

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Offering plates will be passed to persons seated in pews. Gifts/pledges may also be sent to First Presbyterian Church by mail or through the "Giving" link on our website: <https://www.fpcjc.com/giving>.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** (Offertory Response, Hymn #606)

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT #136** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*
(Verses 1 & 3)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #146** (verse 3)
Gentle Mary laid her child, lowly in a manger;
he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
praise His name in all the earth,
hail the King of glory!

POSTLUDE

***People stand as they are able**

Notice of Filming: Worship services are filmed and recorded to be included on our Church website, Facebook, YouTube, etc. While most footage will feature worship leaders, video of the congregation may also appear. Children during children's sermons may be seen. If you have concerns, please contact the church office.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We strive to be a loving family of faith nurturing the spiritual growth of one another as we serve, worship, and reach out in celebration of Christ's Love.

(B) Christmas 1

December 31, 2023

Our Favorite Hymn(s)-Sing Sunday

PRELUDE

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sheila Markley

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT (*please remain seated*) (Hymn #143, verse 1)

**Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise God, creator of all things!

People: Let the whole earth sing!

Leader: Praise God, sun and moon and shining stars,
mountains and trees, fire and snow and stormy winds...

People: Let the whole earth sing!

Leader: Praise God from the highest heavens and from the earth,
the one whose glory is above earth and heaven.

People: Let the whole earth sing!

Leader: God has created us all—men and women alike,
old and young together!

Sing praises, all God's faithful people!

People: Let the whole earth sing!

***HYMN OF PRAISE #143**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
(Verses 2-4)

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when the way is hard. We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend. Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence, we fail to recognize our own complicity.

Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect children so vulnerable and precious in your sight. Forgive our misuse of power against people, and against your creation. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who shared our flesh and blood. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**People: In the grace and love of God, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!**

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (#132, verse 3)*

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

***THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation)

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Exalted God, even as the heavenly host sang of your glory in the night skies over Bethlehem; even as the star shone in the heavens, and sheep and cattle gathered in that light, so we

gather, young and old together, to recount all that you have done for us in mercy and steadfast love. No tyrant's threat or deadly act can destroy the dreams and visions you have placed within us, for you have drawn us close. With all creation, we praise you and exalt your name forever and ever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 2:13-23

THE WORD IN MUSIC – OUR FAVORITE HYMNS Joe & Sheila Markley

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.**

**For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.**

**He will establish and uphold it with justice and with
righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7



- **Our members and friends who are living in nursing home, assisted living or are partially or fully "home-bound"**
- **Roger Lawson**
- **Tim Sullivan (Danette Story's brother) and all those battling cancer**

We encourage you to pray for these friends – send them a note, call or visit them. Addresses and phone numbers can be obtained from the church office. Send your prayer requests, concerns and updates to office.fpcjc@gmail.com

Thanks to those who have assisted in all the parts and pieces of this morning's worship:

Pastor: Position Vacant

Worship Leader: Brenda Edleston

Chancel Choir Director: Joe Markley

Music Coordinator and Handbell Director: Sheila Markley

Organist: Joe Markley

Video preparer/Operator/Sound: Colleen Smith

Head Usher: Bob Haynes

Key Deacon for Jan. transportation: Krista Blaisdell (785-323-7174)

Elder on call for the week of Dec. 31st: Jim Ray (785-307-5188)

Coffee Fellowship is hosted by Randy & Colleen Smith

Children are welcome in worship. We welcome all children and youth to stay during the worship service and experience God. If you need your young child to go to the nursery, our caretakers are ready to receive them.

Happy New Year Everyone! The Church will be closed tomorrow on New Year's Day. We will open back up on Tuesday, January 2nd at 9:00 am.

Please pick up your poinsettias today after service. Please do not take the trays that are underneath the poinsettias. These were purchased by the church to use each year.

Parents - Just a reminder that there is no JAM, MS/HS Youth Group, or Youth Sunday School this week. Sunday School will resume on January 7th. JAM and MS/HS Youth Group will resume on January 10th.

Per Capita for 2024 will be \$37.00.

We will need help next Sunday after service to take down decorations. Thank you!

Reminder-Annual reports are due to the office by January 5th.

If your term of service as an Elder or Deacon is ending, please turn your notebooks in to your chairperson or the Church Office. Thank You.

Can you host Cookie Fellowship? Dates are open beginning with January 28th. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board across from the kitchenette. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Annette Ray at 785-210-4490 or Jenna Langvardt at 785-761-5815.

If you have information you would like in the **bulletin**, please let the church office know by **noon on Wednesday** for that week. You may call 238-1191 or email your info to office.fpcjc@gmail.com

If you have information you would like in the **February** newsletter, please let the church office know by January 23rd. You may also email your information to office.fpcjc@gmail.com.

Church services are streamed at: <https://www.fpcjc.com>. You will also find links to our Facebook page and YouTube on this webpage. The worship bulletin can be found at <https://www.fpcjc.com/publications>.

When inclement weather is forecast there are three ways you can find out if the church worship service has been cancelled: WIBW (website or T.V.), our First Presbyterian Church-Junction City Facebook page, and - if we have your email address - email from the church.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday

All Day Church Closed for New Year's Day

Tuesday

2:30 pm Finance Committee
5:30 pm Mission, Evangelism & Fellowship Committee
6:00 pm Deacons Meeting

Wednesday

8:30 am Worship Committee
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:00 pm AA Meeting

Thursday

9:00 am Christian Education Committee

Saturday

8:35 am Men's Breakfast

Sunday

8:30 am Glory Ringers Hand Bell Rehearsal
9:30 am Sunday School
10:45 am Worship, child care available
After Service Unhanging of the greens