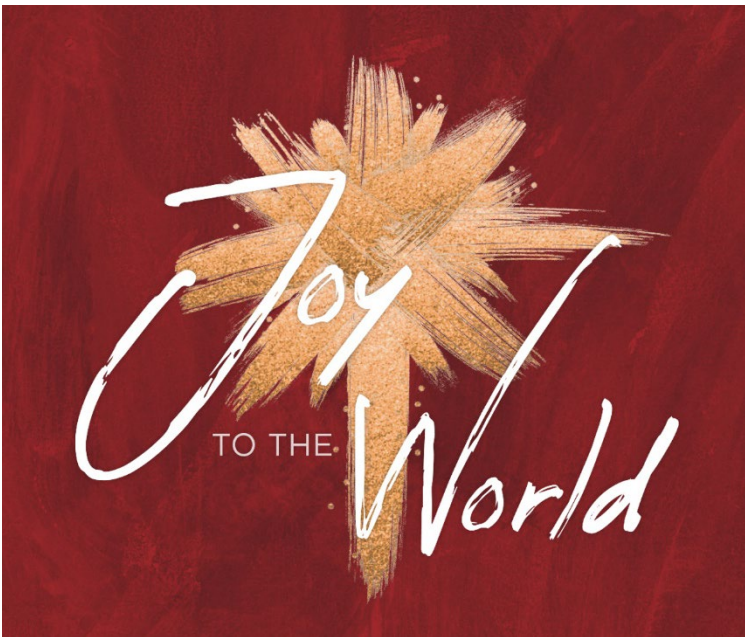




First
Presbyterian
Church

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 31, 2023

The First Sunday of Christmas

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

While By My Sheep

arr. Don Hustad

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Thomas Gregory III

One: Praise the Lord, O you people.

All: We joyfully proclaim Christ is here!

One: The God of all creation animates our bodies
with the breath of the Spirit.

**All: The Lord, the giver of life,
has come to dwell among us.**

Let us worship God together!

**HYMN 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF SIN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-present God, you became our Savior in all our distress. In all the ways we hurt, and all the ways we hurt others, in all the ways we feel we neglect others, in all the ways we cry out and all the ways we cause others to cry, you are with us, comforting us and holding us to account. In your love, redeem us once again. Lift us up and grant us your mercy, as you have throughout the generations. For it is in the name of Jesus we offer our prayers...

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

PROCLAIM THE WORD

EXPRESSIONS OF FELLOWSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

A TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Deacon Emmie Daugherty

SOLO

Gebet

Hugo Wolf

Lord, send what thou deems't best,
Be it joy or grieving;
I wait thy will believing
That both thy love attest.
Not without measure
Give sadness or pleasure
All merciful Father!
For midway rather
Lies Heart's Ease' pure treasure.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:33

SERMON

Elder Todd Fincher

"Shepherd of the Senate"

PASTORAL PRAYER - A prayer of Peter Marshall

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Mediation on "The Holly and the Ivy"

arr. D. Lasky

*Response

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 and The Lord's Prayer

Elder Zach Luke

*HYMN 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on MENDELSSOHN

arr. D. Lasky

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -



her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,



and



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.


Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

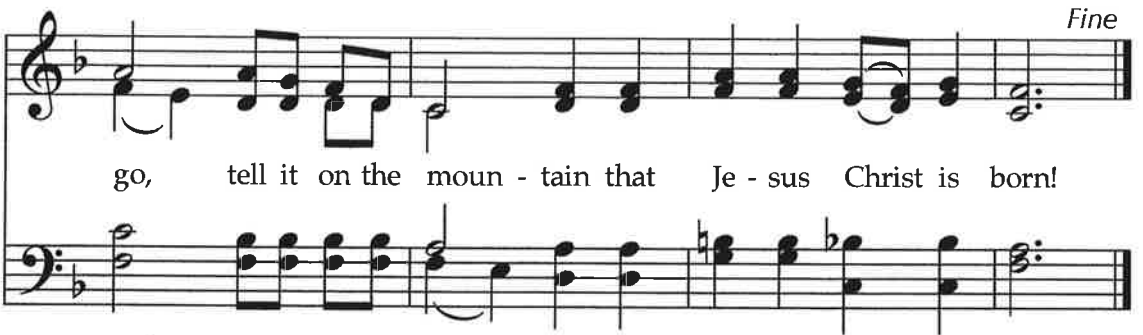


136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain 

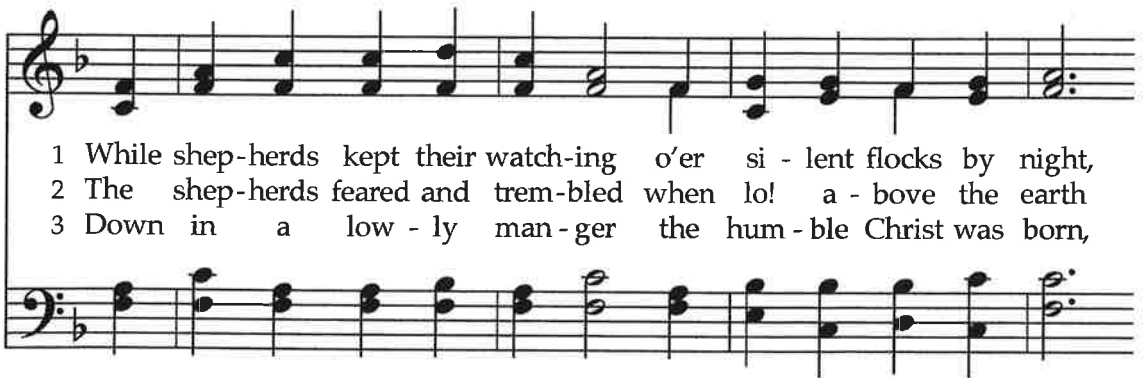


Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

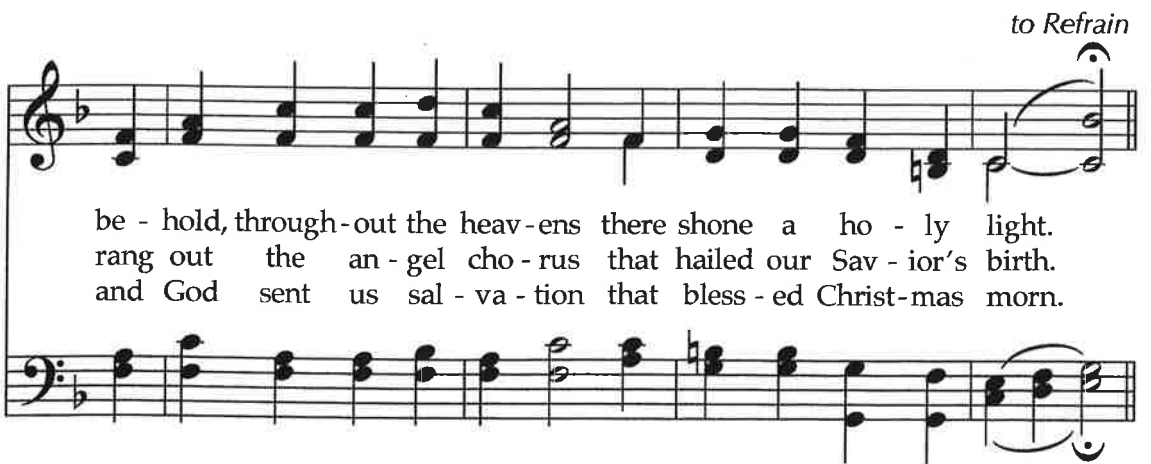


go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man-ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

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 worshiping 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. 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 Arant, Alan Barger

Children's Church for 4- & 5-year-olds with Sam and Samantha Pigott

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 31, 2023

10:00 am Sunday School
10:30 am Fellowship Time
11:00 am Worship

Monday, January 1, 2024

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

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

Thursday, January 4, 2024

6:45 am Men's Bible Study/Breakfast

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Pastor, Dr. Andrew Chaney, is away on vacation.

Our thanks to Elder Todd Fincher for preaching this morning, and to Deacon Thomas Gregory III for serving as our liturgist.

We welcome back our guest soloist for today, Rudy Polk, a sophomore at the University of North Texas in Denton, TX, majoring in vocal performance. He is the grandson of our Bill Johnston.

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

Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals Wednesday, January 3, at 6:00 p.m. If you have considered joining the choir, this would be an excellent time to do so. See Ray Smithee for more information.

Men's Bible Study and Breakfast resumes Thursday, January 4, at 6:45 a.m. in the Church Parlor. Dr. Chaney will be teaching. All men of the congregation are invited to attend.

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

Email: 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 Gullede
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)