

# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

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

Welcome and Announcements Dr. Karl Kling

\*CALL TO WORSHIP FOR EPIPHANY SUNDAY Elder Tom Clem

Arise, shine; for your light has come.  
**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**  
Come, worship the Lord of glory.  
**Proclaim God's praise among the nations.**  
Let us worship God!

\*Carol of Praise We Three Kings of Orient Are #151

\*Prayer of Praise for the New Year Unison

**Almighty God, with all the saints we praise you for the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ. As we begin this New Year, we worship you for the gift of a Baby who now reigns as Lord of all! We praise you in His name. Amen**

\*Call to Confession Tom Clem

In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another

\*Prayer of Confession Unison

**Our Loving God, you call us to follow you, but sometimes we do not listen. You offer to guide us, but we overlook your Word. Too often we miss opportunities to live out the grace and compassion that you have given us in Christ. Forgive our sin and help us to follow our Lord. We pray this in Jesus'**

\* 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! You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy! You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!" Chords are indicated below the notes: Am, D, C, D, Em, C, Em for the first line; Em, D, G, Am, Em, D, E for the second line.

\*Declaration of Forgiveness Dr. Kling  
This is the Good News for the New Year on this Epiphany Sunday:  
Christ is the Light of the world who grants the forgiveness and healing of our sins. Friends, 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.  
**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 Tom Clem  
Our Gracious God, in the proclamation of your Word, please open our hearts to receive your love. Through your grace, strengthen our faith that we may approach you with boldness throughout this New Year. We pray this in Jesus' name., Amen

First Reading Isaiah 60: 1-3 Tom Clem  
p. 738

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

Second Reading Matthew 2: 1-12 Dr. Kling  
p. 956

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

Sermon "Living in Christ Light" Dr. Kling

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

\*Carol of Celebration What Child is This? #45

\* 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.**

Invitation to Worship God with Our Offering

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

\*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."**

\*Carol of Sending Joy To the World #134

\*Charge and Benediction 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!**

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

\* 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)

## 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

#### Class of 2023

Sandy Colvin  
David Lyle  
Brittany Mallette

#### Class of 2024

Courtney Greene  
Don Payne  
Jerry Witt

#### Class of 2025

Karan Baker  
Gary Boyd  
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](http://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](mailto: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 Tom Clem

### Musicians:

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

### Acolytes:

### Church Nursery:

January 7th- Gales Cottles  
January 14th- Ruth Whitten

### Liturgist:

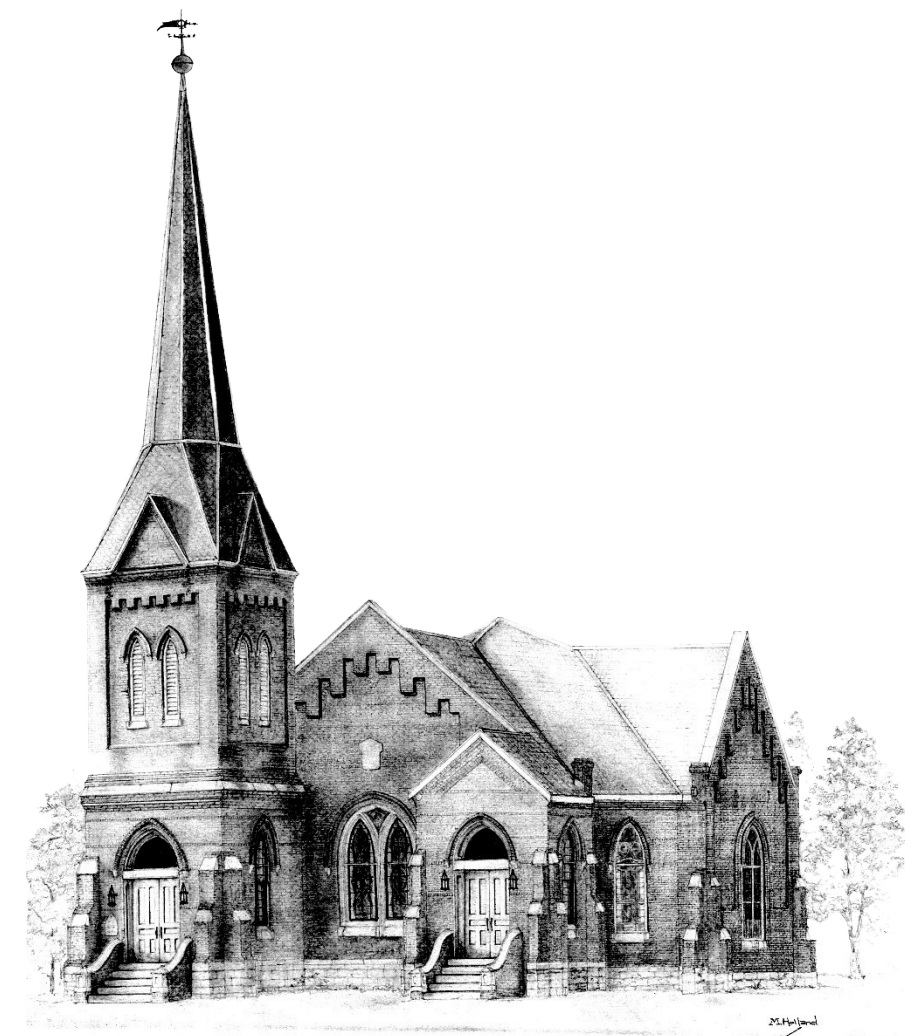
January 7th-Dr. Steven Ware

### Communion Prep:

### Prayer Family

Rene Brown  
22171 Traditions Way  
The Goldton at Athens Apt 222  
Athens, Al. 35613

December 31, 2023  
Epiphany/ News Year Eve



First Presbyterian Church  
112 South Jefferson Street  
Athens, Alabama 35611

(256) 232-0122  
[www.fpcathens.org](http://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.*