



First Presbyterian Church PC (U.S.A.)
Starkville, Mississippi
November 29, 2020
1st Sunday of Advent

Order of Worship

Prelude *While We Are Waiting Come*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Hope Candle Ellen Goodman & Susan Kuykendall
Advent means coming or arrival. This word has a double significance, as in Advent we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and look with longing for this coming again. The primary symbolism of the Advent candles has to do with light growing in darkness—leading up to the coming of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.
– Book of Common Worship (2018)

Greeting (From Lamentations 3)

One: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

All: God's mercies never come to an end;

One: They are new every morning,

All: Your faithfulness, O Lord, is great.

One: You are all I have, and therefore I will wait for you,

All: It is good to wait in patience for the salvation of the Lord!

Hymn #82 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find out 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.

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Faithful God, Your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Luke 1:26-38

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's 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.

Sermon

“Mary...Right in the Center”

Rev. Ron McDougald

Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Postlude

To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

PRAYER LIST

Here are the most recent additions: **Family of Shelia Lewis** (Belzoni friend of the Prathers); **Elizabeth Richardson** (neighbor of the Prathers who is facing surgery); **Elizabeth Vance** (Glenda Taylor's cousin with cancer); **New FPCUSA Property Work**; **Local COVID Cases Increase**; **School teaching changes due to COVID**; **Teachers, Students and their families** at all levels of education as they adjust to learning in this time of COVID 19. Please keep these and all those on the list below in your prayers.

David Earnest
Wil Howie
Jetta Kuykendall
Bettye Seepe
Clyde Williams

Charlotte Green
Susan Scales Huffman
Johnny McReynolds
Family of Harry Shattuck
Josephine Zitta

Bob Hawkins
Family of Molly Jackson
Jeff O'Rourke
Unity and Peace

Please be in constant prayer for those suffering with COVID 19, and those who care for them, those with addictions, homelessness, loneliness, hunger, mental illness, the unemployed, prisoners and the poor.

SUSPENSION OF 'FACE TO FACE' SERVICES. Out of an abundance of caution, and with love and care for our community and congregation, we continue to suspend all face to face services (worship, social, choir, etc.) for the immediate future. The Session reviews this decision at each stated meeting. **Our next meeting is Thursday, December 3rd.** Please contact any Elder or Ron, if you have questions or comments

SYMPATHY. We extend our Love and Christian sympathy to the family of Genevieve Swartzberg, who passed away on November 23, 2020.

SYMPATHY. We extend our Love and Christian sympathy to the family of Willa Dean Gammill, who passed away on this week. Funeral services were held on Friday. She was the aunt of Lynette McDougald.

STEWARDSHIP. Please remember to fill out and mail your Stewardship Form to Pat Colwick by **November 30th.**

NEW PROPERTY RENOVATION UPDATE. If you have not been by our new property at 280 Linden Circle, you should. It's a chance to see a 'day by day' miracle taking place! The Property Committee and many other dedicated volunteers have been scraping, cleaning, painting and renovating and transforming the church building into our future home. In this season of giving thanks a huge one goes out to the Property Committee: Andy Gaston, Sara Green, John McWhorter and Maria Prather. If you would like to know how you can help, contact any of the members, or just show up between 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Also, if you would like to make a financial donation to the Capital Fund (from which this project is being funded) contact Charles Bryson or Pat Colwick!

IN PERSON SURVEY. Due to a sharp increase in COVID cases, locally and in Mississippi, the 'In Person Survey' from the Session will be delayed for the immediate future. As always,

you may share your thoughts on this or any ministry of the church to any Session member or Ron. Continue to pray as we discern God's desire for us to come back together for public worship.

Session

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