

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI



3RD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

December 17, 2023
The Third Sunday of Advent
11:00 a.m.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The time to begin preparing for worship is no later than the sounding of the chimes.

*Please silence all cell phones and other communication devices.
No unauthorized photography or recordings are allowed during the worship service.*

*The congregation is invited to stand.

✠ Seating of those arriving after worship has begun.

CHIMING

PRELUDE He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child arr. Dale Wood

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Annie Powers, Miriam Jane Rodgers,
and Sarah Douglas Thach

“Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.” (Psalm 67:3-5)

✠*HYMN 140 Once in Royal David's City IRBY

*PRAYER OF ADORATION Dr. Andrew Chaney

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shepherd of our souls, we anticipate your coming but do not feel ready. We have done too much, and not done enough. We have focused too much on ourselves, and not enough on others. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we might be saved. For it is the name of Jesus we offer our prayers.

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE FOREST GREEN

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

EXPRESSIONS OF FELLOWSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Shepherd's Pipe Carol arr. Dale Wood

*Response No. 150, stanza 3 DIX

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.**

*Prayer of Dedication Elder Jimmy Lott

140, Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

Nativity Pageant



PROCESSIONAL

Still, Still, Still

Austrian carol; arr. W. Ehret

SCENE ONE – The Angel Gabriel and Mary

An Angel Told Mary

An angel told Mary good news, good news!
She would have a baby, good news, good news!
She would name him Jesus, good news, good news!
He would show God's love, good news, good news!

SCENE TWO – Mary and Joseph

An Angel Told Mary

Holy Baby, Holy Child

Holy baby, Holy child, we await your coming now.
You bring us hope, you bring us peace,
You bring us joy, you bring us love.
Holy baby, Holy child, come to us now.

SCENE THREE – Mary, Joseph, and the Innkeeper

Away in a Manger

SCENE FOUR – Shepherds and Angels

O Little Town of Bethlehem

SCENE FIVE – The Coming of the Wise Men

Procession of the Kings – **We Three Kings of Orient Are**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Joy to the World (with congregation)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

IN DULCI JUBILO

Dr. Andrew Chaney
arr. Christopher Uehlein

CAST

Mary	Libby Smith
Joseph	Michael Smith
Narrator 1	Cheney Hodges
Narrator 2	Eliza Jane Stainback
Narrator 3	Lizzy Thach
Star	Audra Cate Melton
Gabriel	Catherine Strawbridge
Innkeeper	Declan Beattie

Wisemen (in speaking order)

Sanders Luke
Jack Daugherty
James Walker
Adam Avritt
Crawford Jefcoat

Angels (in speaking order)

Lawson Rodgers
Margaret Walker
Annabelle Beattie

Shepherds (in speaking order)

Brandt Barger
Robert Litton
James Pinkston

Angels (non-speaking)

Taylor Avritt
Ella Canterbury
Ina Drew Daugherty
Ainsley Ellis
Lyla Gary
Molly McLeod King
Hazel Pigott
Julia Pinkston
Laura Stainback

Shepherds (non-speaking)

Charlie Braswell
Sam Braswell
Hugh Gary
Hayes Smith
John Day Stewart
Smith Williams

Animals

Clayton Barger
Sam King
Grady Luke
Witt Moses
Otis Pigott
Houston Smith

Thanks to these persons for their work in this presentation:

Lorie Guenther, Shannon Melton, Kelli Stainback, Caroline Strawbridge

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 Main Street

Greenwood, Mississippi

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www.firstgreenwood.org

Dr. Andrew Chaney, Pastor

Rev. Ray Smithee, Director of Music & Organist

Whitney Avritt, Director of Youth Ministries

Kelli Stainback, Director of Christian Education

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The poinsettias in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Don and Romney Brock, and in celebration of the marriage of their daughter Anne Darrington (Adair) Brock and John Madison Brooks last evening with Dr. Andrew Chaney officiating.

The poinsettias in the poinsettia tree stand are given to the glory of God and in honor of, or in memory of, loved ones as listed on the backside of this insert.

Youth Christmas Parties this evening. Junior High students will gather at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Clifton and Sarah Nell Thach, 402 Robert E. Lee Dr. The Senior High students will gather at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Chaney, 1305 Robert E. Lee Dr. All students are to bring a \$15 wrapped gift.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Celebration, Sunday, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. A nursery is provided.

Stewardship 2023 – Please do your best to complete your 2023 pledge by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 28**, so the Session can meet its financial commitments for 2023. We still have benevolences yet to be paid. Thank you for your generosity.

CALENDER

Sunday, December 17, 2023

- 9:30 am Choristers Rehearsal
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time in Shuler Hall
- 11:00 am Worship/Children's Nativity Pageant
- 5:00 pm Jr. High Christmas Dinner
- 6:30 pm Sr. High Christmas Dinner

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Newsletter Information Deadline

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

- 2:30 pm Liturgy
- 6:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by the following:

The Beattie Family in celebration of birthdays for Josh Beattie, Jasmine McGaughy and Richard Beattie.

Patty Brock in memory of her husband, Donnie Brock, Sr.

Dr. and Mrs. Henry Flautt in memory of her mother, Suzanne McIntyre.

Pie Fincher in memory of Gene Fincher, Frances & Ralph Campbell, and Grace & Carl Fincher.

Morgan and Pat Gulledege in memory of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Gulledege, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Grover L. Kyle.

Johnny and Polly Henson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Woodell and Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Henson.

Vaughn, Shaeffer, and Walter Jordan III in memory of their parents Granville and Martha Jordan, and grandparents Walter and Cornelia Jordan.

Kathy Kearney in honor of Ray Smithee and the Chancel Choir.

Connie Lawrence in memory of her husband, Ellett Lawrence and son-in-law, Kent Hull.

Beth Moses in memory of my loved ones and in honor of my family.

Reese, Allison, Swayze, Walt and Ansley Pillow in memory of John Sharp Pillow.

Reese, Allison, and Swayze Pillow in celebration of the marriage of Walter and Ansley Pillow.

John Heston and Toni Powers in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Harris F. Powers and Mr. and Mrs. Tony Byrd.

Jim and Beverly Quinn in memory of her mother, Carline Bell, and her sister, Sandy Bell Steele.

John and Mary Neff Stewart in memory of his father and mother, Jack and Magdalene Stewart, and her grandfather, M.P. Neff.

Randy and Beth Tackett in honor of Nancy and Jodie Tharp, and in memory of Mrs. Delores Tackett and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hollis Edwards, Sr.

Tom and Nancy Tollison in memory of our parents Mr. and Mrs. James Tollison and Mr. and Mrs. Jack McCullar.

