

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude O Tannebaum Vince Guaraldil

Welcome and Announcements Dr. Karl Kling

* CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Isaiah 40:1-5) Elder Julie McNeese

During this Season of Advent, the Lord guides our journey to Bethlehem.

The Savior's love frees us to follow his directions.

God helps our crooked places become straight.

The glory of the Lord is revealed as we worship the Living God.

Let us worship God!

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Second Sunday of Advent –
Libby Chris and Walker Shindorf**

Christmas Carol of Praise Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #119

Prayer of Praise and Adoration Unison

Our Loving God, thank you for a fresh start during this time of preparation. We praise you for the hope that lights our way. When we fall, you lift us up. In our joys and sorrows, you walk with us. We worship and adore you in Jesus's name. Amen

*Call to Confession Julie McNeese

The God of mercy is the One in whom we are called to take refuge. The Lord forgives and renews us. Therefore, let us humbly confess our sin to God.

*Prayer of Confession Unison

Gracious God, we confess our need for forgiveness. Too often we are satisfied with our own comfort. We resist changes you want to bring into our lives. Open our hearts to your call for repentance. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison Unison

Three staves of musical notation in G major, 6/8 time. The first staff has the lyrics "You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!" with chords Am, D, C, D, Em, C, Em. The second staff has the lyrics "You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!" with chords Em, D, G, Am, Em, D, E. The third staff has the lyrics "You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!" with chords Em, D, G, Am, Em, D, E.

*Assurance of Pardon Dr. Kling

The One who has begun a good work in us will bring it to completion. Receive God's gift of joy and peace. The Good News of the Gospel is that In Jesus Christ 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. Dr. Kling

All: And also with you.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

"This Little Light of Mine"

Time with Young Disciples Dr. Kling

Prayer for Illumination Julie McNeese

Loving God, as we hear words of scripture, we wait for your Spirit to guide our path. Prepare us to follow the Christ as He leads the way. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Reading Malachi 3: 1-4 Julie McNeese
p. 920

Anthem God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen Dr. Mary Crowell
Emily Clem

Second Reading Luke 3: 1-6 Dr. Kling
p. 1,016

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Preparing The Way" Dr. Kling

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

* Affirmation of Faith Unison

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of The People Dr. Kling

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.

*Christmas Carol of Discipleship
While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks # 117

Offertory What Child Is This? Vince Guaraldil

*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

*Prayer for the Pastor Nominating Committee Unison

"Our Loving God, look graciously on this Church. Please guide the minds of the PNC as they search for our next Pastor. Lead the search committee to a Pastor who will be a faithful partner in ministry. And prepare our next Pastor to care for this congregation as we share Christ's love with others. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen."

*Christmas Carol of Sending
Angels We Have Heard On High #113

*Charge Dr. Kling

Wherever we go, God has sent us; Wherever we are, God has put us there; God has a purpose in our being there; there is something that God wants to do through us. Wherever we are!

*Benediction Dr. Kling

As God's people we all say,
Alleluia, Amen!

* Postlude Linus and Lucy Vince Guaraldil

**Stand if you are able*

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

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) | Doug Booth (Health) |
| Debbi O'Neill (Healing) | Diane Lynn (Health) |

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)
 Rev. John McKell, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Florence

FOR OUR VISITORS:

We welcome you to worship and would love to connect. Prayer Request/Visitor cards are located in the pews. Please place it with the offering or give it to the pastor following the service. Thank you for worshipping with us today!

The Session

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Class of 2023</u> | <u>Class of 2024</u> | <u>Class of 2025</u> |
| Sandy Colvin | Courtney Greene | Karan Baker |
| David Lyle | Don Payne | Gary Boyd |
| Brittany Mallette | Jerry Witt | Stanley Hand |

Trustees

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Suzanne Paysinger | Larry Burlingame | John Noel |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------|

PNC

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Hal Baker | Karla Barnes | Stanley Hand | Randi Harbin |
| Vicki Kellogg | John Noel (Chair) | Libby Shindorf | |

Staff

Transitional Pastor:

Dr. Karl Kling
karlklingsadmin@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Margaret Lotz
fpcathens@fpcathens.org

Treasurer:

Julie McNeese

Choir Director:

Erica Hand

Nursery:

Alice Whitt

Follow us Online

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.

Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

To sign up for flowers call the church office.



Worship Leaders

Sermon

Dr. Karl Kling

Liturgist

Elder Julie McNeese

Musicians:

Erica Hand

Emily Clem

Dr. Mary Crowell

Acolytes:

Will

Church Nursery:

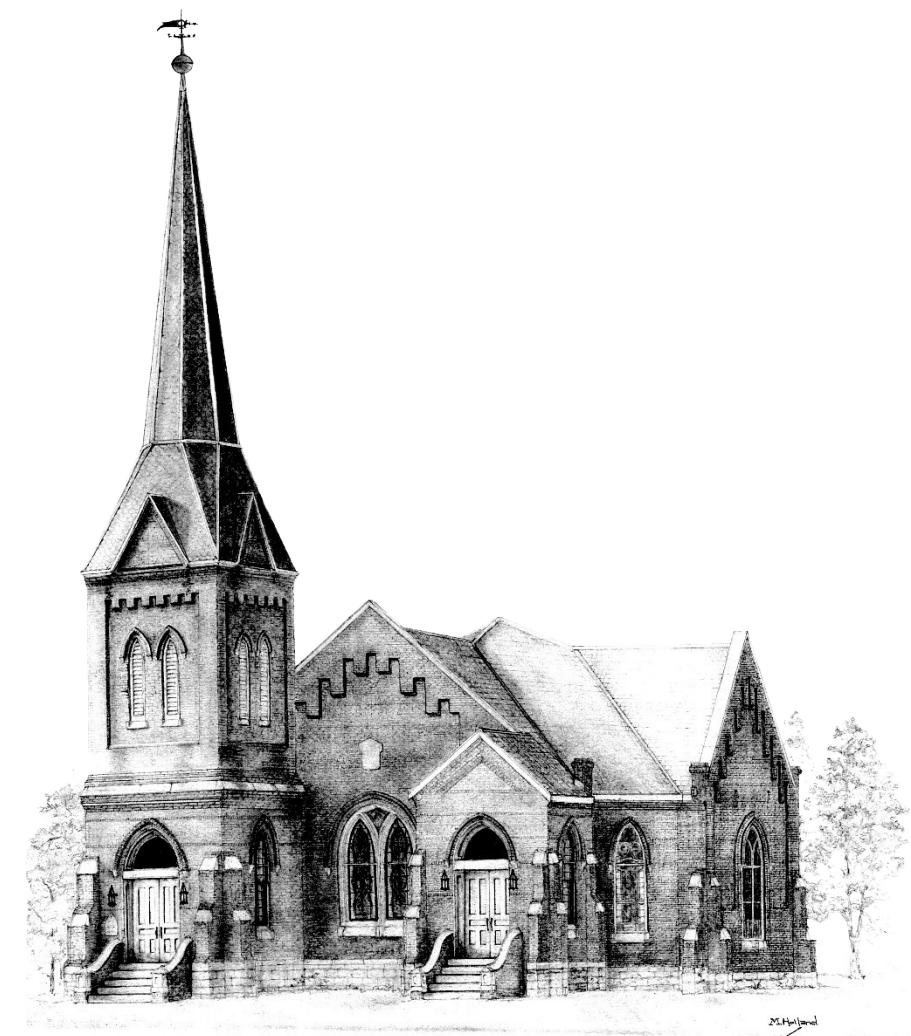
December 17th- Suzanne Paysinger

December 24th- Jennifer Quillen

December 17th-Cantata

Communion Prep:

December 24th-Don Payne



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.