

THE SESSION

Class of 2018
Betsey Adams
Mary Kate Beard
Sandra Jimerson

Class of 2019
Donna Hopkins
Lee Matthews

Class of 2020
Lonnie Feller
Perry Leaming

Lee Matthews, Clerk of Session

TRUSTEES

Stephen Henderson

Gary Gore

Franklin Bevel

Sherry Feller, Treasurer

Karen Selvage, Secretary

HOW WE ARE DOING

General Contributions (12/16/2018): \$ 1,260.00

Month to Date Giving: \$ 7,895.00

Year to Date Giving: \$ 138,283.53

Monthly Budget: \$ 14,586.00

Yearly Budget: \$ 175,031.00

Church Attendance: 36

Sunday School: 9

PRAYER CONCERNS:

W.S. Adams, Lena Aust, Louise Chandler, Sam Chandler Jr., Roger and Faye Heath, Patsy Hughes and family, Bill Jimerson, Perry Leaming, Lisa Ledford, Ginger Matthews, Judy Metzler, David Sewell (Guillain Barre Syndrome).

ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 23, 2018

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30 A.M.

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES

GATHERING

PRELUDE "O Holy Night" Sam Chandler, Jr., Organist

SPECIAL MUSIC "Away in a Manger" Choir
Accompanist, Bonita Hubble

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please sign friendship pad and pass it to your neighbor.)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *The Fricke family*
(The children are invited to come forward and sit in front of the Advent Wreath)

READING Advent 4: The Wise Men's Candle

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-12

PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him 'Emmanuel', a name which means *God-with-us*."

People: **Let us call upon this God who loves us so much that he sent us his Son.**

PRAYER OF ADORATION

***OPENING HYMN** "Angels from the Realms of Glory" No. 131

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, you are the author of goodness, truth, and love. Yet we are afraid to trust you. We fail to worship you as we should. We keep forgetting that Christ gives himself for the world and asks us to do the same. Forgive us for that, and help us to accept your love, to feel it healing, to gain its strength. (*Silent prayers of confession, followed by singing*)

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because He will save his people from their sins. (*Matthew 1:21*)

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***GLORIA PATRI** No. 623

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***CHORUS** "The Family of God" No. 282

THE WORD

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (*Amelia Drake Maples*)

SPECIAL MUSIC “Were You There on That Christmas Night?” Choir
Accompanist, Bonita Hubble

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 60: 1-6; Mathew 2:13-18 Pgs. 1155 & 1498

HYMN OF PREPARATION “We Three Kings” No. 166

SERMON “The Drama Unfolds” Dr. Mel A. Strain

RESPONSE

***HYMN** “As with Gladness” No. 163

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that when the time was ripe, God appeared in the mainstream of humankind. He came, not with the lightning bold, nor with the clamor of kingship, nor in the midst of much applause. He came, still and small, into the poverty of the world, perceived only in the hearts of believers. We are those who celebrate His coming in time. We are the shepherds who adore Him in awe. We are the travelers from afar who bear gifts to Him. We celebrate the mystery which we know in our hearts. We celebrate in the knowledge that God has called us to be one in Christ, sharing His peace and love.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO “Mary Did You Know” *Kate Griffith*

*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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

***HYMN OF SENDING** “How Great Our Joy!” No. 144

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**You go nowhere by accident. Wherever you go, God is sending you.
Wherever you are, God has put you there. He has a purpose in your being there.
Christ who dwells within you has something He wants to do through you where you are.
Believe this and go in His love to “glorify God, make disciples of Jesus Christ, and meet human need”.**

***POSTLUDE** “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” Sam Chandler, Jr., Organist
Accompanist, Bonita Hubble
