

Christmas Mission Challenge

This year for Christmas, First Presbyterian Church of Americus raised money to help alleviate hunger through the PC(USA) Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Gift Given by Ronnie Greer,
in memory of Tom Collins.

Gift Given by Nancy Herron,
in memory of her beloved husband, Dr. James Herron.

Gift Given by Sharon Parks,
in honor of Pastor Sommer, Jaimie and Kerstin.

Gift Given by Jaimie Minich,
in honor of her parents; David and Donna Minich

Gift Given by Ray and Donja Tripp,
in honor of; Sommer Bower, Kerstin Cherrbboneau, Candice Godby,
Percy Kelley and Jaimie Minich.

Gift Given by Sommer Bower,
in honor of the session of First Presbyterian Church,
with gratitude for their service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



First Presbyterian Church Americus, Georgia

A community of faith, responding to God's call
Loving, learning and leading people to Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve Service



Saturday, December 24th ~ 5:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Americus, GA



Sunday, December 24, 2023 ~ 5:00 p.m.

** Every time you see this star you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*
Let us worship God!*

PRELUDE.....Highland Bagpiper Kelly McCoy

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen and O Come, All Ye Faithful”

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Pastor Sommer Bower

We extend a warm welcome this evening to our guest musicians, Paula Carter and Kelly McCoy as we worship and praise the newborn King!

***THE CAROL (#133)** *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

***O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
Oh come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!***

***LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH:**

Light looked down and saw darkness.

“I will go there,” said Light.

Peace looked down and saw war.

“I will go there,” said Peace.

Loved looked down and saw hatred.

“I will go there,” said Love.

*So he, the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace, the King of Love,
came down and crept in beside us. This is what God has promised us.*

God’s promise is fulfilled!

***THE CAROL (#195)**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

**Silent night, Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, Holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus Lord, at Thy birth!**

**Silent night, Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION OF JOY**

***RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION (#134)** *“Joy to the World!!”*

**Joy to the World , the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.**

POSTLUDE.....Highland Bagpiper Kelly McCoy

“Hark the Herald and Angels We Have Heard on High”

FEATURED SOLO.....Paula Carter

“Hallelujah Chorus”

***SHARING THE LIGHT**

from John 1:1-5, 14, 16

Tonight we celebrate the coming of Christ, the King of Israel, the true light of the world, which enlightens everyone. Our candles bear witness to that light and brighten this time of celebration.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

The light of the Lord continues to shine, as it glows in our lives of Christian love and sacrifice; for God has given us the Word.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

In Jesus Christ is life, and the life is the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

***LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

We will stand and share our candlelight with each other – all from the Christ Candle. The elders' candles will be lit from the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath. Elders will light candles on each row from the center aisle. You are invited to pass the light to your neighbor down the aisle. Please hold the lighted candle upright at all times. The lit candle symbolizes that Christ is King and Lord. Please tilt the unlighted candle into the upright candle's flame for it to be lit. This symbolizes our bowing in worship and homage to Christ, the Light of the world, our King, and our Lord.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 1-5

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

THE CAROL (#121) remain seated *“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (verse 1)*

***O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in the dark street shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 6-7

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

THE CAROL (#115) *“Away in a Manger” (verse 1)*

***Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

THE CAROL (#145) *"What Child Is This" (verses 1 & 3)*

***What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.***

***So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.***

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

***THE CAROL (#119)**

"Hark, The Herald Angels Sing!"

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!**

OFFERTORY MUSIC.....Highland Bagpiper Kelly McCoy
"I Saw Three Ships and Good King Wenceslas"

***DOXOLOGY (#606)**.....Pianist Paula Carter

***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 DEDICATION**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper today as a community of faith.
During communion you will be invited forward to partake of the communion elements
(juice & bread). When you come forward you can immediately partake...
take, eat and be blessed.*

***THE CAROL (#113)**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

**Angels, we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.**