

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude *Dr. Mary Crowell, Dr. Jenny Maclay,
Amy McNally*

Welcome and Announcements Dr. Karl Kling

* Call to Worship Sharon Hand

Tonight we praise God for the Good News the Christ Child brings for the world!

Our Savior was born in Bethlehem. He is the promised Messiah and Lord of all.

We give all glory and honor to God.

Christ's peace brings healing and salvation for people everywhere.

Let us worship God!

Lighting of the Christ Candle- Jacob, Courtney, Will and Charley Greene

*Carol of Praise Joy To The World #133

*Christmas Eve Prayer of Praise and Adoration Unison

Our Gracious God, we worship you as King of Kings and Lord of Lords! We praise you for the gift of the Child who is our Savior. With shepherds, angels, and people everywhere, we adore the newborn King. We praise you in Jesus' name, Amen.

*Call to Confession Sharon Hand

Christ came to save us, not because of good things we have done, but because of God's never-ending love. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin to God.

*Prayer of Confession Unison

Loving God, you sent us your Son, but sometimes we do not make a place for Him in our lives. You lead us through Christ's Spirit, but too often we do not follow. You give us wonderful gifts, but at times we fail to share these gifts with others. Please forgive us and fill our hearts with your love for all people. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and King, Amen.

* Kyrie Eleison Unison

Three staves of musical notation in G major, 6/8 time. The lyrics are: "You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!" (first staff), "You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!" (second staff), and "You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!" (third staff). Chords are indicated below the notes: Am, D, C, D, Em, C, Em for the first two staves, and Em, D, G, Am, Em, D, E for the third staff.

*Christmas Eve Declaration of Forgiveness Dr. Kling

Friends, God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ's grace we have become children of God and received the promise of eternal life. In and through the Child born in Bethlehem, you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

* The Gloria Patri Unison

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.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.
All: And also with you. Dr. Kling

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

"This Little Light of Mine"

Time with Young Disciples Dr. Kling

Prayer for Illumination Sharon Hand

God of all truth, please guide us by your Word and Spirit. Once again lead us to the Savior who is the way, the truth, and the life. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 9: vs, 2, 6-7 Sharon Hand
p. 683

Anthem *Dr. Mary Crowell, Dr. Jenny Maclay,
Amy McNally*

Second Reading Luke 2: 8-20 Dr. Kling
p. 1,014-15

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon *"With Shepards and Angels"* Dr. Kling

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Invitation to Worship God with Our Christmas Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
praise Him all creatures here below;
praise him above ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication Dr. Kling

*Special Music O Holy Night *Erica Hand
Soloist*

Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table Dr.Kling
The Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices with those around the world and with your heavenly choir in lifting up our thanks and prayers...

(Dr. Kling continues with the Communion Prayer)

The Lord's Prayer Unison

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Words of Institution Dr.Kling

Sharing the Bread and Cup
Please hold each element until all have been served.

*Christmas Eve Benediction & Passing of the Christ Light
Christmas Carol of Sending Silent Night, Holy Night #122

Please remain seated while we are singing the Carol of Sending. The ushers will light the candles of the persons sitting near the pew aisles. Once your candle is lighted, please hold it upright while the person next to you dips their candle into the light of your candle. When all the candles are lighted, we will process out the front entrances of the church, carrying the Christ Light into the world.

* Postlude *Dr. Mary Crowell, Dr. Jenny Maclay,
Amy McNally*

****Stand if you are able***

PRAYER REQUESTS

CHURCH FAMILY

Doris Welch (Home) Bonnie Chambers (Home)
Dean Steele Suzanne Weeks (Healing)
Susie Fogg (Home) Stephen Toney (Home)
Sharon Massey Ruth Martin (Healing)
Rene Brown (Traditions) Jac Catlett
Melvin & Ruth Clem (Health) Diane Lynn (Health)
Debbi O'Neill (Healing)
Pat Booth and Family on the loss of Doug Booth

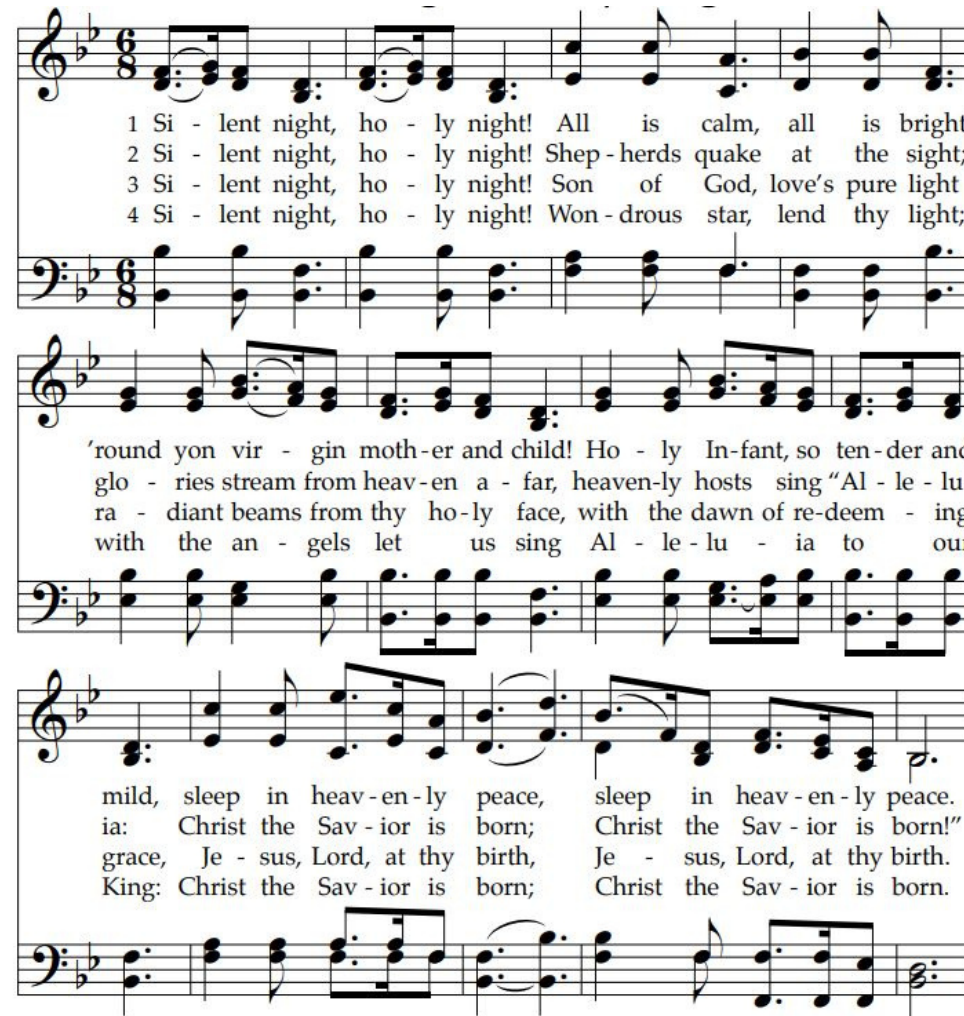
THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Brandon Noel – Army Sean Miller - Army
Adam Naves - Marines Damien Williams - Army
Michael Ress – USAF –AZ Joshua Hargrove – Deployed
Jay Tulley- Middle East Justin Ruf- Army Air Guard
Kevin O'Neill-Army Res.-Poland

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Bob Defour (Doyle & Suzanne Weeks son-in-law)
Brent Harris (Friend of Chris Hilgeman)
Melvin Norwood (Health, Tashia Baugher's Father)
Sue Guyer (Health & Healing, Bonny Noel's sister)
Gerry & Denzil Smith (Healing) cousin of Jan Ruth)
Alex Noel (Nephew of John & Bonny Noel)
Bill Grisham (Health, Pam Gregg's dad)
Hazel Ruf (Mason Ruf's mother, home)
Kierra Anderson (Friend of Gale Cottles)
Gary Kilgo (Health, Kay Baugher & Carol Quillen's family member)
Karen Ferguson (Potter's Hand)
Sherry Thompson (Healing, sister of Christy Arnett)
Keith Clem (Healing, cousin of Chris Paysinger)
Amy and John May (Healing, wife of Jan Ruth's grandson)
Jim May (Healing, son of Jane Ruth)
Amy Cotten (Potter's Hand)
John Cotten (Healing, Potter's Hand)
Telula Thornton (Healing and Comfort, mother of Karan Baker)
Maggie Ruth Naves (Healing, great granddaughter of Hazel White)
Finley McAllister (Healing, sibling of Jennifer Quillen's student)
The Congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Florence on
the loss of their Pastor Rev. John McKell
Cheryl Phelps (Healing, friend of Jan Ruth)

Silent Night



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
ra - dian beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

Worship Leaders

Sermon:

Dr. Karl Kling

Liturgist:

Sharon Hand

Acolytes:

Elijah
Will

Musicians:

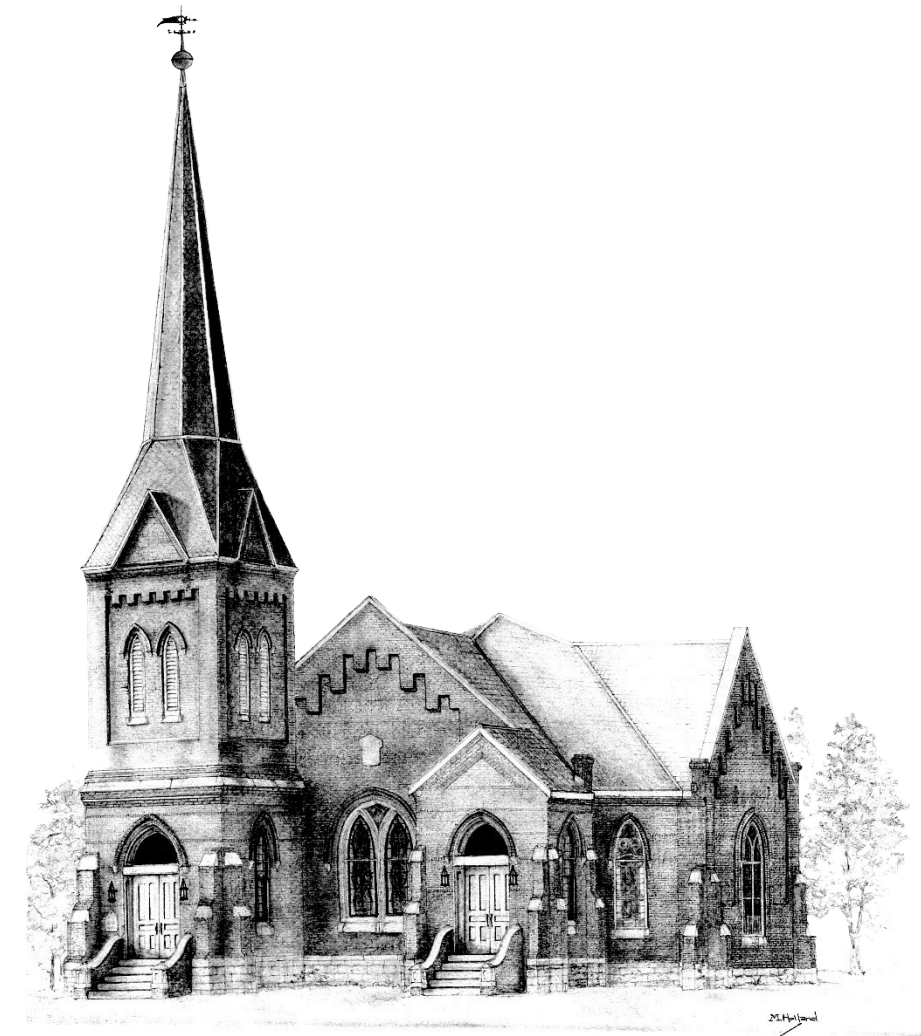
Erica Hand
Emily Clem
Dr. Mary Crowell
Dr. Jenny Maclay
Amy McNally

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Visit www.fpcathens.org for information, news, and digital worship. Sunday worship is live-streamed and archived on our YouTube page. Follow our Facebook page for news, updates on recent events, and upcoming opportunities. Join our Facebook group for community life. Sign up for our weekly email subscription at fpcathens@fpcathens.org.

December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve



First Presbyterian Church
112 South Jefferson Street
Athens, Alabama 35611

(256) 232-0122
www.fpcathens.org

We serve each other, the Athens community, and the world on the square in downtown Athens. Our church family is a community of believers who come seeking the grace and peace of God.

If you are looking for a place where you will be accepted, nurtured, and nourished in your journey of faith, or if you are still examining the claims of Christianity, then you are welcome at First Presbyterian Church.