



# 4th Sunday of Advent December 21, 2014



Rev. Dr. Bob Ford

Organist: Dr. Susie F. Dempsey

Lay Reader  
Carolyn Padgett

Elder Greeter  
Laura Underhill

Ushers  
Glen and Barbara Franklin



## 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 Peace* *The Seymour Family*

Prelude *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* Jeffrey Blersch

## Call to Worship

One: Here is good news! Waiting is ended!

All: **The Messiah is born upon earth!**

One: Hope is fulfilled, and joy overflows!

All: **The Messiah is born upon earth!**

One: Alleluia! Christ is come!

All: **Alleluia! God is with us!**



## Prayer of Adoration and the Lord's Prayer

†Hymn *Once in David's Royal City* Hymnal #49

†Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed traditional Hymnal Page 14



## Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, we confess our frustration and confusion when you do not come to us as we expect. We look for the power of political clout, legal expertise, economic or educational advantage, or religious rules to save us. We consider that to be "down and out" is failure, and to be "up and in" is success. So we wear ourselves out, striving to be self-sufficient materially and spiritually, certain that with enough effort we can dig our way out of difficulties and earn our way into the kingdom of heaven. We pride ourselves in being big people and forget the way you entered this world as a baby. We confess the sin of ceasing to be open to grace and surprised by joy. Forgive us, 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

Old Testament Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 OT Page 281  
*God's Covenant with David*

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

♫Solo *Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head* adapted by Niles  
*Cecelia Talley, Soprano*

Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-38 NT Page 56  
*The Birth of Jesus Foretold*

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

Sermon **When Angels Come to Visit** Rev. Dr. Bob Ford



† Please stand if you are able.

†Hymn *People, Look East* Hymnal #12

## Prayers of the People

Offertory *Noel Nouvelet* Robert Hobby

## †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.

## Prayer of Dedication

## Sending

†Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Hymnal #44

## † Charge and Benediction

†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 *Joy To the World* Handel-Peterson  
TUNE: ANTIOCH



If we are to meet God in Jesus Christ, we will probably meet Christ through the medium of scripture. Scripture is a gift of a God who loves to incarnate among us. Through these words of women and men called scripture, we believe the incarnation of God continues and expands. God speaks through these women and men who told these stories and recorded them for us to read later. God reveals himself and we see God with us. The incarnation of Jesus Christ continues to occur among us every time we read scripture and God reaches out to us through these ancient words. Are our imaginations expansive enough to be able to comprehend again this miracle that unfolds before us?



## 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

**Food for the Jacksonville Christian Outreach Center (JCOC)** – Today we will collect food for the JCOC. Please bring instant Jello or pudding, canned vegetables, canned potatoes, and canned tomatoes to help keep the shelves stocked for those in need.

We will receive the **Christmas Joy Offering** today.

**We Especially Invite You** to our monthly Church Dinner immediately following the service today. Please join us for this time of wonderful food and fellowship.

Please join us this afternoon at 3pm for our **Christmas Choral Presentation** – *“Were You There on That Night”* featuring the Christmas Camerata.

Lin Veasey will lead our **Christmas Eve service** on Wednesday, December 24th at 7pm.

✠

*For Nothing  
will be  
Impossible with God*  
-Luke 1:37

*In Our Thoughts  
& Prayers*

**Please keep the following people in your prayers.**

Scott Ballard  
Daniel Davis (friend of Hannah Underhill)  
Dorothy DiBartolo  
Susie Duncan (friend of David and Cecelia Talley)  
Gene Fair  
Larry Fair  
Elaine Gauldin (friend of Glen and Barbara Franklin)  
Lynsey Gillam  
Bobby Haynes  
Tom Hester (Glenn and Mary Agnes Hester's son)  
Pat Kochan  
Lee Manners  
Margo Miller (3 year old with Leukemia-requested by Laura Underhill)  
Ken Mount  
Diane Mount Nisbet  
Peggy Parrish (friend of David and Cecelia Talley)  
Ivan Ratzlaff  
Darlene Shults  
Ellen Simpson  
Rodney Sprayberry  
Thompson Nash Wagoner  
Gary Wilborn (friend of the Boozers)



**Next Sunday – December 28**

*Rev. Monty Clendenin*

### Scripture

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148;  
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

### Elder Greeter

Laura Underhill

### Lay Reader

Virginia MacRae

### Ushers

Toby Falk and Wayne Claeren



### Worship Opportunities for this Week

Day	Time	Activity
Today	9:45am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Between the hours fellowship
	11:00am	Worship Service
	5:00pm	Bible Study
	10:00am	No Bible Study
Wednesday	7pm	Christmas Eve Service
Next Sunday	9:45am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Between the hours fellowship
	11:00am	Worship Service
	5:00pm	Bible Study



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

**Class of 2014**  
Wayne Claeren  
Barbara Franklin  
Laura Underhill

**The Session**  
**Class of 2015**  
Aleta Bell  
Carolyn Padgett  
Sharon Ward

**Class of 2016**  
Ethelyn Brown  
Margaret Pope  
Donald Seymour

Lana Boozer

**Trustees**  
Carlton Ward

Cosper Bell



P.O. Box 355  
Jacksonville, AL 36265  
256-435-6340  
256-435-1039 (Fax)  
fpcsecy@bellsouth.net

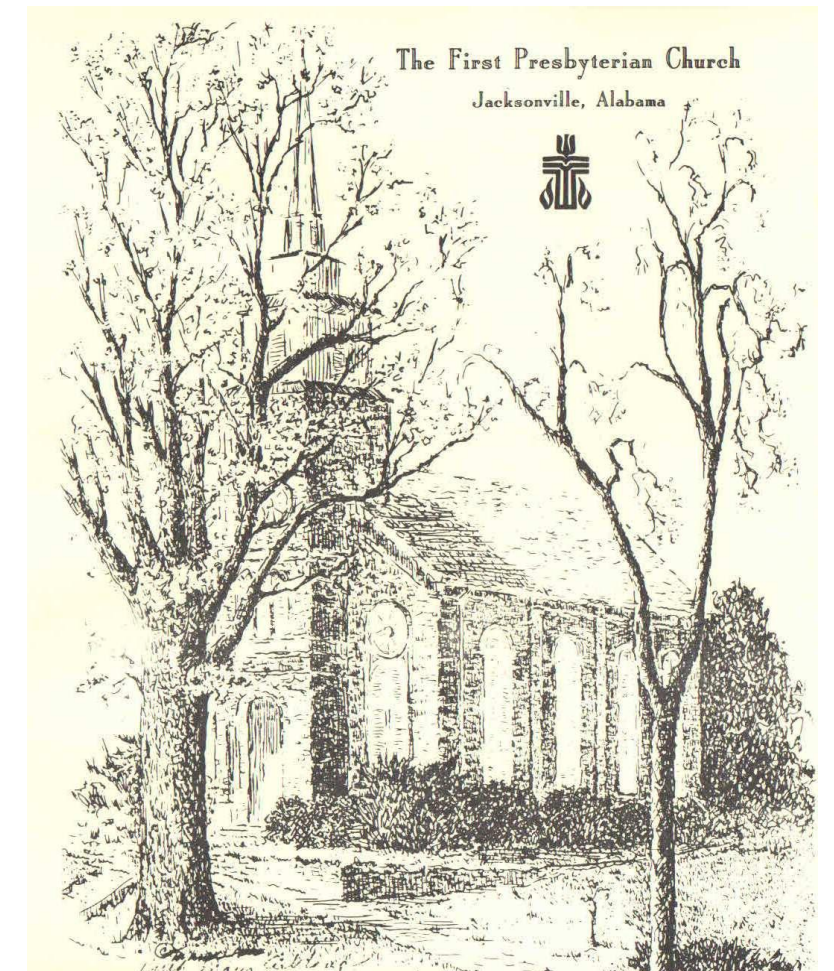
Church Office Hours

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

[www.firstpresbyterianjacksonville.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianjacksonville.org)

Look for us on Facebook and Twitter

# 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.