

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR DEC. 15, 2024

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Adoramus Te* arr. Teresa Wilhelmi
INTROIT 84 *Creator of the Stars of Night* CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Gathering Around The Word

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE *The Waller Family*

***RESPONSE 85** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* TIF IN VELDELE
**Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *from Isa. 12:2-3*
One: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the holy name of the most high God.
All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.
One: Proclaim the mercy of the One who comes as one of us.
All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.
One: Trust and do not be afraid.
All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.
One: With joy you will draw water from the wells of peace.
All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation. Hallelujah Amen.

***HYMN 108** *Of the Father's Love Begotten* DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In your presence, Holy God,
we confess that we need repentance.
We have broken your commands against idolatry.
We do not live in peace with your creation or your people.
We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid.
Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise,
for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news
and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us,
you are forgiven. The Lord has taken away the judgments
against you. Do not worry. Live in peace.
All: Thanks be to God.

*PASSING THE PEACE

We invite you to share the peace of Christ with others.

***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, amen.**

Listening To the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING ZEPHANIA 3:14-20
(The scripture readings can be found on the back of the bulletin)

ANTHEM *A Tiny Child Will Come* Nancy Price & Don Besig

SECOND READING LUKE 3:7-18

SERMON "Baptism By Fire" Rev. David Holden

Responding to the Word

***HYMN 92** *While We Are Waiting, Come* WAITING

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

SHARING OUR PRAYERS *See prayer concerns list, back page*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung) *laminated sheet in pew pocket*

GIVING BACK TO GOD'S KINGDOM
(Give online @ bit.ly/FPCSomersetGive or scan the code on the yellow pew card)

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY 606**
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God Sends Us Forth

***HYMN 106** *Prepare the Way, O Zion* BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*BLESSING

HYMN 94 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (vrs.4)* WINCHESTER NEW

POSTLUDE

**for portions marked with an asterisk, you're invited to rise in body or spirit*

Visiting today? Welcome!

Please tell us about yourself! You can scan this QR code with your smartphone to fill out our online form, or fill out a pew card and drop it in the offering plate.



This Week

TODAY! @ 12:00pm - Called Congregational Meeting
Tue., Dec. 17 @ 5:30pm - Presbyterian Women Bible Study
Wed., Dec. 18 @ 6:30pm - Choir practice
Thur., Dec. 19 @ 5:00pm - Session Meeting
Fri., Dec. 20 @ 11:30am - Lunch Ladies to Amon's Sugar Shack
Sat., Dec. 21 @ 2:00pm - Food Box Giveaway

Worship Assistants Next Week

Liturgist.....Brenda Wesley
Ushers.....Mary Jones & Carol Wade
Audio.....Mary Beth Waller
Video.....Jon Burlew
Coffee Plus.....Linda Bonardel

Scripture Reading—Zephania 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival.” I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Scripture Reading—Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Scripture verses taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition



Prayers for Comfort, Concern, and Healing

Becky Butler’s brother, David Seiler; Shane Thurman; Baby S; Ed & Joyce Mick; Autumn Brock’s mom, Marie; Jennifer Williams; Bill House; Leslie Phillips

Current Giving

	Rec’d month of Nov.	Needed Monthly	Received YTD	Needed YTD
Pledged Offering	\$13,173	\$11,985	\$144,311	\$131,839
Non-Pledged	\$6,669	\$3,289	\$57,420	\$36,173

Blessing Box Attendant

This Week.....Laura Kamperman
Next Week.....

Assisting In Worship Today

Ministers.....Every Member
Liturgist.....Naomi Judy
Ushers.....Laura Kamperman & Marty Whitson
Audio.....Terry Randall
Video.....Richard Wright
Coffee Plus.....Erin Stephens
Director of Music.....Theresa Jean Kibby
Piano & Organ.....Debby McDonald
Pastor.....Rev. David Holden

Deacons:

Linda Cook	Rebecca Davis	Sue Guffey
Don Haney	Nancy Holland	Marshall Judy
	Marci Randall	

Elders:

<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>	<i>Class of 2026</i>
Charles Leveridge	Sharon Mandt	Jo Salmon
Zack Vaught	Perry Waller	Laura Wright

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First Presbyterian Church

December 15th, 2024

The Third Sunday of Advent



Scott, Lorenzo. Baptism of Jesus, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56877> [retrieved December 11, 2024]. Original source: <https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/baptism-jesus-33953>.

People of God, Welcome Home!

May Christ’s peace and presence fill your heart as you worship this day, and may you go forth with the light and love of God shining within you.

We welcome you to worship, and ask that any electronic devices be placed on silent so that all may hear what God has to say.