



# FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

695 E. Calvin Street, Fayetteville, AR 72703 • (479) 442-4411 • www.fupcfay.org

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m

## GATHERING

*(Please use this time to prepare reflectively for worship.)*

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

Bo Morton and Lindley Ramsey

**WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Stewart Smith

**PRELUDE**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Bells on the Hill  
Music by Rowland Hugh Prichard; Arranged by Cathy Moglebust  
Nina Andrew and Cole Jackson, percussion

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Stewart Smith

Leader: O Sing a new Song!

**People: O Sing to God all the earth!**

Leader: Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice,

**People: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!**

Leader: Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before God, for God comes to judge the earth.

**People: God will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with truth.**

**Unison: With joy and with gratitude, let us worship the living and loving God!**

**\*HYMN #119**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Glory to God  
Words by Charles Wesley; Music by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

**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 angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King".**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(seated, unison)*

Ron Warren

**O Holy God, our very waiting in Advent is itself a confession. If we are waiting for Emmanuel, we are not yet with You; if we are waiting for Jesus, we need a Savior; if we are waiting for a Messiah, the proud are still powerful, the mighty are still exalted, the hungry stand unheard at the door; if we are waiting for Your incarnation in human form, we confess that we have not known You in our brother, we have not loved You in our sister and we have not served You in our neighbor. In this time of great meaning, in the stillness of Advent love and light, hear our deepest confession. Heal us and make us new through the good tidings of Your presence in our lives. ... *(silent confession)* Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM***A La Nanita Nana*

Chancel Choir

Spanish Carol by José Ramón Gomis, 1904; Arranged by Norman Luboff

A la nanita nana, nanita ea, nanita ea,  
 Mi Jesús tiene sueño, bendito se a, bendito se a.  
 Fuentecilla que corres clara y so nora,  
 Rui señor q' en la selva cantando lloras,  
 Callad mientras la cuna se balancea.  
 A la nanita nana, nanita ea.  
 A la nanita nana, nanita ea.

Come, let us sing a little lullaby, come, let us sing a little,  
 my Jesus is sleepy, blessed be, blessed be.  
 Little spring that runs clear and sonorous,  
 Nightingale that in the forest, weeps as it sings,  
 hush, while the cradle rocks to and fro.  
 Come, let us sing a little lullaby.  
 Come, let us sing a little lullaby.

**CHILDREN'S SONG***O Come, Little Children*

Use bulletin or screens

Words and Music by Johann A. P. Schultz (1747-1800)

**O come, little children, O come, one and all. O come, to the manger in Bethlehem's stall.  
 Sing glory to God in the heavens above, and thank Him for Jesus, the proof of His love.**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Rev. Stewart Smith

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE—THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY**

Leader: Today is the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Joy.

**People: Our joy is in God and in God's Son Jesus Christ. Like peace, joy is a gift from God. It overtakes us and fills us when we remember what God has done and what God has promised to do.**

Leader: We light this candle today to remind us that Christ came, and is coming, so that all people might have a rich and abundant life.

**People: We thank God for the hope Christ gives us, for the peace he bestows, and for the joy he pours into our hearts.**

Leader: Hear now these words of great joy spoken to the shepherds on the first Christmas (Luke 2:10-14): 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Let us pray,

**Unison: O God of joy, Emmanuel, send Your light into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for Christ's appearing. Fix our hearts and minds upon those things You have done and those You have promised to do that we might have the joy that You promised. As we worship You, strengthen us so that we may always do Your will and so bless You and the world You have made. Amen.**

**\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.****ANTHEM***Huron Carol*

Chancel Choir

Words by Jean de Brebeuf, c. 1643; French Canadian Melody; Arranged by Dan Forrest  
Amelia Booker, soloist; String Ensemble; Nina Andrews, percussion; SungKun Jung, piano

*The Huron Carol is a retelling of the Christmas Story by Jean de Brebeuf, one of the earliest French Missionaries in North America. Written for the Huron tribes that he lived among, it uses a French Canadian melody and their Wendat (Huron) language translated here by J. E. Middleton in 1926.*

Jesous Ahatonhia. (Jesus is born.) Gloria. 'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled, That mighty Gitchi Manitou (God the Creator) sent angel choirs instead; Before their light the stars grew dim, and wandering hunters heard the hymn: "Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born in excelsis gloria."

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found, a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped His beauty round; But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high, "Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born in excelsis gloria."

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there. The chiefs from far before Him knelt, with gifts of fur and beaver pelt, "Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born in excelsis gloria."

O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou, (the Creator) the Holy Child of earth and heaven is born this day for you. Come kneel before the radiant boy who brings you beauty, peace and joy. "Jesus, your King is born, Jesus is born in excelsis gloria."

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Stewart Smith

### SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 49:1-6; Luke 2:8-14

Isaiah 49:1-6;

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. <sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." <sup>4</sup>But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God." <sup>5</sup>And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—<sup>6</sup>he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Luke 2:8-14

<sup>8</sup>Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

### SERMON

*Christmas In the Carols – Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Rev. Stewart Smith

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY

*Star of Bethlehem*

Chancel Choir & Mary Mann, soloist

Words and Music by Karla Worley and Rick Vale; Arranged by David Hamilton

There is a child whose wish for Christmas cannot be found beneath a tree.  
And though the years fly, the child remains inside the heart of you and me.  
There in our hearts the child sits dreaming, and soon the dream becomes a prayer.  
On Christmas evening, we wish upon a star, that love would find us there.

[Chorus] Star of Bethlehem, Star of Bethlehem, I can see you shining bright, Star of Bethlehem.  
Star of Bethlehem, Star of Bethlehem, guide me to the Child of Light, Star of Bethlehem.

There is a Child within a manger where love can reach the smallest heart, from kings to shepherds,  
to every one of us whose dreams are torn apart.

And He was born for all the children who watch the snow and dream their dreams.  
He is the Sunrise, He is the Child of Hope, the Star of Bethlehem. [Chorus]

And He was born for all the children who watch the snow and dream their dreams.  
He is the Sunrise, He is the Child of Hope, Star of Bethlehem.

And He will come for all the children who live inside the hearts of men.  
He is the Savior, He is the Promised Gift: The Star of Bethlehem.  
Star of Bethlehem is born!

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, in your grace.

**You hear our prayers.**

Amanda McDonald

## 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

## LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Stewart Smith

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*Shepherd's Pipe Carol*  
Words and Music by John Rutter

Chancel Choir & String Ensemble  
SungKung Jung, piano

Going through the hills on a night all starry on the way to Bethlehem.  
Far away, I heard a shepherd boy piping on the way to Bethlehem.

[Chorus] Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:  
Dance and sing for joy that Christ the King Is come to bring us  
peace on earth and he's lying, cradled there at Bethlehem.

Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily on the way to Bethlehem  
Who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem? [Chorus]

None will hear my pipes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem  
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies when I get to Bethlehem.

Angels in the sky come down from on high hovered o'er the manger where the babe was lying  
cradled In the arms of his mother Mary, sleeping there at Bethlehem  
Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily, Is he there at Bethlehem?  
I will find him soon by the star shining brightly in the sky o'er Bethlehem. [Chorus]

May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily, come with you to Bethlehem?  
Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle, it is far to Bethlehem?

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:  
Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King is born this night  
in lowly stable yonder. Born for you at Bethlehem!

## \*BENEDICTION

### PARTICIPANTS

**Greeters** – Diane Warren and Kristi Button

**Interim Senior Pastor** – Rev. Stewart Smith

**Minister of Music/Commissioned Ruling Elder** – Isaac Thomas

**Director of Christian Education** – Kristi Button

**Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministries** – Amanda McDonald

**Audio/Visual Team** – Christopher Verdery, Connor Button, and Drew Parker

**Choral Interns** – Amelia Booker, Cole Jackson, Jeffrey Kerst, Verna Labitad

**Worship Band** – Nina Andrews (drums), Rob Button (guitar), Dennis Brewer (guitar), Ella Ramsey (guitar),  
Jeffrey Kerst (bass)

**Organist** – Xiao McCollum

**Pianist/Choral Accompanist** – SungKun Jung

**Membership Coordinator** – Amy McCann

**Bells on the Hill** (from left to right) – Katie Jackson, Jane Steinkraus, Ruth Rodgers, Laurie Reh, Ron Warren,  
Kelly Hadley, Marti Woodruff, Deb Crawford, Dave Edmark, Jim Gilbreath, and Don Steinkraus.

**String Ensemble:** Isabella Stratman (violin); Lucy Mae Rousseau (violin); Ashton Laurent (viola);  
Hayden Melchiori (cello); Connor Clayton (cello).

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