

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 "Give Now" link on our website:
<https://www.fpcjc.com>*

OFFERTORY *Love Came Down at Christmas...*by Lani Smith

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

GO IN GOD'S NAME

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT #113** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *The Snow Lay on the Ground...*by James Denton

***People stand as they are able**

.

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.

December 15, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

The Coventry Carol...arr. James Smithbridge

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO WORSHIP

MS/HS Sunday School Class

Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

*MUSICAL RESPONSE:

Emmanuel

*HYMN OF PRAISE #143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

*INVITATION TO, AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our

neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS (Hymn #447)

We are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*THE PEACE

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

CHORAL ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter...by Darke

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

Just a Little Christmas

THE MESSAGE TEXT AND MESSAGE

Luke 3:7-18

"Prepare Your Heart"

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



- **Our members and friends who are living in a nursing home, assisted living or are partially or fully "home-bound"**
- **All those battling cancer**
- **Joyce Miles has recently been diagnosed with lung cancer. Please keep Joyce, Gary, and their family in your prayers.**

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

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 may be seen during children's sermons. If you have concerns, please contact the church office

Thanks to those who have assisted in this morning's worship:

Transitional Pastor: Kemper Huber

Chancel Choir Director: Joe Markley

Music Coordinator and Handbell Director: Sheila Markley

Organist: Rhoda Frasier

Video Preparer/Operator/Sound: Colleen Smith

Key Deacon for Dec. transportation: Mary Kay Munson
(785-375-3189)

Elder on call the week of December 15: Jim Ray (785-307-5188)

Head Usher for December 15: Janet Parrish

Acolytes for December 15 are: Rory King & Harper Lankas

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

Today's flowers are in honor of the youth of the congregation. May they continue to grow in God's Love.

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. Childcare will be provided.

Per Capita for 2025 will be \$38.00.

There is **no Sunday School (youth or adult)** on December 29 or January 5. Classes will resume on January 12

Thank you to our Sunday School/JELLY Youth, our Sunday School/CED Leadership, and Sheila and Joe Markley for helping 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*

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

Join the **Sunrise Adult Sunday School class** in the dining room at 8:55 am for the Advent study “Finding Our Place at the Manger”.

Join the **Pathfinders Adult Sunday School class** in room 206 at 9:30 am for the Advent study on “Finding Our Place at the Manger”.

Join us for our Wednesday lunchtime Bible study with Elaine Dill leading a study on Max Lucado’s book *Fearless*. This class meets from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in room 206.

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

If you have any information you would like in the **bulletin**, please let the church office know by **noon on Wednesday** for that week. You may call 785-238-1191 or email your info to office.fpcjc@gmail.com

If you want to put anything into the **January** newsletter, please email the information to the church office no later than **December 20, 2024**. Our email address is office.fpcjc@gmail.com.

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

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday	
6:00 pm	Cub Scouts
Tuesday	
7:00 pm	Session
Wednesday	
12:30 pm	Bible Study
6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:00 pm	AA Meeting
Sunday	
8:30 am	Glory Ringers Rehearsal
8:55 am	Sunrise Sunday School (Adult only)
9:30 am	Sunday School (Adult and Youth)
10:45 am	Worship, child care available
	Coffee Fellowship
12:00 pm	Youth Candle Lighting Practice

DECEMBER YOUTH EVENTS:

12/15

🎄 Remember to stay after worship today for a quick run-through on our Christmas Eve Service (participating 1st-5th grade only).

12/22

🎄 **12-12:30 pm** (or immediately after worship) - Practice candle lighting for the Christmas Eve Service with Margaret (participating 1st-5th).

🎄 MS/HS Class needs to plan to stay as well to go over their candle-lighting duties with Pastor Kemper.

12/29 - 1/5

🎄 No Youth Programming during this time. This includes JELLY on 1/5. Sunday School Classes will resume on January 12.

“Just a Little Christmas”

<u>Child’s Name</u>	<u>Character</u>
Mallory King	Narrator 1
Haiden Edleston	Narrator 2
Grayson White	Narrator 3
Ally Lankas	Mary
Toby Yascavage	Joseph
McKinleigh Blaisdell	Angel
Quint Lindey	Emperor Ceasar
	Augustus/King Herod
Harper Lankas	Wise Person
Rory King	Wise Person
Haisley White	Wise Person
Delilah Standlee	Soldier
Cameron King	Shepherd
Aniston White	Sheep
Parker Avery	Sheep

Music:
Away in a Manger
Silent Night

Christmas Pageant Presented by the
Pre-K - 5th Graders of First Presbyterian Church
December 15, 2024