



First Presbyterian Church PC (U.S.A.)  
Starkville, Mississippi  
December 13, 2020  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

*Order of Worship*

Prelude *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Joy Candle Anne McWhorter & Martha Wells  
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 Isaiah 61:1-4)  
The spirit of the Lord is upon us  
To bring good news to the humble,  
To bind up the broken hearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives,  
To comfort all who mourn.

Hymn #119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God, and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Your love is good news for the oppressed, O Lord, and You bind up the broken-hearted. Forgive us, O God, when we think that Your good news is only for us. Forgive us, O God when we twist Your gospel that fits comfortably into our lives. By Your light, let us see You leading us beyond ourselves and into the world You love. By Your grace, forgive us, and free us to try again ...** (Silent confession may be offered)

Assurance of Pardon

One: Lord, in your mercy, You offer us 'good news of a great joy'...In the name of Christ we are forgiven!

**All: Glory to God in the highest! Amen!**

Scripture Luke 2:1-11

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

"Angels...Above and Beyond"

Rev. Ron McDougald

Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Postlude

*Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

## PRAYER LIST:

If you would like to add a request or removal to our list, please contact Nancy Bryson (324-6320 or [nancybryson68@gmail.com](mailto:nancybryson68@gmail.com)) or Rev. Ron McDougald (601-942-8040 or [chaplain.mcdougald@gmail.com](mailto:chaplain.mcdougald@gmail.com))

Here are the most recent additions: **Family Jamie Kemp** (Zitta family member); **Rev. Chris Kiepe** (Lynette's cousins with COVID); **Kay Prather** (Comfort); **Family of H. L. Rowlen** (Eupora); **Aretta Zitta** (Travel); **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.

Margaret Allen	David Earnest	Ellen Goodman
Wil Howie	Susan Scales Huffman	Jetta Kuykendall
Johnny McReynolds	Richard Mullenax	Jeff O'Rourke
Elizabeth Richardson	Bettye Seepe	Elizabeth Vance
Clyde Williams	Josephine Zitta	

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, January 7, 2021.** Please contact any Elder or Ron, if you have questions or comments

### Session

Rev. Ron McDougald, <i>Moderator</i> , <a href="mailto:chaplain.mcdougald@gmail.com">chaplain.mcdougald@gmail.com</a>	Robert Green, <i>Clerk</i> , <a href="mailto:robert@robertgreen.org">robert@robertgreen.org</a>
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