



Worship Services

December 21, 2025
9:00 · 11:15 AM

*First Presbyterian is a Welcoming Church Community in Downtown Macon
Committed to Knowing Christ and Making Him Known.*

Welcome

TO OUR GUESTS

We want to welcome you today! More information about our church is available on our website at fpcmacon.org.

SPIRITUAL CARE

If you would like to speak to someone about what it means to know Jesus Christ or you have any spiritual need or question, please speak to one of the pastors after the service.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSON

We provide a Bible lesson and music for children in Pre-K through second grade during the services. Children will be dismissed from the service and escorted to their classroom before the sermon. Please pick up your children after the first service or Sunday school on the second floor of Cornerstone and after the second service in the nursery. If this is your first Sunday at FPC, please walk your child to the Bible lesson to check them in.

NURSERY

Nursery is provided for 3K and under from 8:45 AM-12:15 PM. We also provide a mother/infant room located in the nursery with a live video feed of the service, as well as a "cry room" downstairs from the sanctuary for parents of "fussy" children with an audio feed. Ushers are available to direct you.

HEARING ASSISTANCE

Hearing assistance devices are in the Narthex for worshippers needing hearing assistance. You may also use a smartphone or bluetooth-enabled hearing aid to connect directly to the sound system. Connection instructions are in the Narthex. Please ask an usher or deacon for assistance.

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given today by many members to the glory of God and in loving memory or honor of their loved ones..

YOUR PRESENCE

Please let us know that you're here today by scanning the QR code.



Worshippers read text in bold.

Corporate Worship

*Welcome to First Presbyterian! We are thankful you have chosen to worship with us today.
It is our hope and prayer that through the reading of God's Word, prayer,
the corporate singing and readings, and the preached Word, you
will see Christ clearly and desire to know Him more.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Galatians 4:4-7; John 3:16

Pastor: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

All: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

HYMN OF PRAISE - *Once in Royal David's City*

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all.
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, the scorned, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

For He is our lifelong pattern, day by day like us He grew.
He was tempted, scorned, rejected; tears and smiles, like us He knew.
Thus He feels for all our sadness and He shares in all our gladness.

He was giv'n to pay our ransom; by his blood we are set free.
Suffered He for our transgressions, Lamb of God upon the tree.
Then he rose up from the grave, risen King with power to save.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round,
We shall see Him but in heaven where His saints His throne surround.
Christ revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-18

**All: 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 were made through him,
and without him was not any thing made that was made.
In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Pastor: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light,
that all might believe through him.
He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

**All: The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
He was in the world, and the world was made through him,
yet the world did not know him.
He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.**

Pastor: But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God, who were born,
not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**All: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

Pastor: (John bore witness about him, and cried out,
“This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me,
because he was before me.’”)
For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
For the law was given through Moses;
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side,
he has made him known.

HYMN - *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

****Seating Interlude****

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM 39

Why did the mediator have to be human?

The mediator had to be human so that he might improve human nature, obey the law, suffer and make intercession for us in our own nature, and know first-hand what human infirmities feel like; and so that we might be adopted as sons and have comfort and access with boldness to the throne of grace.

HYMN OF RESPONSE - *Away In a Manger*

(lyrics by G. Nixon, M. Carpenter, D. Zimmer, and N. Stiff; ©Sovereign Grace Worship)

All: Away in a manger a baby is born.
The Sovereign of heaven whom angels adore
Is wrapped in the weakness of our mortal frame;
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Women: Away in a manger a servant is born,
Made nothing to raise up the hopeless and poor.
With grace as His burden and love as His yoke,
The gentle Lord Jesus will shepherd our souls.

Men: Away in a manger a Savior is born,
The crown He'll be given will pierce Him with thorns.
The King will be cursed with our sin and our shame;
The blameless Lord Jesus will die in our place.

All: Away in a manger a Lion is born;
The darkness will tremble at His mighty roar.
His mercy will triumph and death will be slain;
The risen Lord Jesus forever will reign.

PASTORAL PRAYER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Online giving may be done by texting **fpcmacon** to 73256 or visiting the church website at www.fpcmacon.org.

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

*God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas-day
To save poor souls from Satan's power, which had long time had gone astray.
And it is tidings of comfort and joy.*

*From God that is our Father the blessed angels came
Unto some certain shepherds, with tidings of the same;
That there was born in Bethlehem the Son of God by name.
And it is tidings of comfort and joy.*

*Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
For the merry time of Christmas is drawing on apace.
And it is tidings of comfort and joy.*

Children K4-second grade are welcome to leave the worship service for a Bible Lesson in Cornerstone (BLC). Children in the 11:15 BLC class may be picked up in the nursery. We encourage children third grade and above to continue in corporate worship with their parents.

HYMN OF PREPARATION - *O Come All Ye, Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O 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.

True God of true God, Light from Light eternal;
Humbly he enters the Virgin's womb:
Very God, begotten, not created.
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD - Chip Miller
Dealing With Difficulties: Zechariah and Elizabeth
Luke 1:5-25

HYMN OF RESPONSE 195 - *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

BENEDICTION

PASTORAL STAFF

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Leading in Worship Today
Chip Miller, Senior Pastor
Justin Leslein, Executive Pastor
Michael McGhee, Music Director/Organist
Rebecca Lanning, Choir Director
Tom Rule, Pianist
Chancel Choir

CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

Class of 2025

Paul Cable
Sam Jones
Matt Kitchell
Kort Peterson
Jerome Strickland
William White

Class of 2026

Chuck Duggan
Mike Hall
Bobby Newman
Nick Rios
Tony Rodriguez
Blake Sullivan

Class of 2027

Ves Berry
Kevin Bridges
John Carey
Hal Foshee
Mike Peed
Kim Thompson

The Diaconate

Class of 2025

Jave Bjorkman
Joey Brumbelow
Eric Hunt
Kent McCormick
David Milligan
Caleb Peed

Class of 2026

Dave Grant
Darrell Hallman
Jeremy Johnson
John David Miller
Gray Widstrom
Jeff Wilhelm
Calder Willingham

Class of 2027

Chris Anderson
Cameron Garvin
Jeff Hill
Kevin Lennon
Jim Self
Brian Stone

Trustees

Rob Danner
Bruce Jones

Buddy Ponder
Ray Pearson

Lowry Tribble

YOUTH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Class	Description	Topic	Room Location
Nursery & Special Needs		New Testament	Nursery
Children	4K-5th Grade	New Testament	Cornerstone
Middle School Youth	6-8 Grades	God's Promises	Education Building 2nd Floor
High School Youth	9-12 Grades	Christian Doctrine	Education Building 3rd Floor
Young Adults	College/20s-30s	Mark	Basement M102
Young Marrieds	20s-30s	Marriage & Relationships	Education Building
Immanuel	Mid 40s-50s	Hosea	Education Building E102
Shepherds	50s-60s	I & II Peter	Brickyard M102
Trinity	60s+	Equipping Yourself	Education Building E103
Covenant	70s+	Fundamentals of Faith	Education Building E105
Canterbury	70s-80s	Studies in the Psalms	Education Building E104
Connections	Mixed Ages	Acts	Gathering Place
Generations	Mixed Ages	Romans	Basement M100
Pathways	Mixed Ages	James	Brickyard M103

Announcements



Join us for **Christmas Eve Evening Worship**
4 p.m. -- Children's Choir
Sings

6 p.m. -- Communion
and Candle Light



**December 28th, one
worship service at
10:30, no Sunday
School**



**FPCY Christmas Tree
Pickup will be Saturday
Jan. 3** - please fill out the
following link if you would
like us to come dispose
of your tree for you! Any
donations received go
towards students' youth
retreat costs. Scan the
QR code to sign up!



**Men's Bible Study - Ten-
week study on Romans
Chapters 1-8**

**Date: Begins on
Thursday, January 8th,
and meets every
Thursday morning from
7:00 am until 8:00 am.**

Coffee and donuts are
served beginning at 6:30
am.

All men are invited to
attend.



The Communicants Class
for children in the 5th grade
and above begins on
**Sunday, January 4th ,
during Sunday school.**
The purpose of this class is
to prepare them to take the
Lord's Supper and to give
an opportunity to make a
clear public profession of
faith in Jesus Christ. If you
are interested **please
contact, Spring Rawlings
at
srawlings@fpcmacon.org**

El Salvador Missions Trip

April 4–11, 2026

Join our team as we partner with Shelter to help build safe,
secure homes for Salvadorian families in need.

Cost: About \$1,450 per participant. The team will also work
together to raise funds for the construction of the homes
we'll be building.

Interested in going? **Email April Kitchell at
missions@fpcmacon.org for more information.**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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