



# The People of First Presbyterian Church

## OUR GATHERING

The Chiming of the Hour  
 Prelude *"Prelude in F"* Beethoven  
 Welcome and Announcements  
 Choral Call to Worship *"The People Who Walked in Darkness"* Bringle  
 Prayer of Praise and Adoration

### Call to Worship from Matthew 3

Jesus says: I am coming soon.  
**Come, Lord Jesus!**  
 A voice cries out in the wilderness:  
**Prepare the way of the Lord!**  
 Let us worship God.

### The Lighting of the Advent Candle

We are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into 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.**

Advent Song *"Of the Father's Love"* Choir and Congregation

+Opening Hymn # 82 *"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"* Hyfrydol

### 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*

Choral Prayer Response *"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"* O-So-So

### Assurance of Pardon

Choral Anthem *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* Veni Emmanuel

## THE WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

### The Word of God

**Hebrew Scriptures:** Isaiah 11:1-10  
**Psalter:** Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
**New Testament:** Romans 15:4-13  
**Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12

*Children's Message*  
 Nursery Ages: Birth—5 years old

Sermon "The Near Kingdom" Reverend B.J. Chain

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

**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 living 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.**

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

Prayer of the People

Call for the Offering

Offertory *"In Heavenly Love Abiding"* Cox

### +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 # 106 *"Prepare The Way, O Zion"* Svenska Psalmboken

+Charge and Blessing

+Postlude *"Go Out as People of God"* Lien

+ Indicates a time to stand as you are comfortable in doing so

**Please join in unison reading of the bold print**

## Session

B.J. Chain, Moderator  
 Cathy Young, Clerk  
 Class of 2023  
 Lee Hackett-1  
 Steve Porter-2  
 Tori Pumpfrey-4  
 Thomas Richardson-3  
 Class of 2024  
 Fran Brown -1  
 Dennis Harmon -1  
 Susan Smith -2  
 Cathy Young -4  
 Class of 2025  
 Collene Albright-3  
 Hope Devenney-4  
 Taylor Richardson-2  
 Tom Richardson-3

Numbers beside names indicate Shepherding Group

## Diaconate

Class of 2023  
 Ed Oakes-3  
 Lezli Waits-4  
 Steve Wilkes-2  
 Class of 2024  
 Angela Gardner -2  
 Marthalle Porter -1  
 Emma Richardson-3  
 Class of 2025  
 Dorothy Fortman-1  
 Hillary Richardson-3  
 Anna Jones -4

Numbers beside names indicate Shepherding Group

**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.

**Prayer Concerns**

**Sandra Mims**  
*Health Concerns*

**Jon Fortman**  
*Health Concerns*

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

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

**Diana Revord**  
*Health Concerns*

**Bridgette Beinhaur**  
*(Ed Oakes Cousin)*  
*Health Concerns*

**Emmagene Crunk**  
*Health Concerns*

**Bonnie Boyd**  
*Health Concerns*

**Genie Hutchison**  
*Minor Surgery Recovery*

**Al Hatcher**  
*Health Concerns*

**The Sturdivant Family**  
*In the loss of*  
*Ms. Scherrell Sturdivant*

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

**THE CHURCH AT WORK**

**Today** 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
**2nd Sunday of Advent** 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
3:00 p.m. Christmas Parade  
PCDP is participating

**Monday** 5:00 p.m. AA Group

**Wednesday** 12:30 p.m. Bible Study

**Thursday** 5:30 p.m. AA & Al-Anon

**Next Sunday** 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
**3rd Sunday of Advent** 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols/Joy Gift

**Helping Hands**

Hunger is a growing issue in our community. If you are shopping this week, please consider this need. Canned food items, such as vegetables, soups, and canned meat are in very high demand. Proteins such as peanut butter, canned tuna, and canned beans are options to consider.

**First Presbyterian Church**

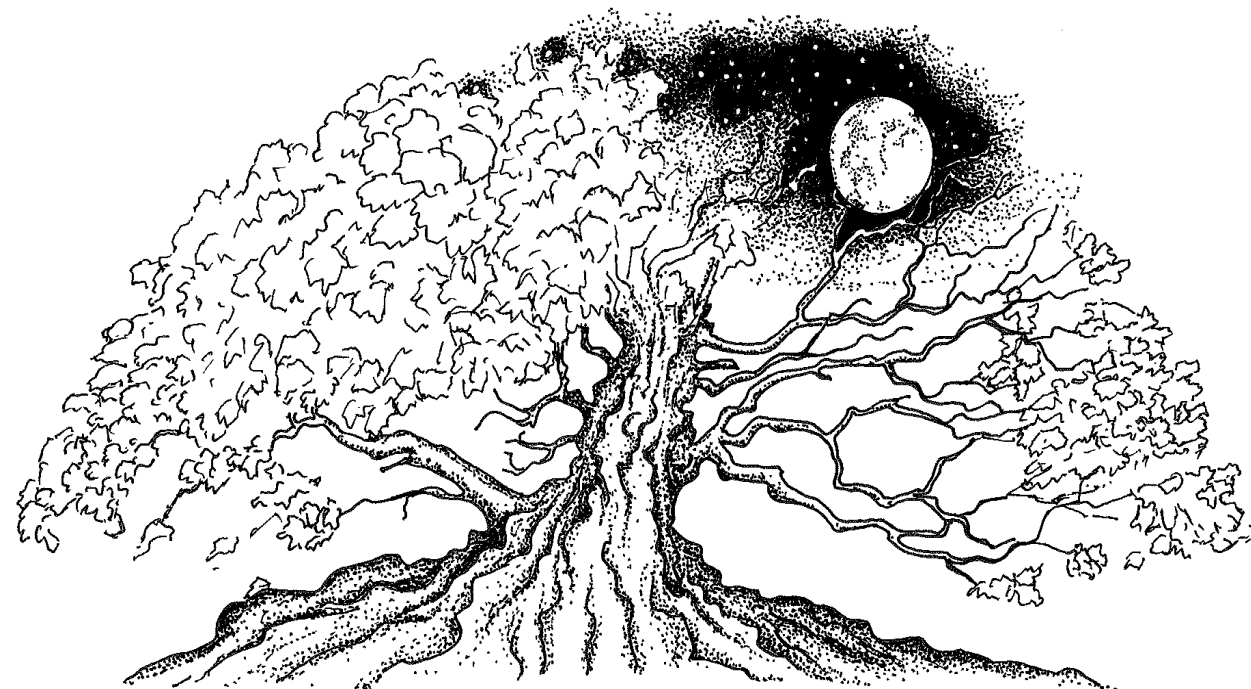
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Church Secretary: Tracie Hanson (662) 328-5992  
Director of Maintenance: Tracie Hanson Custodian: Rowland Jennings  
PCDP Director: Lezli Waits

**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

*“The Near Kingdom”*

The Reverend B.J. Chain  
December 4, 2022

