

# Our Mission

## To Know Christ and To Make Him Known

**Welcome** to today's worship service. We are delighted that you are here. If you are visiting, we invite you to join by profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, by reaffirmation of faith, or by transfer. Please speak to the pastor after the service.

### SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	David Parris
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Nancy CLayton
Greeter	Gail Jones
Side door/Offering	

### BUDGET UPDATE

	October 1 - 31	YTD
Contributions	\$12,535.38	\$316,266.87
Expenditures	\$31,914.26	\$462,960.56
Difference	(-\$19,378.88)	(-\$146,693.69)

#### List of Session members

**Class of 2024:** Kathy Dolianitis, Brenna Takata\*, Barbara Wilkins\*, David Swann

**Class of 2025:** David Clark, Sam Meadema\*, Eddie Blount\*, Jackie Rochford\*

**Class of 2026:** Barry Cutright, Gail Jones\*, Kim Wimer

\*Denotes Steering Committee Members

# First Presbyterian Church

December 22, 2024

11 a.m.



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**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

# A Service for the Worship of God

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

*4th Sunday of Advent ~ December 22, 2024*

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

## WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** "While Shepherds Watched," "Silent Night," and "O Come All Ye Faithful"  
arr. David Burndrett | Charlotte Garrett, Ashley Stanley, and Kayla Stork, flute trio

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Luke 1:46)

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

**People: With Mary, our spirits rejoice, and we sing God's praise.**

Leader: Let us honor God with our worship this fourth Sunday of Advent.

## INVOCATION

Dear Father in heaven, let your joy be always in us, your children. Let your joy bring light and peace to our lives, no matter what happens around us.

**HYMN# 115**

**Away in a Manger**

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

December 24th

Church Office 9-11am

December 26th

Church Office Closed

December 28th

Saturday Lunch Ministry 11:30am

The JOY Offering will continue to be collected through the month of December.

Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service will be at 5:30pm. We invite everyone to come to this meaningful service with their families and invite their neighbors and friends.

We will be Christmas caroling Sunday December 22nd at 1:45pm. Anyone interested please meet at the Sutherlin Entrance.

“The Angel Gabriel”

Basque Carol | English text by Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Arranged by John Raymond Howell (1936-2013)

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.

“All hail,” said he, “Thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady,” Gloria.

“For known a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee.

Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady,” Gloria.

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.

“My soul shall laud and magnify His holy name.” Most highly favored lady, Gloria.

Of her Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,

And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:

“Most highly favored lady.” Gloria.

Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, Gloria.

**About the Anthem:**

This carol originated in the Basque language, spoken primarily in northern Spain but also a small section of modern-day southwestern France. It was translated by an Anglican priest, Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould, who spent a winter in the Basque country as a boy. He is best known as the author of “Onward, Christian Soldiers,” but he penned over 1,240 other works. Rev. Baring-Gould was known as an antiquarian as well as a writer of novels, poems, and prose. He also particularly loved writing biographies of saints and notable ministers.

The arrangement we are singing today was written by Dr. John Raymond Howell, a longtime music professor at Virginia Tech. He was originally from Washington state, and he attended Indiana University for graduate school before taking a full-time assistant professorship at Virginia Tech in 1979. Dr. Howell had something in common with Rev. Baring-Gould in that both loved studying antiquity. Dr. Howell specialized in the musicology of early European music, as well as choral conducting and viola performance. He wrote this arrangement especially for piano and voices, a treatise on simplicity. I love how he illustrates the mystery of the Annunciation using ascending and descending patterns. Also, the final section of “Glorias” is fivefold in total. This setting sounds to me as Gabriel and the heavenly host singing, “Glory to God in the highest” with angels’ wings moving rapidly through the night sky.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Soon we will celebrate the Prince of Peace, but we are not a people at peace. We glorify violence and dismiss the pacifist as weak. We dominate and demean turning dialogue into debate. We wage war with enemies and invest in self-defense before giving non-violent strategies a chance. Lord, forgive us. Help us work towards your peaceable kingdom, where swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Amen.

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (Micah 5:4-5)

“And he will stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.” In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

**Leader:** Let us, the children of God, stand and greet those around us with a handshake, hug, or reconciling words, sharing God’s blessings and then remain standing for the “Gloria Patri”.

**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.*

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

In this season of generosity, let us remember from whom all our blessings flow. Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy God, with Mary we seek to magnify you in our worship and in our deeds. Accept these gifts and bless them for Christ’s ministry. May they lift the lowly and fill the hungry. May they reveal your glory present with us today and still yet to come. Amen.

**OFFERTORY:** “O Tannenbaum” German Carol/arr. David Overton, ed. James Galway  
Charlotte Garrett and Kayla Stork, flute duet with piano

**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.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

**ANTHEM** “The Angel Gabriel” Basque carol  
arr. J.R. Howell

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your Way. As we make our final preparations before Christmas, clear our minds of holiday distractions and long lists of to-dos. Help us approach your Word with awe and wonder, so we may hear the message you intend for us today. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE:** (694/658) Micah 5:2 -5a  
(761/724) Luke 1:39-55

**SERMON** “Love” Jackson Weller

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**HYMN# 121**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Mendelssohn  
arr. Jason W. Krug

*The flowers today are given in loving memory of our  
beloved Marie Louise Crane and Diane Shelton  
by her Church Sistars.*