

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT#113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***The Congregational Response #88**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

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) Advent 3

December 17, 2023

Sunday School/JAM Youth Christmas Pageant

PRELUDE

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sheila Markley

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Josh & Katie Haynes

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, we confess those places in our lives where we have refused you entrance: people we have refused to love; attitudes we will not change; good things we have left undone; ways in which we have hurt you, ourselves and others. Come to us in the light of Christ. Shine on those places we have hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us.

(silent prayers of confession)

***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** *Gloria* **Hymn No. 113 (refrain)**

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

"Joy Offering"

Harold Erichsen

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Lord God, as we journey towards the light of Christmas, keep us unafraid of the darkness. Give us courage and honesty in facing truths of our world, yet full of hope, because you sent Jesus to live among us. You promise to be with us, O God; be with us in the silence of our hearts, in the depths of our imaginations, at the center of our lives, and fill us with your love now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:46-55

THE SERMON TEXT

1 Thessalonians 5:15-18

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM

Christmas Pageant

Please see insert for the congregation's participation in music

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death

Can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**from A Brief Statement of Faith
(PCUSA)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray for God's people throughout the world (silence)
God of love,

People: Grant our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray for the nations of the earth, for the well-being of all people, and for those in authority. (silence) God of love,

People: Grant our prayer.

Leader: God of compassion, may the hearts of many be filled with the true love of peace, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love. (silence) God of love,

People: Grant our prayer.

Leader: You are worthy, O God, to receive honor and blessing and praise. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

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)**



- **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 this morning's worship:

Pastor: Position Vacant

Worship Leader: Elaine Dill

Chancel Choir Director: Joe Markley

Music Coordinator and Handbell Director: Sheila Markley

Organist: Joe Markley

Video Preparer/Operator/Sound: Colleen Smith

Key Deacon for December transportation: Janet Parrish (785-226-0239)

Elder on call for the week of December 17th: Susan Erichsen (785-223-3100)

Head Usher for December 17th: Bob Haynes

Coffee Fellowship this week is hosted by Jade White

Acolytes this week are: Piper Butler and Grayson White

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.

Thank you to our Sunday School/JAM Youth, our Sunday School/CED Leadership and Joe Markley for their parts in helping to put on the Christmas Pageant today.

Today is our annual Christmas Cookie Exchange! After service, stop by the parlor and fill a plate full of Christmas cookies. We'll provide the "to-go" containers. *Mission/Evangelism Committee*

Reminder today is Bell Sunday.

The church will be closed on Monday, December 25th for the Christmas Day holiday. Merry Christmas Everyone!

Christmas Eve Service will start at **5:00 pm** with a pre-service Christmas Recital, followed by service at **5:30 pm**. We encourage parents and grandparents to bring children of all ages to this worship service.

Per Capita for 2024 will be \$37.00.

If you have contributions to the church that you would like deposited for 2023, please have them to the church by Thursday, December 28, 2023.

Can you host Cookie Fellowship? Dates are open beginning with January 7th. 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.

All Church Caroling-everyone is invited to join our youth as they go caroling on Wednesday, December 20th at Brookdale Senior Living Center, then following at Valley View Estates. We will meet at Brookdale at 6:30 pm and arrive back at the church at approximately 7:15 pm.

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 anything you would like to put into the **January** newsletter, please email the information to the church office no later than **December 23rd, 2023**. Our email address is 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

7:00 pm Cub Scouts

Tuesday

7:00 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday

12:30 pm Bible Study
6:30 pm JAM (Caroling)
6:30 pm MS/HS Youth Group (Caroling)
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:00 pm AA Meeting

Sunday

8:30 am Glory Ringers Handbell Rehearsal
9:30 am Sunday School (Adult Only)
10:45 am Worship, child care available
Coffee Fellowship
12:00 pm Candle Lighting Practice
After Service Cookie Exchange
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Concert
5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service



2023 Christmas Poinsettias

Pearl Barnicle

**In Memory of Bill Barnicle
In Memory of Nina Gill
In Memory of Don Helleman
In Memory of Madge Kennedy
In Memory of Irene Jeffries
In Memory of Margaret Shane**

Barbara Craft

In Honor of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior

Hugh & Elaine Dill

**In Memory of J. Mark & Flo Dill
In Memory of Wm. M & Nadine Edie**

Harold & Susan Erichsen

**In Memory of Albert & Ruth Erichsen
In Memory of Carl Ehlers**

Bob & Rhoda Frasier

In Honor and Memory of our loved ones

Lonny & Melissa Goble

**In Memory of Chris Reeser
In Memory of Robert (Bobby) Taylor**

Bob & Pam Haynes

**In Memory of Joseph Haynes
In Memory of Robert & Donna Mae Haynes**

Clyde & Barb Hill

In Memory of our moms, Katherine Cleveland and Jennie Hill Thornton

Ann Langvardt

**In Memory of Howard Langvardt
In Honor of Vern & Marie Langvardt and Lawrence & Hazel Kamm**

Mitch & Jenna Langvardt

**In Memory of Howard Langvardt
In Memory of our loving grandparents and family members who have passed
In Honor of our grandchildren**

Robert & Chris Munson

**In Memory of Chuck Munson
In Memory of Ed J. Rolfs
In Memory of Ralph & Bernice Munson
In Memory of Vaudene Field
In Memory of Rev. Ted Lester**

Jorja L. Poppe

In Memory of Clint Poppe

Nancy Stemhagen

**In Memory of my parents Harvey & Opal Wenger
In Memory of my husband Robert Stemhagen and my son Robert Heaney**

Scott & Alice Stuckey

**In Memory of Leroy & Pat Stuckey
In Memory of John & Margaret Wheat**

“Welcome to Bethlehem”

Part I: Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus

Mallory King as Mary & Quint Lindey as Joseph

As Christ Child’s family comes down the aisle, join in singing

Still, Still, Still

Hymn 124

***Narrator**

Chris Heldstab

Part II: The Animals

Harper Lankas, Haisley White, Toby Yascavage, Cameron King, Aniston White, and Parker Avery as the Animals

As the animals see Baby Jesus, join in singing

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Hymn 128

***Narrator**

Chris Heldstab

Part III: Angels

Rory King, Jordon Wensel, Allie Butterfield, and Delilah Standlee as the Angels

As the angels praise baby Jesus, join in singing

Angels from the Realms of Glory Hymn 143 (Verse 1)

***Narrator**

Chris Heldstab

Part IV: Shepherds

Lottie Butler, Ally Lankas, Kate Schoenrock, Eli Schoenrock, and Josh Yascavage as the Shepherds

As Shepherds come to adore Jesus, join in singing

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Hymn 136 (Verses 1-2)

***Narrator**

Chris Heldstab

Part V: Wisemen and Star

Haiden Edleston, Grayson White, and Piper Butler as the Wisemen/McKinleigh Blaisdell as the Star

As the Wisemen present their gifts to Jesus, join in singing

We Three Kings

Hymn 151 (Verse 1)

***Narrator**

Chris Heldstab

Part VI: Rejoice

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

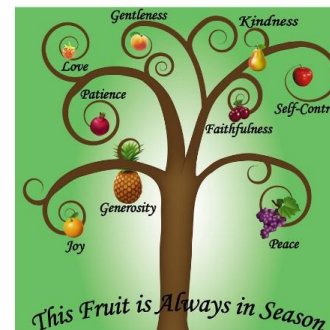
Hymn 132 (Verses 1 & 3)



NEW NEWS ABOUT OUR YOUTH!!

Upcoming Dates for Parents:

- **Wednesday, December 20th** - Christmas Caroling & Hot Cocoa (JAM & MS/HS)
- **Sunday, December 24th** - NO Sunday School
- **Wednesday, December 27th** - NO JAM or MS/HS Youth Group
- **Sunday, December 31st** - NO Sunday School
- **Wednesday, January 3rd** - No JAM or MS/HS Youth Group



Save the Date!

**Fruit of the Spirit VBS
July 29 - August 1, 2024**

***WE ARE CURRENTLY
LOOKING FOR YOUTH
VOLUNTEERS**