



# The People of First Presbyterian Church

## OUR GATHERING

The Chiming of the Hour  
 Prelude "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent" arr. Purifoy  
 Welcome and Announcements  
 Choral Call to Worship "Psalm 66" Kennedy  
 Prayer of Praise and Adoration

### Call to Worship from Luke 1

Blessed is the Holy One of God,  
**Who has sent a mighty Savior to redeem us.**  
 Let us worship God.

### Candle Lighting and Responsive Litany for Advent from Isaiah

We are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears in to pruning hooks;  
**Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any-more.**  
 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
**The calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child will lead them.**  
 Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

+Opening Hymn # 93 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" Truro

### Prayer of Confession

**God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.** *Moment for Silent Meditation.*

Congregational Prayer Response: ***The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth, when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth. My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land and you will be delivered by my almighty hand. From Hymn # 357 (vs. 1)***

### Assurance of Forgiveness

Anthem "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Praetorius

## THE WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

The Word of God  
**Hebrew Scriptures:** Malachi 3:1-4 (p. 838)  
**Zechariah's Prophecy:** Luke 1:68-79 (p. 54)  
**New Testament:** Philippians 1:3-11 (p. 185)  
**Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6 (p. 56)

## Children's Message

Sermon "Highs and Lows" Reverend B.J. Chain

### +Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven. He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### +The Gloria Patri, # 581 *Glory Be to the Father*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## OUR RESPONSE

+Hymn of Praise # 82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Hyfrydol

### Prayer of the People

### Call for the Offering

Offertory "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Redner arr. Berry

### +Doxology # 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below: Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### +Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
 Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### +The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## SENDING

+Sending Hymn # 104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

### +Charge and Blessing

+Postlude "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Mendelssohn

+ Indicates a time to stand as you are comfortable in doing so.  
**Please join in unison reading of the bold print.**

## Prayer Concerns

**Sandra Mims**  
 Health Concerns

**Jon & Dorothy Fortman**  
 Health Concerns

**Toni Oakes**  
 (Ed Oakes' Sister)  
 Health Concerns

**Ginny Oakes**  
 (Ed Oakes' Mother)  
 Health Concerns

**Bonnie Boyd**  
 Health Concerns

**Allison L. Jones**  
 (Scott Jones' Mother)  
 Health Concerns

**Amy Sullivan**  
 (Pam Sullivan's Daughter-In-Law)  
 Health Concerns

**Lyla Fulton (2 Years Old)**  
 (Holly Longton's Great Niece)  
 Cancer Diagnosis

**Ronnie Richardson**  
 (Taylor Richardson's Father)  
 Health Concerns

**Desiree Krieger**  
 Recovery from back surgery

**Patty Jones Family**  
 Prayer Concerns for Family

**The Family of James Pope**  
 (Family Friend)  
 Prayer Request

**Tom Young**  
 Recovery from Knee Surgery

**Susan Smith**  
 Recovery from Knee Surgery

**Katy Voorhees**  
 Recovery from Surgery

**Becky Owings & Family**  
 On the loss of John Owings

**Jim Loveland**  
 Holly Longton's Father  
 Recovery from Stroke

*Prayer requests should be communicated through the Church Office.*

## THE CHURCH AT WORK

We welcome you to  
First Presbyterian Church!

A **Nursery** is available in the Education Building for the youngest worshipers (birth through five years old).

**Restrooms** are located on both floors in the Education Building. Follow the signs or ask a friendly face who will be happy to help you find anything you need.

### Today

#### 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal

9:45 a.m.

Sunday School

11:00 a.m.

Worship

3:00 p.m.

PW Gathering

Cookies, Cocoa, and Caring

### Wednesday

12:30 p.m.

Bible Study

5:00 p.m.

Worship & Music Meeting

### Thursday

5:00 p.m.

Building & Grounds Meeting

5:30 p.m. Al-Anon

### Next Sunday

#### 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m.

Session Meeting

9:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal

9:45 a.m.

Sunday School

11:00 a.m.

Lessons & Carols

Joy Gift Program

Fellowship Lunch following  
Worship (Shepherding Group 1)

### Helping Hands

Blankets

Peanut Butter

Boxed Cereal

Canned Chili

Canned Soups

Chef Boyardee Items

## Session

B.J. Chain, Moderator Hope DeVenney, Clerk

### Class of 2025

Collene Albright-3

Hope Devenney-4

Taylor Richardson-2

Tom Richardson-3

### Class of 2026

Maridith Geuder-1

Tori Pumphrey-4

Lezli Waits-4

Steve Wilkes-2

### Class of 2027

Fran Brown-1

Marthalie Porter-1

Steve Porter-2

Susan Smith-2

Numbers beside names indicate Shepherding Group

## Diaconate

### Class of 2025

Dorothy Fortman-1

Hillary Richardson-3

Anna Jones -4

### Class of 2026

Hope Oakes-3

Eric Waits-4

Sue Hatcher-3

### Class of 2027

Lee Hackett-1

Mary Nelson-1

Numbers beside names indicate Shepherding Group

Last Sunday's Attendance: 50

### Helping Hands Blanket Drive

Blankets will be accepted for the colder temperatures of the winter for those in need.

New blankets may be dropped off in the education building. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please reference Helping Hands-Blanket Drive.

### First Presbyterian Church

3200 Bluecutt Road P. O. Box 9681 Columbus, MS 39705 (662) 328-5992

Pastor: B.J. Chain \*Phone: (662) 816-2352 \*Email: bjchainiv@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Tracie Hanson (662) 328-5992

Director of Music: Andrew Miller

Accompanist: Shirley Ellis

PCDP Director: Lezli Waits

Custodian: Rowland Jennings

### Connect with Us

Email- Firstprescolumbus@gmail.com

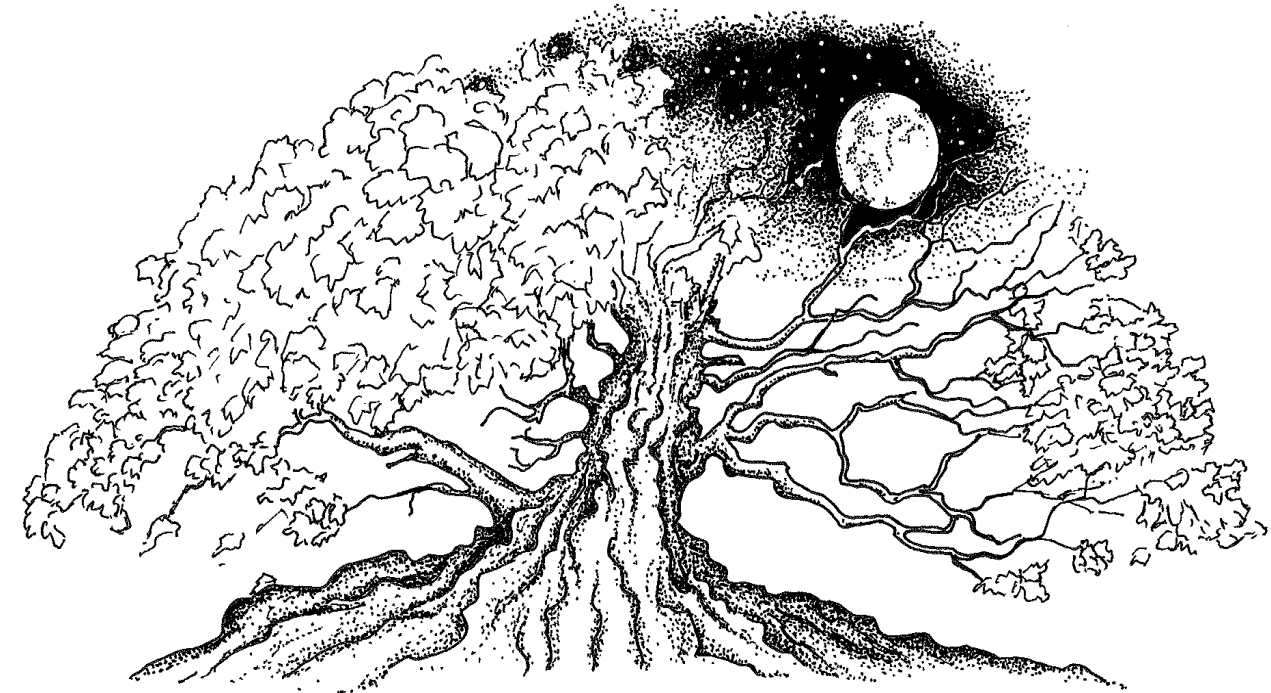
Website- Firstprescolumbus.org

Facebook- Firstprescolumbus

Twitter- @Columbusfpc



# First Presbyterian Church Columbus, Mississippi



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with  
God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

## “Highs and Lows”

Reverend B.J. Chain

December 8, 2024

