

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR DEC. 22, 2024

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Handbells: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* JEFFERSON
arr. S. Eithun

Gathering Around The Word

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE *The Dikeman 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.
He is coming; tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Not in the mighty places of power, but in little Bethlehem, in a room out back:

All: The Messiah is coming.

One: Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph, who pondered and planed wood:

All: The Messiah is coming.

One: Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings, but by two women, who were the first to know:

All: The Messiah is coming.

One: Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, look among the straw and the stars:

All: The Messiah is coming.

***HYMN 100** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.

**Though we have heard Mary's song,
we still seek security in pride and power and possessions.**

**Though we know your story,
we resist the costs of following you.**

We pass by those considered lowly in this world.

We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.

Forgive us, we pray.

Help us to work for the justice you intend.

Make us messengers of the peace you bring.

As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world—not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***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

MICAH 5:2-5A

(The scripture readings can be found on the back of the bulletin)

ANTHEM 144

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

SECOND READING

LUKE 1:39-55

SERMON

"How Unlikely!"

Rev. David Holden

Responding to the Word

***HYMN 129**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

IONIAN CREED

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth,
of male and female.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.**

**A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,
he died alone and forsaken.**

He descended into the earth to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb.

He ascended into heaven,

**to be everywhere present throughout all ages,
and His kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of all resurrection and of eternal life. 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)

DEDICATING OUR 2025 PLEDGES

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 110**

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

***BLESSING**

HYMN 137

He Came Down (vrs.1)

HE CAME DOWN

POSTLUDE

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

Mon., Dec. 23 - Thur., Jan. 2 - Church office hours temporarily by appointment only

(for an appointment call or text 606-383-0700)

Tue., Dec. 24 @ 6:00pm - Christmas Eve Service

Worship Assistants Next Week

Liturgist.....Troy Jamieson
Ushers.....Suzanne Kidd & George Joplin
Audio.....Paul Guffey
Video.....Sue Guffey
Coffee Plus.....Paula Burlew

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

Scripture Reading—Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, ^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

Scripture Reading—Luke 1:39-55

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And Mary said,
⁴⁷ “My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁸ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

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.....
Next Week.....

Assisting In Worship Today

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

All Rights Reserved – Copyrighted reprints are made under [OneLicense.net](https://www.onelicense.net) A-719430

First Presbyterian Church
December 22nd, 2024
The Fourth Sunday of Advent



LePlae, Charles. Two Women, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54235> [retrieved December 17, 2024]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Charles_Leplae_Twee_zwangere_vrouwen_1953.jpg.

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.