

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude	Dr. Mary Crowell	
Welcome and Announcements	Dr. Karl Kling	
Special Music	O Come All Ye Faithful	Bell Choir
* CALL TO WORSHIP	Elder Cindy Witt	

The Word became flesh and lived among us.

We have seen his glory, goodness, and power.

The Baby born in Bethlehem was full of grace and truth.

The Christ Child was born to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Let us worship God!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Fourth Sunday of Advent – Jonathon, Jennifer, Jack and Jonah Quillen

*Carol of Praise	O Come All Ye Faithful	#133
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*Advent Prayer of Praise and Adoration	Unison
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Our Loving God, thank you for the fresh start you bring during this season of Christmas. We praise you for your grace that leads us on the journey to Bethlehem. When we fall, you lift us up. In our joys and sorrows, you are with us. We give you our worship in Jesus's name. Amen

*Call to Confession	Cindy Witt
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When Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, he became like us in all things but without sin. The Christ Child has set us free from the rule of sin and death. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin to God.

*Prayer of Confession	Unison
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Our Gracious God, we confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful. May your angels sing to us about your peace. Sometimes we have cared about rules rather than relationships. May your star once more lead us to your love. Please forgive us through the gift of the Savior. We pray this in the name of the Child born in Bethlehem, Amen.

* Kyrie Eleison	Unison
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Three staves of musical notation in G major, 6/8 time. The first staff has lyrics: "You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!". The second staff has lyrics: "You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!". The third staff has lyrics: "You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!". Chords are indicated above the notes: Am, D, C, D, Em, C, Em for the second staff; Em, D, G, Am, Em, D, E for the third staff.

*Declaration of Forgiveness	Dr. Kling
Friends, through the coming of Jesus Christ into the world, the Lord has redeemed us. In Christ we receive the salvation of the Living God. Hear and receive the Good News of the Gospel: 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	Cindy Witt
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Gracious God, please guide us by your Word and Spirit. Once again, give us the grace to open our hearts to the Christ who was born to be our King. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

First Reading	Micah 5: vs 2 & 4 p. 922	Cindy Witt
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Anthem	On Christmas Night All Christians Sing	Bell Choir
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Second Reading	Luke 2: 1-7 p. 1,014	Dr. Kling
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Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.	
All: Thanks be to God.	

Christmas Carol of Disciplship	Away In A Manger	#115
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Sermon	<i>"Traveling to Bethlehem"</i>	Dr. Kling
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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
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The Lord's Prayer	Unison
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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	Bring a Torch	Bell Choir

*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
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*Prayer for the Pastor Nominating Committee	Unison
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"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
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*Charge and Benediction	Dr. Kling
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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	Joy To the World	Bell Choir
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*** Thank You to our bell choir members:**

Brad Clem	Randi Harbin	Karla Barnes
David Foreman	Sharon Hand	Lynn Ware
Deb Kolhase	Carrie Wotruba	Emily Clem
Tom Clem	Cindy Witt	Jennifer Quillen
Karan Baker		

** 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 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 Cindy Witt

Musicians:

Erica Hand

Emily Clem

Dr. Mary Crowell

The FPC Bell Choir

Acolytes:

Jack

Will

Church Nursery:

December 31st- Sandy Colvin

January 7th- Gales Cottles

Liturgist:

December 24th @5:30 PM-Sharon Hand

December 31st- Julie McNeese

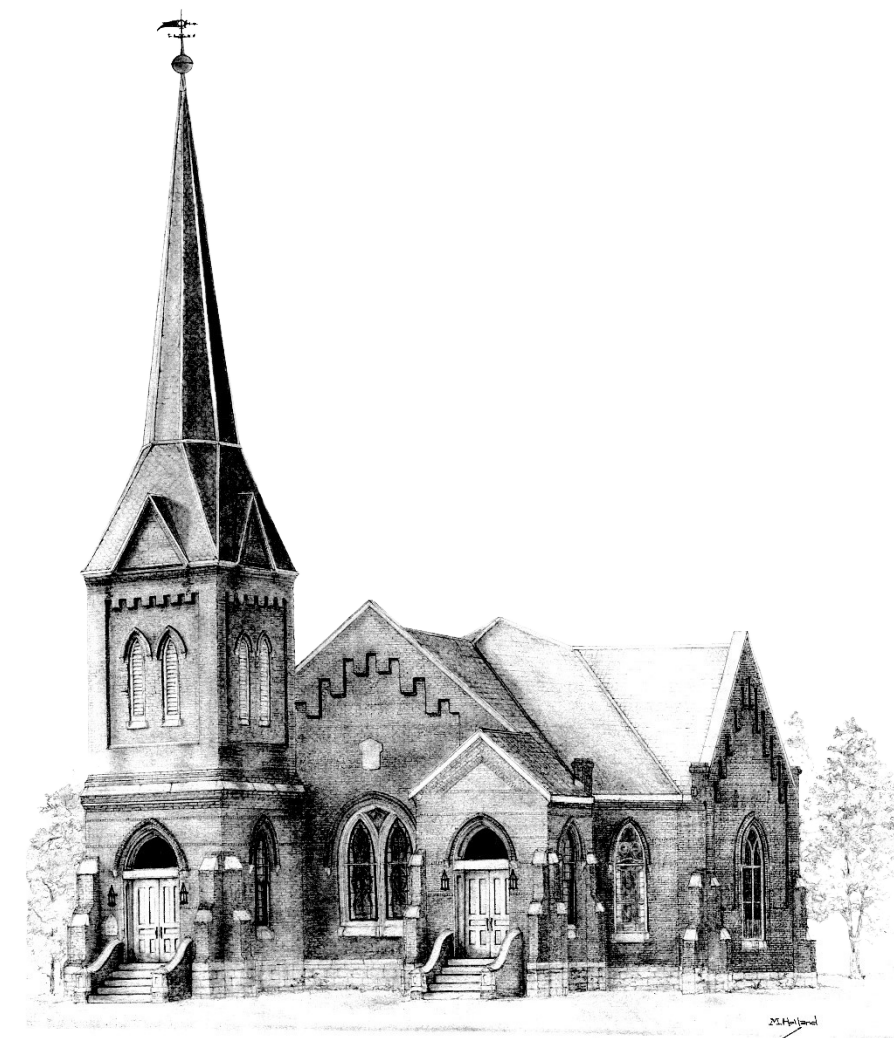
January 7th-Dr. Steven Ware

Communion Prep:

December 24th @ 5:30 PM-Don Payne

January 7th Courtney Greene

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent



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.