

***We want to thank the following people who provided Christmas flowers for our services today.***

Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in honor of our beautiful daughters, MacKenzie & Adeline  
Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in memory of our father, James Aynes  
Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in honor of our parents, Clarence and Brenda Greer,  
Debbie Aynes, and DiAnna Greer  
Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in memory of our grandparents, James and Clara Aynes,  
Hose and Margaret Simpson, Clarence and Mary Greer, and Ernie and Jess Ann Tolle  
John and Sue Bohmer in honor of the Church Staff  
Marye Boyce in memory of Tom L. Barnard  
Marye Boyce in memory of Mary Elizabeth Barnard  
Chancel Choir in memory of Kayoko Shimpō, mother of Ryoji Shimpō  
Sharon Condarco in memory of my son, Christopher Petton  
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in loving memory R.J. Farmer, D. D. S., Karen Dixon and our parents  
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in memory of Nickie Wilbanks and Marjorie Akin  
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of our children and grandchildren  
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Tom Wilbanks  
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Jones and Mary Lee Doughton and family  
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Renee Stormer and FPC staff  
Kirk Dixon in honor of my lovely wife, Susan.  
Jones and Mary Lee Doughton in honor of Dallas and Lynda Ward, Leila B. Doughton, and Jack MacMillan  
Jones and Mary Lee Doughton in memory of Erastus B. J. Doughton  
Rich and Barbara Follansbee in memory of our parents, Dick and Betty Follansbee  
Rich and Barbara Follansbee in memory of our parents, Hue and Fran Hightower  
Roger Foltz in honor of Scott and Amanda Foltz, Emily and Thomas Shoots, David and Wendy Foltz  
Roger Foltz in memory of my parents  
Debra Ford in memory of my dad, Ray "Penny" Pendergrass  
Doug and Jan Fort in memory of our son, Adam Fort.  
Linda Fricke in loving memory of Dan Fricke  
Meg GarverHamilton in honor of The Staff of First Presbyterian Church  
Meg GarverHamilton in honor of The Presbyterian Women  
Sheila and Ronald Hammer in honor of L.I.F.E. Youth and Faith Builders  
Sheila and Ronald Hammer in memory of Mona Villafana  
Sheila and Ronald Hammer in memory of Roger Rich  
David Howard in memory of Joshua Howard  
David Howard in memory of Dawna Howard  
Gerald and Cindy Jenkins in memory of Carol Coward  
Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of Jones Doughton and Family  
Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of the ministry of Tom and Nicki Wilbanks  
Phil and Celeste Johnson in memory of Jim Sheppard  
Leonard and Sarah Kitchens in memory of Martha Dye, Sarah's sister  
John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of Dr. Tom Wilbanks and in memory of Nickie Wilbanks with love and appreciation for their many years of service and dedication to our church  
John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our parents and families, with our love  
John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of our grandparents, with our love  
John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of the FPC Safety Team  
John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our church staff  
Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Pat Smith  
Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Loncy and Bettye Leake  
Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Leroy and Pauline Tanner  
Michael and Robbie Lee in honor of Robbie's mom, Estalene Marshall  
Michael and Robbie Lee in honor of Mike's mom, Carmelita Accock  
Paul and Sue Luce in memory of Edwin and Agnes Carr, and Robert Luce  
Sheryl Miller in honor of my grandson, Truett Ellis Barrilleaux  
Sheryl Miller in memory of my parents, Ben and Mary Williams  
Brian Neece in honor of Don Neece  
Brian Neece in memory of Sue Neece  
Evelyn Parker in memory of Toliver Hutchinson  
Bob and Maurine Robinson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hanby and Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Robinson  
Bob and Maurine Robinson in memory of Mrs. Betty Scott and Kathy Scott Krajca  
John and Susan Scholl in memory of our parents  
John and Susan Scholl in memory of our daughter

Eric and Lori Schwartz in memory our fathers, Dan Fricke and Robert Schwartz  
Eric and Lori Schwartz in memory of our grandmothers, Billie Hill and Jeanette Schwartz  
Hope L. Sheppard in loving memory of my beloved husband and dearest friend for 70 years, the Rev. James "Jim" Robert Sheppard, Jr.  
Hope L. Sheppard in loving memory of our first-born son, Mark Stephen Sheppard  
Hope L. Sheppard in loving memory of Mary Katherine McFeron, wife of Mark Sheppard, and her father Milton McFeron  
Hope L. Sheppard in loving memory of our baby son, gone too soon, James Matthew Sheppard  
Hope L. Sheppard in loving memory of Velia Mariscal, wife of Matthew Sheppard and in honor of the precious and caring Mariscal family  
Hope L. Sheppard in loving memory of our dear friend and excellent teacher, Cora Dugan  
Hope L. Sheppard with thanks and honor of my dear precious family, God bless you  
Hope L. Sheppard with thanks and Happy Birthday to Edie Brunson  
Ann Smith in honor of Stephen Leake  
Ann Smith in honor of my grandchildren, Smith & Dylan  
Ann Smith in honor of William Richardson, our "in person" Sunday School Teacher  
Ann Smith in honor of the Church Staff for all they do  
Ann Smith in honor of Reverend Doughton and family  
Ron Smith in honor of Roland Smith  
Ron Smith in honor of Mitch Smith  
Ron Smith in memory of Rene Smith  
Paul F. Snyder in honor of my stepchildren, Judy, Cinthia, and Debbie  
George Venner in memory of Pat Venner  
Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of the Wards  
Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of the Carlsons  
Beverlee Witty in memory of Mel Witty  
Beverlee Witty in honor of Jack Witty  
Beverlee Witty in honor of Hannah Witty

If you provided a **poinsettia** for the sanctuary, please feel free to take it home after this service.

### THE CHALLENGE



The 100 Can Challenge continues . . .  
Let us carry on THE CHALLENGE to collect can goods and other non-perishable items. The donated items will be given to Sharing Life, as they feed those in need in our community. Our total collected for December is **159 items.**

### The Women's Retreat Committee is selling pecans.

A table is set up in the main hallway and a committee member will be there to assist you. Please make your purchase this Sunday.

1 lb. bag of halves \$13

Only limited quantities available.

# GUIDE TO WORSHIP

December 25, 2022

11:00 a.m.



The Star on the bulletin cover is from The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. This star is above the site where Mary placed Jesus after giving birth. One can see that this Star is fully in lighted, unlike the Christmas Eve Star. Christ has now brought the light to the world. As the Christmas Eve Star from the Church led us to look down, may this Star lead us to look upwards. May it serve as a reminder to look up and out to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May this Star lead us to wonder, imagination, and mission.

*Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We hope you find a welcome here worthy of the gracious God we serve. Conventions in this bulletin include: an asterisk (\*) invites you to stand, as health allows, material printed in **bold** is for the congregation to sing or say, and material printed in italics may provide some helpful information. Let us worship God!*

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

### STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* arr. Noreen Lienhard

INTROIT 123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (v.1)*  
Richard Storrs Willis

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven's all-gracious King":  
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2*  
Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### And also to you.

For unto us a Child is born, for unto us a Son is given, authority rests upon His shoulder, and He is named, Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for unto you is born this day a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.

\*HYMN 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

#### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, You sent a star to guide the wise men to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not searched for signs of Your love in the world, or trusted Your Good News to be good. We have failed to praise Your Son's birth, and refused His peace on earth. We have expected little, and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

#### \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

#### \*RESPONSE *(Hymn 581)*

**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. A—men. A—men.**

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS #

#### MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

The children and youth are asked to come forward at this time.

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #

Almighty and All-Knowing God-as we seek Your light at this time, open our minds that we may find Your Hope, open our spirit that we may find Your peace, open our hearts that we might find Your love, open our wills that we might find Your joy as Your Word is read and preached in Jesus Name, Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Isaiah 60:1-3*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to Your light and kings to the brightness of Your dawn.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Matthew 2:9-12*

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the Child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they knelt down and paid Him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

SERMON *The World of Jesus: The Quest of the Mago*  
Rev. Doughton

\*HYMN 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

#### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### \*DOXOLOGY *(Hymn 606)*

**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.**

\*HYMN 134 *Joy to the World*

#### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

#### \*RESPONSE 136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* arr. John W. Work, II

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.  
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

\*POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* arr. Chip Davis

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # - Meg GarverHamilton

Deacon/Ushers - Nick Scholl, Richard Mauldin, and John Futrell

## NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

### Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. - One Worship Service

### Monday, December 26

Church Office is Closed

### Tuesday - Friday Dec 27 to 30

Church Office will have abbreviated hours. If you need to make a year end contribution, please call for an appointment.

### Sunday, January 1 - New Years Day

11:00 a.m. - One Worship service

### Tuesday, January 3

9:30 a.m. - Presbyterian Women Morning Circle

7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Women Night Circle

### Sunday, January 8 - Ordination and Installation of Church Officers

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

9:30 a.m. - Youth handbell rehearsal

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

### Monday, January 9

7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringer Rehearsal

### Wednesday, January 11

6:00 p.m. - Epiphany Service

7:00 p.m. - Board of Deacons

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## THOSE WHO SERVE

Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor  
Ben Clifton, Director of Music Ministries  
Ryoji Shimo, Organist  
Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant  
Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus