



*1st Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2013*



Rev. Tom Winter

Organist: Dr. Susie F. Dempsey

Lay Reader
Barbara Franklin

Elder Greeter
Ivan Ratzlaff

Ushers
Ethelyn Brown and Don Seymour



Gathering

First Ringing of the Bell ☞ Music for Meditation
Second Ringing of the Bell ☞ Opening of the Bible
Welcome, Joys, Concerns, and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *Candle of Hope* Elsie Wheeler and Family

Prelude *What Is This Lovely Fragrance?* John Ferguson

Call to Worship

One: In Advent we wonder anew at the way in which you work, Eternal One.

All: How can it be that you came as one of us – frail, human, limited, bound?

One: How can it be that you expressed your love in the peaceful, regular breathing of an infant, in the stumblings of a child, in the frustration of an adult?

All: You wanted to know us, to share our common lot and walk beside us through all of life.

One: And we will walk with you in the light of the Lord.

All: Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

Prayer of Adoration and The Lord's Prayer

†Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Hymnal #2

†Affirmation of Faith

Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. He lived as a Jew among Jews and announced the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. Through his life, death, and resurrection he brings about the relationship between God and humankind that God always intended. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we long for and need the presence of Christ in our lives. We long for a holy visitation but confess that we are too distracted to

notice when it arrives. We long for peace but confess that we will not be still long enough to greet it. We long for the joy of new babies and angelic choirs but confess that we are too frantic to stop and look and listen. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive our misplaced priorities that crowd you out of our Advent worship and our lives. Renew in us a desire for you above all else. For the sake of Christ we pray. Amen.

Moment for Personal, Silent Confession

The Kyrie Eleison -All are invited to sing- Hymnal # 572
Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Declaration of Forgiveness

†The 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.

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Responsive Psalm Psalm 122

One: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the city of God!"

All: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem, built as a city that is bound firmly together.

One: All tribes, all the peoples who belong to God, as was decreed from the beginning, give thanks to God's holy name.

All: For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of peace.

One: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Pray for the peace of the world. May we as one world prosper through love for God.

Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.

All: For the sake of my relatives and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you."

One: For the sake of the earth, sky and sea, one great house of worship encompassing all of creation, let us all seek the good.

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Time with the Young People

Epistle Reading Romans 13:11-14 NT Page 162

Paul writes that "salvation is nearer to us now than when we first became believers."

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**



† Please stand if you are able.

Gospel Reading Matthew 24:36-44 NT Page 27

Jesus warns his disciples that the time is short, saying that the Lord comes like a thief in the night.

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon **A Kidnapping, Thieving God** Rev. Tom Winter

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory *What Child Is This?* David Johnson

†Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Servers: Cospir Bell, Carolyn Padgett, Sharon Ward and Laura Underhill

†Invitation to the Table

†Hymn *Creator of the Stars of Night* Hymnal No. 4

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution and Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Sending

†Hymn *People Look East* Hymnal #12

†Benediction

One: Go forth into this day with feet that dare to step forward into the unknown, held fast in the love of God.

All: May the road before us lead into the high mountains of good and the path beneath our feet be paved with the rock of God's strength.

One: May our hearts sing with a hope that is grand and free, and the Christ place in our souls an image of a new world ahead. Amen.

†Hymn *Song of Hope* Hymnal # 432

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race. Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working, for a world that's new; faithful, when we hear Christ's call.

Postlude *In Dulci Jubilo* (Hymn Ref.#28) J.S. Bach

Welcome to our Visitors

We are happy to have you worship with us and we hope you will return to worship with us again in the near future. Please indicate your attendance by filling out a visitor's card and placing it in the offering plate. If you are interested in learning more about membership in First Presbyterian Church, please speak to our Pastor after the service.

Prayer requests - Yellow folders in the pew racks may be used to request prayer. The Pastor will receive requests before the Prayers of the People.

Announcements

Special Offering - Today we will receive our monthly JCOC offering.

Session Meeting - The Session will meet next Sunday at 12:30 for the Stated meeting; please bring your lunch.

Congregational Meeting - The Session has called a congregational meeting to follow today's worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect three elders to the class of 2016, a trustee for the class of 2016 and a Congregational Nominating Committee. The following persons will be nominated by the current Nominating Committee: **Elders** – Ethelyn Brown, Margaret Pope, and Don Seymour; **Trustee** – Cosper Bell; **Nominating Committee** – Rodney Petty, Aileen Ratzlaff, David Talley, and Hannah Underhill. Nominations will be received from the floor providing that the persons nominated have agreed to serve if elected. All church members are encouraged to attend.



Please keep the following people in your prayers.

Daniel Davis (friend of Hannah Underhill)
Gene Fair
Bobby Haynes
Patrick Henry (father-in-law of Jessica Seymour Henry)
Joy Kelly and Family
Stacy Boozer Mariani
Bob Moore
Ken Mount
Diane Mount Nisbet (Dorothy Jane Nisbet's daughter-in-law)
Kathy Peters (Gary Brown's cousin)
Martha Rogers (friend of Margaret Pope)
Ellen Simpson
Thompson Nash Wagoner
Gary Wilborn (friend of the Boozers)



Next Sunday – December 8

Rev. Tom Winter

Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Elder Greeter

Ivan Ratalaff

Lay Reader

Jordan Falk

Ushers

Wayne Claeren and David Talley



Worship Opportunities for this Week

Today	9:45am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Between the hours fellowship
	11:00am	Worship Service
	5:00pm	Bible Study – Living the Questions
Wednesday	10:00am	Bible Study
Next Sunday	9:45am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Between the hours fellowship
	11:00am	Worship Service
	5:00pm	Bible Study – Living the Questions

Rev. Thomas S. Winter, Stated Supply Pastor

Dr. Susie F. Dempsey, Church Organist; Carlton Ward, Treasurer
Mary Furlow, Secretary

The Session Rev. Tom Winter, Moderator

Class of 2013

Gary Brown
Jetta Manners
Ivan Ratzlaff

Class of 2014

Wayne Claeren
Barbara Franklin
Laura Underhill

Class of 2015

Aleta Bell
Carolyn Padgett
Sharon Ward

Trustees

Wayne Claeren

Lana Boozer

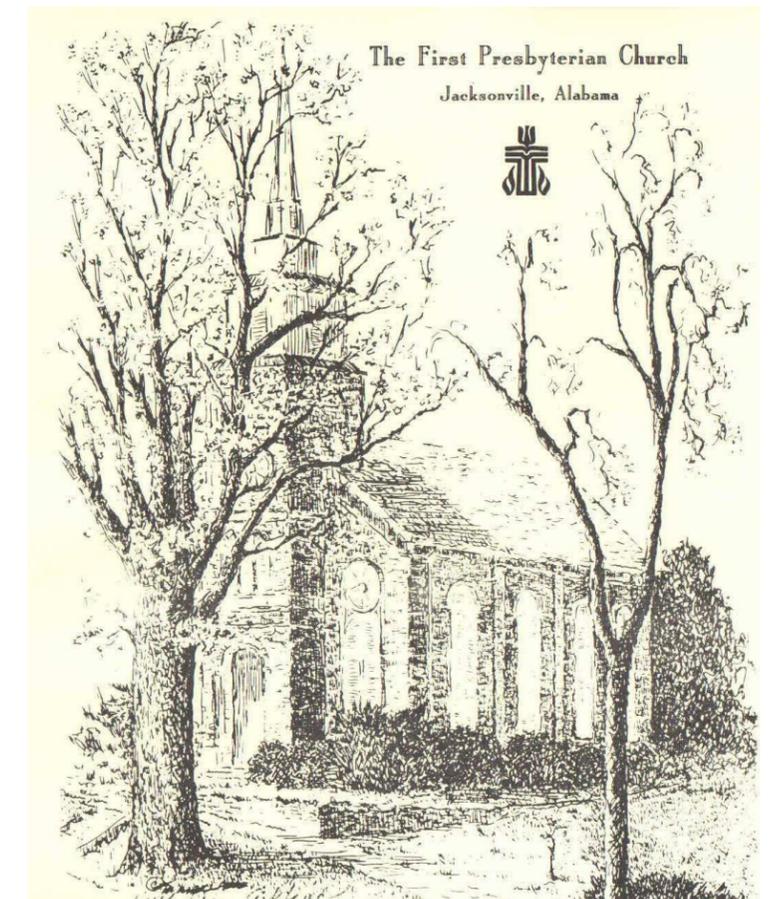
Carlton Ward

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Church Office Hours

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday

First Presbyterian Church Jacksonville, Alabama



We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Members are received into our fellowship by baptism and profession of faith, by letter of transfer from another Christian congregation, and by reaffirmation of faith. We invite you to become a member of this congregation of God's people.



www.firstpresbyterianjacksonville.org

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