

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship Isaiah 35:1-2; Matthew 11:4-5

L: What if joy were to break out unrestrained in our world? What would we notice?

P: The wilderness and dry land would be glad; the desert rejoice and blossom.

L: The blind would see and the lame would walk. Lepers would be cleansed, and the deaf would hear.

P: The dead would rise and the poor would receive good news.

L: May joy break out in our worship today as we anticipate the One who comes into our world!

P: Come thou long expected Jesus!

*Opening Prayer

*Hymn 8 (blue) *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Lighting of the Advent Candle Joy Misty Smith and Jude Reeder

Call to Confession / Prayer of Confession

Holy and wonderful God, we confess that we have closed our eyes to what you are doing. We prefer to concentrate on problems, bad news and violence. When we do, we miss all the healing, freeing and helping you accomplish in our world. We pass up opportunities to participate in your Good News. We rob ourselves of so much joy. Forgive us and give us eyes to see, ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to treasure your mission in the world. Fill us with unquenchable joy at the coming of Jesus. Amen. *Silent Confession*

Assurance of Pardon Matthew 1:21

L: The angel told Joseph, “You are to name the baby Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Believe the good news of the Gospel:

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Amen.

*Congregational Response *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, Amen.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Time

Anthem *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Scripture Reading Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon *Double Checking* Dr. David Cagle

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn 5 (blue) *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

*Affirmation of Faith	A Declaration of Faith
-----------------------	------------------------

L: What do you believe?

P: In Christ, God gave us a glimpse of the new creation God has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, the church, or our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new.

Prayers of the People followed by The Lord's Prayer

Call for the Offering / Offertory

*Doxology
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn 28 (blue) *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

SENDING OUT IN GOD'S NAME

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful Child.

Jesus, Jesus, the holy, meek, and mild.

New life, new hope the Child will bring.

Listen to the angels sing,

"Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!

*Postlude

*Please stand, as able

Prayer Concerns: Alexander Elliott, grandson of Tommy Wilson; Robert Hilton, son of Susan Morgan; Junior James, friend of Chris Shepherd; Grainger Lingren, cousin of Jennifer Conner; Carol Manley, sister-in-law of Martha Richardson; Susan McCaskill, sister-in-law of Susan Morgan; Susan McInnis, cousin of Susan Morgan; Misty Smith; Art and Margaret Thompson; Brenda Turner, sister of Bill Mitchell; Kennette Watkins, daughter-in-law of Neal and Trudy Watkins; Michael Wilderman, friend of Chris Shepherd

Assisting in Children's Church and Nursery today: Donna McLaurin and Kason Jurczyk.

Food Collection Day is next Sunday. In addition to instant noodles, December food needs for Our Daily Bread are: canned meat, dried beans, and boxed mac and cheese.

Online giving portal - <https://www.eservicepayments.com> or scan this QR code with your phone's camera.



Website - Rockinghamfpc.org

CCLI #22165601, 22165625



MISSION STATEMENT: *The First Presbyterian Church believes its mission is to be a family under the Lordship of Jesus Christ for the sake of loving relationships and mutual support and to show Christ's healing love beyond our family through words and deeds, to the glory of God.*

First Presbyterian Church

Rockingham, North Carolina

Founded 1870