

**ADVENT 4C**  
**December 22, 2024**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**PERRY, FL**

## GATHERING

P -PASTOR, L- LITURGIST, **BOLD -ALL**

**PRAYER** (PRAYED SILENTLY UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY) We pray: Heavenly Father, the whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one four-letter word...LOVE. You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All your love was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent, help us to reflect on the magnitude of love made manifest in Jesus. Grant us the courage to follow you all the way to the Christ child who waits for us in a lowly stable. Amen.

**PRELUDE** *“When He Cometh”* Ron Loree Based on the tune by George F. Root

**INTROIT** *“Wait for the Lord” and “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”*

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

*We stand.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

L Keep watch! For the One who brings peace is coming.

**We wait in anticipation for Christ.**

We wait for God’s revealing of joy. Remain alert!

**Love is coming to dwell among us. Hope draws near.**

### CALL TO CONFESSION

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, making all things new. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(silence for reflection)*

P Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ✝ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. Amen.

## GLORIA PATRI

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men." The score includes measure numbers 6 and 10.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P We pray: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## CANDLE-LIGHTING LITANY & HYMN

L God our life and our breath. **We witness your coming in the humility of self-sacrificing love, make our love as self-sacrificing as your own.**

*(the candle is lit as we sing v. 7 & 1 of O Come, O Come Emmanuel)*

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

L We pray: **Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.**

*We sit.*

**FIRST READING**

**Micah 5:2-5a**

- L 2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
    who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
    from you shall come forth for me  
    one who is to rule in Israel,  
    whose origin is from of old,  
    from ancient days.
- 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
    when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
    then the rest of his kindred shall return  
    to the people of Israel.
- 4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
    in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
    to the ends of the earth;
- 5a and he shall be the one of peace.

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

**Luke 1:46b-55**     *(we say responsively by whole verse)*

- L 46 And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,
- 47 **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**
- 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely,  
from now on all generations will call me blessed;
- 49 **for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his  
name.**

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> **He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> **he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.**

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> **according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'**

## **SECOND READING      Hebrews 10:5-10**

L      5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).” 8 When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. 10 And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

*We stand.*

**GOSPEL**

**Luke 1:39-45**

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

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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

*We sit.*

**SERMON**

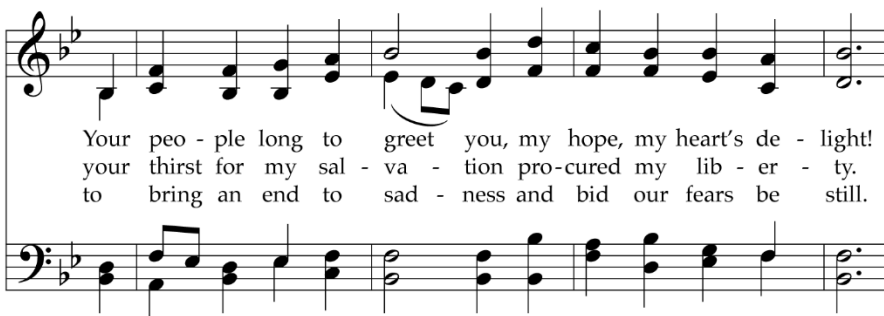
**"Blessed Believing" Rev. Pr. J. David Bryant**

*We stand.*

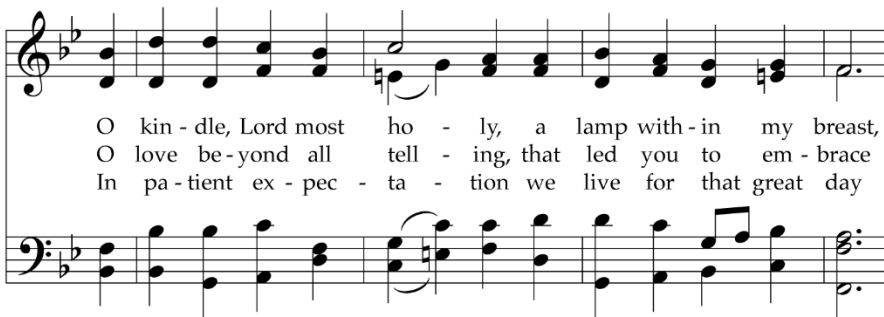
SERMON HYMN      O Lord, How Shall I Meet You      GTG 104



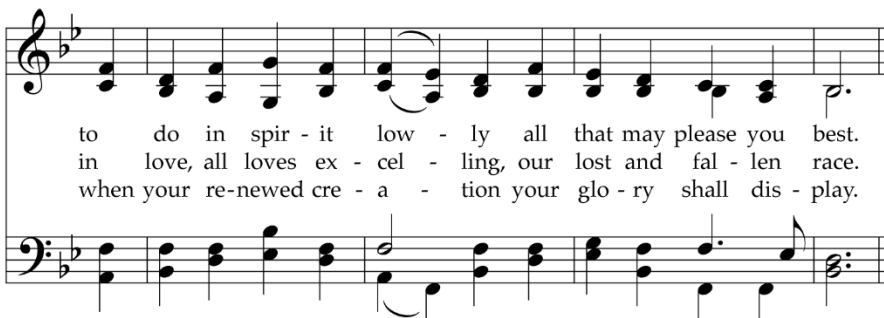
1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?  
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;  
3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.  
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,  
O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.  
when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.



## THE APOSTLES' CREED

- L Let us profess the faith, saying:  
**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.**

*We sit or stand.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- P As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.
- L *(brief silence)* For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of church of God, and for the unity of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- For clergy and for all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- For the world and its leaders. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- For all those in need, the suffering, the oppressed, travelers and job seekers, for those on our prayer list and for those we name before you now *(Pause)*. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- For people trying to rebuild their lives after experiencing devastation, abuse, violence or the betrayal of trust, that they may know the intimate

love of God, on whom they can rely. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those experiencing loss and tragedy amid the busyness of the coming Christmas season, that they receive the perfect gift of Christ's peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who rest in the peace of Christ, and for all the saints who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

#### **THE PEACE**

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

*We sit.*

#### **OFFERTORY**

L Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** "*Emmanuel is Coming!*" Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig Music by Don Besig

## DOXOLOGY

(Red Hymnal)

#624

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise \*him, all creatures  
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.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

(SUNG TO THE MALOTTE TUNE)

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

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.

## SENDING

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.  
**Alleluia!**

SENDING HYMN On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

GTG 96

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our  
 4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Journey to Bethlehem" Edward Broughton

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

## Notes & Announcements



The flowers this morning are given to the glory of god by Bob and Marne Helberg in honor of Cindy Corell and her mission work.

- **Church Office closed** December 25<sup>th</sup>
- **No Fellowship supper** December 25<sup>th</sup>
- **Ushers** for December 29<sup>th</sup>: Bobby Harper, Martha Davis, Mike Perrine, Nancy Bell
- **Liturgist** for December 29<sup>th</sup>: Susan Lincoln
- **FPC website** [www.firstpresperry.org](http://www.firstpresperry.org)
- Send **prayer requests** to [prayer@firstpresperry.org](mailto:prayer@firstpresperry.org) or contact Jeanne Hilgendorf



Christmas Eve Worship Service 7:00 pm

Your Mission/Outreach committee asks that you welcome Cindy Corell as she shares her ministry at worship December 22.

Cindy previously served in Haiti and has been supported by FPC donations for several years. She currently serves with FONDAMA as a catalyst for food, hunger and agribusiness concerns in this new assignment. She will be based in the Dominican Republic and will travel with other PCUSA missionaries to surrounding countries.

# First Presbyterian Church

*Presents*

*A Musical Reflection on the Birth of Christ*

310 Plantation Rd. Perry, FL

12/22/24 at 5pm



*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us John 1:14*

## 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

## FPC PRAYER LIST

*TOGETHER, WE PRAY FOR:*

*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*