

**A Celebration
of the Coming of Christ
Sunday, December 13, 2015
at 11a.m.**

**Third Sunday
of Advent**



PRELUDE THE CHURCH GATHERS...

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

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND SHARING OF COMMUNITY LIFE

HYMN OF PREPARATION # 9

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Verse 3

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

Joe and Ginny Busby

Family: We light this candle in hope.
We light this candle for peace.
We light this candle in joy!

Light the first candle
Light the second candle
Light the third candle

Rejoice! For our Lord is coming into the darkness of oppression's exile to lead us home, as we hear in Isaiah 35: 1-10.... Let us pray.

Family and Congregation in Unison:

O Lord, our redeemer, you lead us from languishing in sorrow's shadows into laughter's joy over your abundant restoration. Thank you that you are coming for us to lead us home along your WAY, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #451**

“Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready for your reign.
You send your Spirit to greet us, and we are afraid.
Your promise to turn things upside down scares us.
Forgive us, God of grace, and help us to trust in you
until the day of your coming; through Jesus Christ our Lord...**

***PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION IN SILENCE**

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE AND GRATITUDE #579**

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)

ANTHEM

“The Angel Gabriel”
Paraphrase of a text by Sabine Baring-Gould
Basque Carole arr. Jesse Benton

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

“For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
“To me be as it pleases God,” she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy Name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 1:26-56
Pew Bible Page #831

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

Rev. Emily Proctor

“A Mother’s Joy or a Prophet’s?”

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD...

*** HYMN OF AFFIRMATION #426**

“Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak”

***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.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SUPPLICATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be the 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.**

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #592**

“The 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 DEDICATION**

TO GO OUT AND SERVE . . .

***HYMN OF PROCLAMATION #7**

“Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth”

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE RESPONSE FOR CHOIR AND CONGREGATION #8, vs. 1 & 3**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

***POSTLUDE**

Note: An “*” invites all who can do so comfortably to 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. Poinsettias are still available for purchase should you want to give as a memorial or in honor of a loved one. The names of those donating the flowers will be listed in the bulletin at the end of December.

Our Prayer Calendar: Elizabeth Littleton Walker (requested by Stanley Littleton), Dr. Steve Stafford (requested by Barry Stafford), Janice Smith (requested by Hazel Nelson), Jeff Allen (requested by Hazel Nelson), Destry Burch and Fletcher Dunaway (requested by Mary Bevis Schmidt), Abby Reed (requested by Mary Wierman), George McMullin (requested by Nancy McMullin, Bob Ward and Michael Ward (requested by Mary Wierman), Kena Nelson (requested by Hazel Nelson), Marie Lanier (requested by Joy Lewis), Harold and Tammy Pumphrey (requested by Louise Pumphrey), Louise Pumphrey, Gina Stuart, Joy Gilbert, Daun Crews, Stanley Littleton, JoAnn Rountree.

Every Sunday morning there are **Educational Classes** for all age groups between 9:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. There are three classes for Adults. Next Sunday, December 20th, the Adults in the parlor will be studying: Dedication of Firstborn, Exodus 13:13-15; Luke 2:22-32.

Upstairs, the Adult Class in Room 4 will be studying the Lectionary scriptures.

The **Christmas Joy Offering** of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) 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. Special envelopes for this offering will be included in the bulletin **next Sunday, December 20th.**

Rev. James Stansbury will lead us in our **Christmas Eve Service**, Thursday, December 24, **at 6:00 p.m.** The Christmas Eve Service will be centered on the theme of “A Light Shines in the Darkness” 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 Stanley Littleton.

This week in the life of the church . . .

- Today Men’s Mission Project/Foster Care Offering
 Montreat Spaghetti Luncheon
- Monday Ladies Exercise Class at 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday Bagging for Food Pantry at 1:30 p.m.
 New Elder Training at 4:30 p.m. in the Parlor
 Session meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday Food pantry is open from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 Wild Wonderful Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:15 p.m. in
 the Fellowship Hall.
 Choir Practice at 4:00 p.m.
- Friday Ladies Exercise Class at 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday Coffee, Juice and Fellowship at 9:30 a.m.
 Education Hour at 9:45 a.m.
 Choir Practice at 10:00 a.m.
 Worship at 11:00 a.m. Christmas Joy Offering

Ruling Elder of the Month: LuAnne Law
Church Administrator: Kathleen Evans
Organist: Stanley Littleton
Custodian: Becky Strickland
Pantry Coordinator: Melissa Krebeck
Nursery Assistants: Tina Bigale and Carlee Wilson

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