



First  
Presbyterian  
Church

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI



4TH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 24, 2023

11:00 a.m.

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

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

\*The congregation is invited to stand.

\*\*Seating of those arriving after worship has begun.

CHIMING

PRELUDE                    **Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day**                    arr. J. Biery

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE                    William Litton, Salter Melton,  
and Annie Powers

*“Love the Lord, all you his saints. The Lord preserves the faithful, but abundantly repays the one who acts haughtily. Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.” (Psalm 31:23-24)*

\*\*HYMN 132                    **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**                    IN DULCI JUBILO

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

## CONFESSION OF SIN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God of the past, present, and future. You promise to put things right in your world. In this season of Advent, we are reminded of your coming. But we confess we have not expected your rule and reign. We have not been looking forward to your kingdom. We ignore your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth. We refuse your grace, justice, and peace. In your mercy, Lord, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way. Help us to seek what truly endures. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord...**

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!**

# PROCLAIM THE WORD

EXPRESSIONS OF FELLOWSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

A TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Larkin Camp

ANTHEM

**When God's Time Had Ripened**

Alfred V. Fedak

When God's time had ripened, Mary's womb bore fruit, scion of the Godhead, sprung from Jesse's root: so the True Vine branches from the lily's stem, the Rose without blemish blooms in Bethlehem. More than mind can fathom, limit or untwine, this mysterious yoking, human and divine, but what reason fetters faith at length unlocks, and wise hearts discover truth in paradox. As the bread of heaven, that we might be fed, chose a manger cradle in the House of Bread, so has Life Eternal mingled in the womb with our mortal nature to confound the tomb. For this swaddled infant in a humble place holds our hope of glory and our means of grace; in the Love enfleshed here dawns the world's rebirth, promise of salvation, pledge of peace on earth.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

**Luke 2:25-30**

SERMON

Dr. Andrew Chaney

**"Lessons from the Manger"**

**2. Simeon Teaches the Waiting is Worth It!**

PASTORAL PRAYER

## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN 128

**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

W ZLOBIE LEZY

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

**Pastorale Symphony**

Handel/arr. Hustad

\*Doxology, No. 606

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

\*Prayer of Dedication and The Lord's Prayer

Deacon Karla Bowen

\*HYMN 123

**It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

CAROL

\*CHARGE, BENEDICTION, AND CHORAL RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE

**IN DULCI JUBILO**

J. S. Bach/ed. Bish

## 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

# 128, Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;  
 2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.



Swift are wing-ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring-ing, ti-dings bring-ing:  
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor - row:



Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
 Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!



The English text of this 13th- or 14th-century Polish carol does not try to tell a story but to offer verbal snapshots of the well-known Nativity narrative of Luke 2:6-20. The tune name quotes the opening of the Polish text and means "He lies in a cradle" or "In manger lying."

# 123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,  
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;  
4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
5 For lo, the days are has-tering on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:  
be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;  
who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":  
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,  
and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing:  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,





the world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!  
O, rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.  
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.



## WELCOME TO THIS HOUR OF WORSHIP

We hope that you will be made to feel welcome here and that you will find this service helpful to you in your Christian life. If you are a visitor, please know that we are glad for your presence here. Please help us to know you better by filling out the Friendship Register and then pass it to the person seated next to you. Take note with whom you are worshipping with and greet them warmly! Welcome one another to the Lord's House! Should you be interested in joining this congregation, please check the appropriate box on the Friendship Register and we will be in touch with you, or you may call the church office at (662) 453-4680. The Session meets periodically at 10:35 a.m. on Sunday to receive new members into our congregation.

**A Nursery Is Available for children 3 years and younger** in Room 103 in the Van Arnold Education Building located directly across the street from the Sanctuary.

**Accessibility:** Large print Bibles, hymnals, and hearing devices are available in the back of the Sanctuary. At the end of the service, please return these to the back tables.

**Cell Phones and Photography:** In order to maintain reverence during the service, please silence all cell phones and other communication devices and refrain from unauthorized photography or recordings.

**Internet Broadcast:** To watch the service live on a computer, tablet, or smart phone, go to [www.firstgreenwood.net/video](http://www.firstgreenwood.net/video). Worship bulletins are available under the "Worship" tab on the website, as are archived services. You may also access the worship service live by going to the church's Facebook page.

**Community Food Pantry:** Please bring canned food and place it in the Food Pantry Collection Box near the handicap entrance.

**Hospital Visitation:** Please call the church office to let us know whether you are in the hospital or know of any church member in the hospital, since the hospital here no longer lists names of hospitalized persons on a public register. **Elder Alan Barger** is the visitation elder for **December**.

**Ushers for Today:** Taylor Calhoun, Barrett Daugherty, Will Jefcoat, Lisa Melton, John Pittman, Toni Powers

**Security Detail:** Miller King and Brett Canterbury

**Children's Church** for 4- & 5-year-olds with Kelli and Andrew Stainback

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 24, 2023

10:00 am Christmas Eve Breakfast

11:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Communion Assignments

5:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Communion Celebration

### Monday, December 25, 2023

Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, December 26, 2023

Church Office Closed



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Advent Marks the Beginning** of the Christian calendar. The word “Advent” comes from the Latin “adventus” which means “coming.” During the four weeks of Advent, the Christian Church prepares for the coming of Jesus Christ. Advent helps us remember the coming of Christ more than 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, but it also points us to the future, toward the Second Coming of Christ and an age of peace and justice brought about by Christ’s return to earth.

**Our thanks** to members of the 2023 Confirmation Class for serving as our Advent Candlelighters for the month of December.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Celebration** service this evening at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A nursery is available in the Van Arnold Education Building for the service this evening.

**The Church Office is closed** Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26. It will reopen on Wednesday, December 27.

**Stewardship 2023** – Please do your best to complete your 2023 pledge by **Thursday, December 28**, so the Session can meet its financial commitments for 2023. The Church Office will be open until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 28. We need \$39,000.00 of outstanding pledges to come in by the end of this month. Some \$42,600.00 of benevolences are yet to be paid. Thank you for your generosity.

**Elder Todd Fincher** will be preaching next Sunday, December 31, while Dr. Chaney is away taking some vacation time. Elder Thomas Gregory III will serve as Liturgist.

**The Church Office** will be closed Monday, January 1, in observance of the New Year holiday.

**S. A. L. T.** (Serving and Learning Together), our bi-annual Wednesday evening program with dinner, resumes on January 10 through February 7. Details regarding class offerings will be in the January 2024 newsletter to be mailed out next week.

The children will use the study “Kid’s Travel Guide to the Fruit of the Spirit”.

The youth will continue their study of “What Does It Mean to Be Chosen?” utilizing the popular series “The Chosen”.

Dr. Chaney will be teaching the adult class looking at how the faith of four theologians impacted our Presbyterian faith journeys. The theologians include: Thomas A Kempis, St. Augustine, Martin Luther, and John Calvin.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

300 Main Street • P. O. Box 485

Greenwood, Mississippi 38935

Phone (662) 453-4680

Fax (662) 453-4699

Website: [www.firstgreenwood.net](http://www.firstgreenwood.net)

Email: [fpcoffice@firstgreenwood.net](mailto:fpcoffice@firstgreenwood.net)

Senior Pastor	Dr. Andrew Chaney
Pastor Emeritus	Dr. Rusty Douglas
Director of Music & Organist	Rev. Ray Smithee
Director of Youth Ministries	Whitney Avritt
Director of Christian Education	Kelli Stainback
Kindergarten Director	Caroline Strawbridge
Financial Secretary	Annette McDonald
Administrative Assistant	Denise Gardner
Custodian	Charles Covington
Custodian	Lonnie Love
Clerk of Session	Richard Oakes
Board of Deacons	Rebekah Arant
Church Treasurer	Mark Vemer
Presbyterian Women	Mary Clyde King
Endowment Committee	Mike Sturdivant III

## Foreign Missionaries/Missions We Support:

Shapoor Ahmadi, Operation Promise

Liverpool, England Persian Church & Outreach Ministries

Bill Holland, Ahava Ministries

Bill and Bette Bryant Crisis Nursery, Lusaka, Zambia

Cistern Project of the Yucatan

Amos Yam, San Pablo Theological Seminary, Merida, Yucatan

Potter and Clay Ministries of Haiti,

Jordan Walker (MSU), Rebecca Gasson (Ole Miss)

Presbyterian Church of Aleppo, Turkey

Ivan Rusyn, Ukraine Evangelical Seminary

## SESSION

### CLASS OF 2024

Jim Bowen  
Sherry Clark  
Todd Fincher  
Mary Haley Flautt  
Pat Gulledege  
Cathy Jennings

### CLASS OF 2025

Susan Beckham  
Taylor Calhoun  
Chuck Conditt  
Jimmy Lott  
Moss Melton  
Richard Oakes

### CLASS OF 2026

Dallas Baker  
Alan Barger  
Miller King  
Reese Pillow  
John Stewart III  
Ryan Strawbridge

## DEACONS

### CLASS OF 2024

Lina Elfert  
Lynn Riales  
Randy Tackett

### CLASS OF 2025

Rebekah Arant  
Karla Bowen  
Zach Luke

### CLASS OF 2026

Christie Beattie  
Emmie Daugherty  
Sam Pigott



Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO)