# First Presbyterian Church



*Lord's Day, November 30, 2025* 6:00 P.M.

1324 Marion Street, Columbia, SC

## **EVENING WORSHIP**

6:00 P.M.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

ISAIAH 7:14, ESV

(+ Congregation, please stand if able.)

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

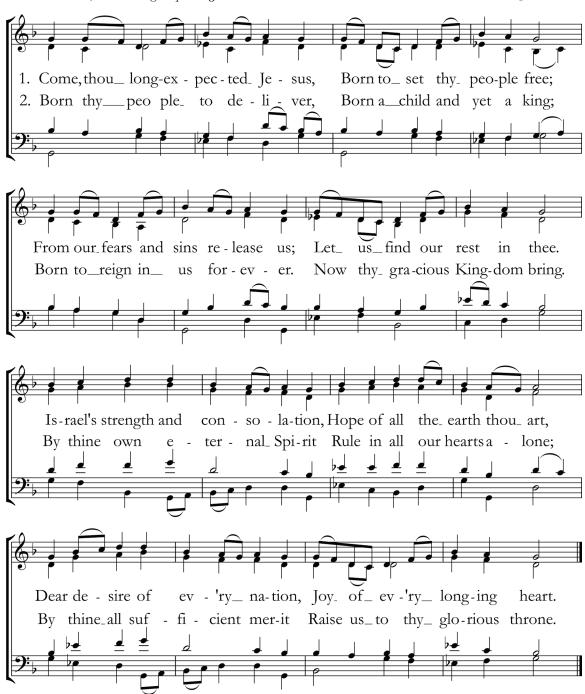
CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Josh Squires

**PRELUDE** What Love, My God Johnny Robinson, Michael Farren, and Rich Thompson

What love, my God, could bring You down to earth? What king would take a low and lonely birth? Yet to this dark and broken place You came To sleep beneath the stars that You had made.

What love, my God, would send the Way of Life To walk the road rejected and despised, That You might know the weakness I possess And be my rock of strength and righteousness?

O Your love, my God, like a flood As heaven opened up pouring out on us. O praise the King who came to the world In His love like a mighty flood.



#### + PRAYER OF INVOCATION

#### SONGS OF ADVENT

#### MUSICAL MEDITATION O Savior of Our Fallen Race

Keith and Kristyn Getty

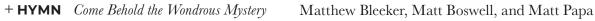
O Savior of our fallen race, O Brightness of the Father's face; O Son who shared the Father's might Before the world knew day or night. O Jesus, very Light of Light, Our constant star in sin's deep night: Now hear the prayers Your people pray Throughout the world this holy day.

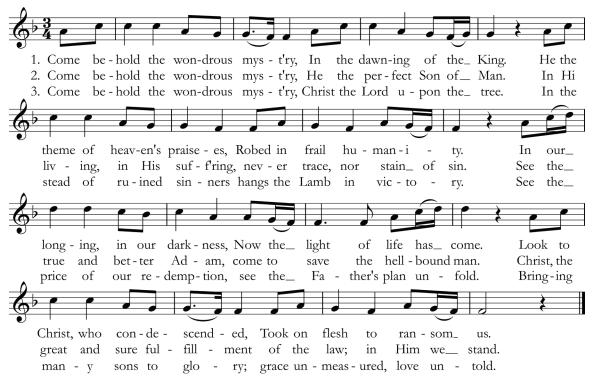
Remind us, Lord of life and grace, How once, to save our fallen race, You put our human vesture on And came to us as Mary's son. Today, as year by year its light Brings to our world a promise bright, One precious truth outshines the sun: Salvation comes from You alone.

Words: Christe, redemptor omnium; tr. Gilbert E. Doan, adapt. Kristyn Getty. Copyright 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Music by Keith Getty. Copyright 2011 Getty Music Publishing

Based on a hymn by Horatius Bonar







4. Come behold the wondrous myst'ry,

Slain by death, the God of life.

But no grave could e'er restrain Him.

Praise the Lord, He is alive!

What a foretaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope.

Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

What a forestaste of deliv'rance, how unwavering our hope.

Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes.

CCLI NO. 3337435

#### **EVENING PRAYER**

Elder Mark Barrow

#### PRESENTATION OF EVENING OFFERINGS

#### **OFFERTORY** How Long, O Lord?

Doug Plank

Every valley will be lifted high, And the weak will be the strong, When You come like lightning in the sky. How long, O Lord, how long?

Kings on earth will scatter when they hear Thund'ring sounds of angel songs, Hearts will tremble, filled with holy fear. How long, O Lord, how long?

All our hopes are fixed on You, That Your promises are true, And one day You will return. All our treasures here will fade, So we long to see Your face. Until then our hearts will burn, How long, O Lord?

You will conquer every evil thing, Every sorrow, pain and wrong. They will cease with Your return, our King. How long, O Lord, how long?

CCLI NO. 7096632

The Worship Ensemble Jim Sanderlin, director

+ DOXOLOGY TALLIS' CANON

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

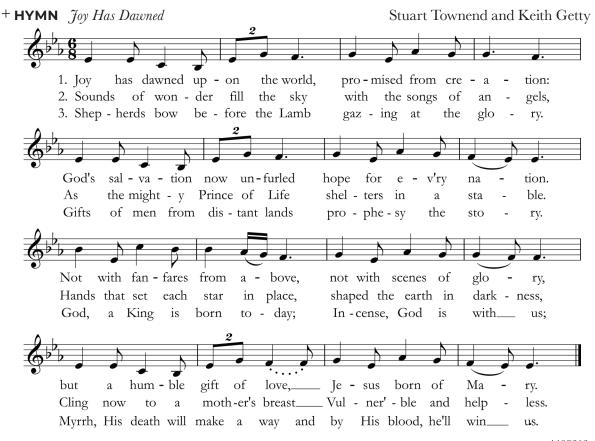
#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** 

Matthew 1:18–25 (Pew Bible page 807, Children's Bible page 1019)

SERMON "Immanuel: God With Us" Dr. Mark Ross

**PRAYER** 



#### + BENEDICTION

CCLI NO. 4408246

#### + CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Joy Has Dawned (Stanza 4)

Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom, Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion. What a Savior, what a Friend, what a glorious myst'ry.

Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of hist'ry.

CCLI NO. 4408246

**POSTLUDE** God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Arranged by Jim Sanderlin

The Worship Ensemble

Jim Sanderlin, director, vocals, piano

Sally Cathcart, violin; Benjamin Cole, electric guitar; Cole Jackson, bass; Matthew Jones, percussion; Matt Taylor, guitar; Miranda Unthank, vocals; Colin Dellario, audio

## SERMON NOTES

"Immanuel: God With Us" Matthew 1:18–25 | Dr. Mark Ross

#### **WORSHIP AT FIRST**

Thank you for turning off cell phones during the worship service.

The Sanctuary is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask a deacon for a receiver.

Nurseries for children to the age of four are provided in the Education Building. A quiet room with a live video feed of the service is available in the Education Building, Room 113. There, mothers may attend to the needs of their children.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please join us for our special **Sunday Evening Advent Services** as we explore the prophecies that point to Christ. Dr. Mark Ross will be preaching this series, inviting us to delve into the Scriptures that foretell the coming of our Savior.

#### Every Sunday Evening at 6:00 PM

Sunday, November 30: "Immanuel: God With Us" (Matthew 1:18–25)

**Sunday, December 7**: "A Star Out of Jacob" (Numbers 24:1–25). During the service, the Chancel Choir and Orchestra will present Cantata 61, *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* by J. S. Bach; *Magnificat* by Antonio Vivaldi; and anthems and carols by Mendelssohn, Rutter, and Willcocks.

**Sunday, December 14**: "Out of Egypt I Called My Son" (Matthew 2:13–18). During the service, the Chamber Choir will sing Jonathan Dove's *Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars*.

**Sunday, December 21**: "He Shall be Called a Nazarene" (Matthew 2:19–23). During the service, Nathanael and Holly Cole will sing duets of the season.

Our Advent services will culminate in our traditional **Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons and Carols** on Wednesday, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Dr. Neil C. Stewart will preach from 2 Corinthians 4:1–6 on the topic, "Light in the Darkness: The Face of God in the Face of Christ."

Global Worker Presentation: On Sunday, November 30, Ben and Trish Alexander (First Presbyterian Church's supported global workers) will be coming to share about their ministry with World Witness in Chelmsford, England. Please join us in the Small Dining Room of Jackson Hall after the evening service to hear about what the Lord is doing in England.

#### ESTABLISHED 1795

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#### **PRELUDE**

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Johnny Robinson, Michael Farren, and Rich Thompson

What love, my God, could bring You down to earth? What king would take a low and lonely birth? Yet to this dark and broken place You came To sleep beneath the stars that You had made.

What love, my God, would send the Way of Life To walk the road rejected and despised, That You might know the weakness I possess And be my rock of strength and righteousness?

O Your love, my God, like a flood As heaven opened up pouring out on us. O praise the King who came to the world In His love like a mighty flood.

Come, thou long expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free; From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art; Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text by Charles Wesley

Tune from Tennessee Harmony

# + PRAYER OF INVOCATION SONGS OF ADVENT MUSICAL MEDITATION

O Savior of Our Fallen Race

Keith and Kristyn Getty

O Savior of our fallen race, O Brightness of the Father's face; O Son who shared the Father's might Before the world knew day or night. O Jesus, very Light of Light, Our constant star in sin's deep night: Now hear the prayers Your people pray Throughout the world this holy day. Remind us, Lord of life and grace, How once, to save our fallen race, You put our human vesture on And came to us as Mary's son. Today, as year by year its light Brings to our world a promise bright, One precious truth outshines the sun: Salvation comes from You alone.

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## + **HYMN** All Praise to Him

Matt Merker & Bob Kauflin

All praise to Him, the God of light, Who formed the mountains by His might. All praise to Him Who names the stars, That sing His fame in skies afar. All praise to Him Who reigns in love, Who guides the galaxies above, Yet bends to hear our every prayer, With sovereign pow'r and tender care.

All praise to Him Whose love is seen In Christ, the Son, the servant King, Who left behind His glorious throne To pay the ransom for His own. All praise to Him Who humbly came To bear our sorrow, sin, and shame. Who lived to die, Who died to rise, The all-sufficient sacrifice.

All praise to Him whose pow'r imparts The love of God within our hearts. The Spirit of all truth and peace, The fount of joy and holiness. To Father, Son, and Spirit now Our souls we lift, our wills we bow. To You, the triune God, we raise With loving hearts our song of praise.

#### + HYMN

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law; in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery Christ the Lord upon the tree In the stead of ruined sinners Hangs the Lamb in victory See the price of our redemption See the Father's plan unfold Bringing many sons to glory Grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery Slain by death the God of life But no grave could e'er restrain Him Praise the Lord; He is alive! What a foretaste of deliverance How unwavering our hope Christ in power resurrected As we will be when he comes

What a foretaste of deliverance How unwavering our hope Christ in power resurrected As we will be when he comes Matthew Bleeker, Matt Boswell, & Matt Papa

#### **EVENING PRAYER**

## PRESENTATION OF EVENING OFFERINGS

## **OFFERTORY** How Long, O Lord?

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All our hopes are fixed on You, That Your promises are true, And one day You will return. All our treasures here will fade, So we long to see Your face. Until then our hearts will burn, How long, O Lord?

You will conquer ev'ry evil thing, Ev'ry sorrow, pain and wrong. They will cease with Your return, our King. How long, O Lord how long?

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#### + DOXOLOGY

TALLIS' CANON

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

(Pew Bible page 807, Children's Bible page 1019)

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

SERMON Dr. Mark Ross

"Immanuel: God With Us"

## **PRAYER**

+ **HYMN** Joy Has Dawned Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

Joy has dawned upon the world, Promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled, Hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above, Not with scenes of glory.
But a humble gift of love:
Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky
With the songs of angels,
As the mighty Prince of Life
Shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
Shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast,
Vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, Gazing at the glory; Gifts of men from distant lands Prophesy the story. Gold, a King is born today, Incense, God is with us, Myrrh, His death will make a way, And by His blood He'll win us.

CLI NO. 4408246

## + BENEDICTION

## + CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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Son of Adam, Son of heaven, Given as a ransom, Reconciling God and man, Christ our mighty Champion. What a Saviour, what a Friend, What a glorious mystery: Once a babe in Bethlehem, Now the Lord of history.

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