

**A Celebration of the Coming of
Christ, Bringing Love to the
World!
Sunday, December 22, 2013
at 11a.m.**

Fourth Sunday
of Advent



THE CHURCH GATHERS....

PRELUDE

With the first notes of the organ please silently prepare yourself for worship.

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND SHARING OF COMMUNITY LIFE

INTROIT No. 48 “Lo, How a Rose ‘E’er Blooming”

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE
CANDLE OF LOVE!**

Leaders: Megan and Brad Austin

Leader: Jesus is coming, as God’s love for us.

People: The promise of God is sure: **“But you, O Bethlehem..
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule...
and he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength
of the Lord.”**

Leader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate the coming of
Jesus as God’s gift: “For God so loved the world that
he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in
him may not perish, but may have eternal life.”

People: **Until the day when the world is filled with God’s
promised eternal life, we receive and rejoice in the**

sacrificial love with which Jesus loves us.

Leader: As the candle of love is lit, take the love of God, revealed in Bethlehem's child, and use it to transform the world.

People: We pledge ourselves, as God's beloved partners, to love the world God loves, not counting the cost.

The candle of Love is lit...

UNISON PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, as we celebrate how you reveal God's love, make us mindful of the loveless lives we often overlook, but which have immense value to you. Open our hearts and hands to love the loveless, lift up the forgotten, and restore the lost. Amen.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE No. 22**

“Angels From The Realms of Glory”

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

How often we have seen thy children in need, O God, and failed to come to their aid. It is so easy to remain unresponsive to the needs of others. Someone else will care for the needy – why should we get involved? Help us to see what our lives would be like if you had looked down from heaven, viewed the inevitable fate of this sinful world, but refused to get involved in your father's plan for it's salvation. Impress upon us the need to share your great love with all those we meet, and forgive us for our failure to do so. Amen.

PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION IN SILENCE

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE AND GRATITUDE

Gloria Patri

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. Amen.

TO HEAR AND REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD . . .

A TIME FOR OUR CHILDREN

(Children age 5 and under are excused to go downstairs after our Children's Time)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

**Isaiah 7: 13-14
Pew Bible Page #818**

The Response: Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF PREPARATION No. 44

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

NEW TESTAMENT READING

**Matthew 1: 18-25
Pew Bible Page #3-4**

The Response: Leader: This is the Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE SERMON

“THE BIRTH OF JESUS”

Rev. Dr. Ted Land

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD...

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 quick 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.

*** HYMN OF AFFIRMATION No. 31**

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SUPPLICATION

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.**

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

*** THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Doxology

**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**

TO GO OUT AND SERVE . . .

*** HYMN No. 49 “Once in David’s Royal City”**

*** THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** THE RESPONSE FOR CHOIR AND CONGREGATION No. 50**

“Rise Up Shepherds and Follow”

*** POSTLUDE**

*** All who can do so comfortably will please stand**

To Our Guests – Welcome to the First Presbyterian Church of Marianna. We are happy to have you worship with us today. We invite you to join us each Sunday, as we worship and study God’s word. If you would like more information concerning our church, you may fill out one of the *Welcome* cards in the pews and place it on the offering plate, talk to the ushers or call the church office.

Nursery care is available for children Kindergarten and below during our Worship Service each Sunday morning. Children may be taken to the nursery before the service begins, or after the Time with Our Children.

During the Advent Season **Poinsettias** are gracing the sanctuary to the Glory of God and the Coming of the Christ Child.

Our Prayer Calendar: Charlene Garraway, JoAnn Rountree, Burton Fite (requested by Donna Moore), Linda and David Stewart (requested by Jake Gunter), Sherry Stone (requested by Susie Stevens), Larry Stevens (requested by Kathy Milton), Peggy Keaton (requested by Joy Lewis), Stanley Littleton, Dr. Wade Crankshaw (requested by Rev. Ted Land), Kena Nelson (requested by Larry and Hazel Nelson), Piper Montana Smith (niece of Polly Land), Millie Sica and Sue Land.

Every Sunday morning there are **Sunday School Classes** for all age groups between 9:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. There are three classes for Adults. Next Sunday the Adults in the parlor will be studying: Jesus is Presented in the Temple Upstairs the Adult Class in Room 4 will be studying the texts and the Adult class in Room 2 will be praying the texts to be used in our Worship Service.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received this morning. This offering will be used by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as it is divided equally between the Board of Pensions, to offer supplemental retirement income, and medical insurance for retired ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families, and the Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges of our denomination. Please use the special envelopes in the bulletin for this offering.

Mission and Service Committee has instituted a **5th Sunday World Mission Offering**, which will begin next week, Sunday, December 29. Whenever there is a 5th Sunday throughout the year, an offering will be taken up to benefit a Worldwide Mission. Envelopes will be provided as an insert in the Bulletins for your use, and they can also be found on the table outside the Fellowship hall.

Everyone is invited to share in our **Christmas Eve Service** on Tuesday, December 24, **at 6:00 p.m.** The Christmas Eve Service will be centered on the

theme of “The Holy Night” The service will include the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper and will conclude with Candle Lighting, and the singing of the carol, “Silent Night.” This service will be preceded by special Christmas Organ Music played by Linda Price, our guest organist, and will also include a solo selection sung by Lee Shook.

Many congregations in the Marianna area do not hold services on Christmas Eve, so please invite family members and friends from the community to participate in our service. Childcare will not be provided for the Christmas Eve service.

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who supports our Church. The 2014 Stewardship campaign is coming to an end and your continued giving of financial support, time, and talents make the Missions of First Presbyterian Church possible.

Please remember that all contributions that you want recorded for the year 2013 must be dated **December 31, 2013 or earlier** and either brought to the church office, or be postmarked by December 31. You may drop an envelope through the mail slot in the front door of the office. If you have not yet turned in a commitment or time and talents card, they are available on the table outside the fellowship hall or from the office.

The Church office will be closed Monday, December 23 thru Wednesday December 25 and Monday, December 30 thru Wednesday, January 1 while Valerie Marlow, Church Administrator is on vacation.

You can e-mail the office at firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net and leave her a message. She will be checking her e-mails from time to time while on vacation. Interim Pastor, Ted Land will be available for pastoral care and emergencies during this time. He may be reached on his cell phone at 863-444-0716.

Property and Operations needs your help to get our Playground in Compliance. All men, women and kids (teenagers too) that can help during daytime on Monday, December 23 and Monday, December 30. If you can help, please bring your rakes, shovels, pruners, wheelbarrows, gloves, etc. to help get our playground ready to be fenced. You may call Ernie McNeill at 209-1919 for more information.

This week in the life of the church . .

Today **Christmas Joy Offering**
Monday Office Closed
Ladies Exercise Class at 9:00 a.m.
Playground Compliance Work Detail
Tuesday Christmas Eve Services
Traditional Candlelight Service at 6:00 p.m.
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Wednesday **Christmas Day Christ is Born!**
Office Closed
Friday Ladies Exercise Class at 9 a.m.
Sunday (29th) Coffee and Juice at 9:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall
Sunday School for all Ages at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 11:00 a.m.
World Mission Offering

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Ted Land
Ruling Elder of the Month: Joy Gilbert
Church Administrator: Valerie Marlow
Director of Music Emeritus: Lawrence R. Nelson
Guest Organist: Lou Wilkinson
Organist: Stanley Littleton
Custodian: Melissa Krebeck
Pantry Coordinator: Melissa Krebeck
Nursery Assistants: Mary Skipper and Trey Weeks

First Presbyterian Church
Serving God with Faith, Hope and Love since 1835
Corner of Jefferson and Clinton Streets
Marianna, Florida
(850) 526-2430
website: www.firstpresmarianna.org
E-Mail: firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net