

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Call to Worship Isaiah 40:3-5
L: Prepare the way of the Lord!
P: Lift every valley, lift every voice.
L: Prepare the way of the Lord!
P: And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

*Opening Prayer

*Hymn 123 (red) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Lighting of the Advent Candle Love Tom and Susan Morgan

Call to Confession / Prayer of Confession
Great God, as we behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to Your glory. Yet, we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter little that we overlook the good news of great joy that You have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope, and love because of what You have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen. *Silent Confession*

Assurance of Pardon
L: The angel tells Joseph that the Child forming in Mary’s womb is to be named Jesus. “Call Him Jesus,” the angel says, “For He will save the people from their sins.” From His birth through His resurrection, from age to age, Jesus is about salvation. This is good news!
P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*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

First Reading Isaiah 7:10-16

Children’s Time

Anthem *A Voice Cries Out, ‘Prepare the Way of the Lord’*

Second Reading Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon *True Righteousness* Dr. David Cagle

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*Hymn 118 (red) *Of the Father’s Love Begotten*

*Affirmation of Faith Confession of 1967
Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect Child of God. He was the fulfillment of God’s promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be His servant for the reconciliation of the world.

Prayers of the People and 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 135 (red) *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

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



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