

Christmas 2C 2025  
January 5, 2025



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PERRY, FL

## GATHERING

**PREPARATORY PRAYER** (prayed upon entering the sanctuary) Eternal God, help me to live in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the willingness to be a blessing in someone's life today, and grant me the opportunity to point others to the freedom that only found in knowing Jesus Christ. Amen.

**PRELUDE** "*We Three Kings*" Tom Birchwood Based on Kings of Orient  
by John H. Hopkins Jr.

**INTROIT** "*As With Gladness Men of Old*"

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/PASSING OF FRIENDSHIP PADS/SESSION SHARING**

*We stand.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. **Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing!**



1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;  
2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"  
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;  
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"  
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.  
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

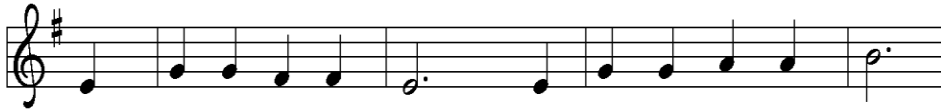
## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (*brief silence for reflection*)

*Most holy and loving God, You formed us from the womb to be your servants, but we daily disobey and turn from you in our thoughts and thoughtlessness, our words and our silence, our actions and inaction. For the sake of Jesus, forgive and restore us as we eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

P Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. **Amen.**

## GLORIA PATRI



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P We pray: O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L We pray: **O God, source of our salvation: Open our ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. The Word is among us. The Spirit is present. May the Lord add a blessing to these readings. Amen.**

*We sit.*

### FIRST READING                      **Jeremiah 31:7-14**

L            <sup>7</sup>Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,

“Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

<sup>11</sup> For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.  
<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Psalm 24**

*(we say responsively by whole verse)*

L 12 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

**13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.**

14 He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.

**15 He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.**

16 He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

**17 He hurls down hail like crumbs—who can stand before his cold?**

18 He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

**19 He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances.

Praise the Lord!

**SECOND READING            Ephesians 1:3-14**

L        3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*We rise.*

**GOSPEL**

**John 1:1-18**

P The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter:  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No



one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

SERMON "The Other Side" Rev. Pr. J. David Bryant

*We rise.*

### Sermon Hymn Good Christian Friends, Rejoice! GTG 132



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who  
2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
3 O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
4 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
5 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through



thee by faith before the world confessed, thy  
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine; yet  
steals on the ear the distant triumph song, and  
gates of pearl streams in the countless host,



name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.  
all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
hearts are brave a gain, and arms are strong.  
sing - ing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,



## THE NICENE CREED

L Let us profess the faith, saying: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the (†) resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*We sit or stand.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

L *(brief silence)* O God, for your holy church, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the world and all creation, that you nourish your people like a watered garden, empowering us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For victims of oppression, that you deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected officials. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For all who suffer addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illnesses. For the sick and the recovering, and for all on our prayer lists and for those we name before you now aloud upon our lips or silently within our hearts. *(pause)* God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For our congregation and its ministries, transform the way we have always done things into your new future for us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For all who have died, that their hope in you, is fulfilled in resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P God of Splendor. by your incarnate Word you bathe us in new radiance, may the same light that enlightens our hearts by faith brightly shine in all we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who is alive with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

# EUCCHARIST

*We sit.*

## OFFERTORY

L Freely you have received, freely give. Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** “*Star in the Desert*” Music by Joseph M. Martin and Douglas Nolan Words by J. Paul Williams

## DOXOLOGY

#624



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise \*him, all crea - tures  
here be - low; praise \*him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

L Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*We sit or stand.*

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

P Come to the table of mercy. Come and meet the incarnate Christ, for we are his Body.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. And so, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

*On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

*When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us (✠) gathered here, and (✠) on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

# LORD'S PRAYER

(SUNG TO THE MALOTTE TUNE)

As Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

MALOTTE TUNE Malotte

Our Fa-ther, which art in heav-en, hal-low-ed be  
Thy name. Thy king-dom come, Thy will be  
done on earth as it is in heav-en.  
Give us this day our dai-ly bread, and for-give us our debts as  
we for-give our debt-ors. And lead us not in-to temp-ta-ion, but de-  
liv-er us from e-vil, for Thine is the King-dom and the  
Pow-er and the Glo-ry, for-ev-er. A - men.

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

P The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

## LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME. GTG 102



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's  
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to  
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows  
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish  
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this  
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.  
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.  
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L *We pray:* May this sacrament of charity, O Lord, make us fervent with the fire of holy love, so that, drawn always to your Son, we may learn to see him in our neighbor. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P The blessing of the ✠ holy, triune God, be with you now and always.  
**Alleluia!**

### SENDING HYMN

**REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING! GTG 363**

Descant

4 Re-joyce in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

1 Re - joyce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!  
2 Our Sav - ior, Je - sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;  
3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
4 Re - joyce in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Re - joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.  
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.  
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given.  
and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re-joyce!

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re-joyce!

**DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. Be the presence of Jesus. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** *“Once in Royal David’s City”* Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

Based on IRBY, by Henry John Gauntlett

**Leading Worship:** Rev. Pr. J. David Bryant, Minister; Jamie Poppell, Liturgist;  
Leah Metzger, Accompanist & Director

**Session Committee leaders**

Administration-Bobby Harper, Michael McMillan

Christian Education-Martha Davis

Clerk-Cindy Brown

Congregational Care-Nancy Bell

Finance-Cindy Brown

Mission/Outreach-Jamie Poppell

Worship/Music-Marilyn Culpepper, Zachary Wiggins

## Notes & Announcements

- **Congregational Care** meeting Wednesday, January 8th at 4:00 pm
- **Christian Education** meeting Thursday, January 9th at 10:30 am
- **Ushers** for January 12<sup>th</sup>: Warren Gregory, Polly Kincaid, Zack Wiggins, Paul Wiggins
- **Liturgist** for January 12<sup>th</sup>: Joey Ratliff
- **FPC website** [www.firstpresperry.org](http://www.firstpresperry.org)
- Send **prayer requests** to [prayer@firstpresperry.org](mailto:prayer@firstpresperry.org) or contact Jeanne Hilgendorf

Are you passionate about making a difference in our community? We invite you to join our Mission/Outreach Committee, where you can help us expand our impact and bring positive change to those in need. Whether you're interested in organizing service projects, or simply offering your time and talents, your involvement can make a lasting difference. This is a wonderful opportunity to work alongside like-minded individuals who share a commitment to serving others. Together, we can reach new heights in fulfilling our mission of compassion and service. Join us today and be part of something meaningful! Contact: Jamie Poppell 850-843-8836 Next Meeting 1/22/24 @ 4:15pm.

Sincerely,

Jamie Poppell

## FPC PRAYER LIST

*TOGETHER, WE PRAY FOR:*

*DIANNA SANDONATO'S SON JR*

*CHUCK ECKEL*

*MARNE AND BOB HELBERG'S SON AND SON IN LAW*

*TEACHERS*

*FAMILY OF LINDA ROMIS*

*PRAYERS FOR BETTY MALDIN, HEALTH*

*LYNN ABERJERIS PASSED, FAMILY GRIEVING AT CHRISTMAS*

*FAMILY OF SHIRLEY ERWIN (MARGIE RAWLS)*

*BLUE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH*

*BIBLE STUDIES*

*SUNDAY SCHOOL*

*OUR SOUP MINISTRY*

*SUPPER TEAMS*

*PASTOR & HARRIET BRYANT*

*ALL GOING THRU HEALTH & EMOTIONAL ISSUES*

*ALL WHO LOST HOMES*

*TIRELESS VOLUNTEERS*

*TRAVELERS TO AND FROM FL*

*MARNE HELBERG'S SISTER*

*BETTY JEAN*

*FAMILY OF JIM CULBREATH*

*CHERYL RICKETSON, RECOVERY*

*FLETCHER'S FRIEND'S GRANDSON, CAMDEN MOSLEY*

*HILGENDORFS, DR APPTS AND TESTS, WARREN, LILY*

*MIKE LOCKHART*

*RITA BENOIT*

*RON POPPELL*

*ALL AWAITING TEST RESULTS*

*AND, ALL UNNAMED NEEDS IN OUR HEARTS. LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER. AMEN*