christmas Day, we thank
the Lord above, for sending our Redeemer to bless us with His
love. *

O Come All Ye Faithful arr. David Willcocks

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!

God of God, Light of Light, Lo he abhors not the Virgin's womb.
Very God, Begotten, not created.
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore
Him, Christ the Lord!



Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God in the highest.
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.
Jesu to thee be 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!

Join us for

**A Festival of Lessons and Carols
with candlelight Communion**

December 24, 2025
5:00 p.m.



First Presbyterian Church
201 N. Randolph - Eufaula, Alabama
www.firstpresbyterianeufaula.org

