



First Presbyterian Church PC (U.S.A.)  
Starkville, Mississippi  
December 6, 2020  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

*Order of Worship*

Prelude *What Child Is This*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Peace Candle Nancy & Charles Bryson  
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 40:3)

One: A voice crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord’

**All: Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

Hymn #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descent to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Opening Prayer (Unison)

O God, You so loved the world as to give Your only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Grant us the precious gift of faith, that we may know the Son of God is come, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture      Matthew 1:18-25

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.**

Special Music

*In the Bleak Midwinter*  
Nancy Bryson

CRANHAM

Sermon

"Joseph...Standing Near"

Rev. Ron McDougald

Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Postlude      *Mary and Joseph*

**PRAYER LIST:**

Here are the most recent additions: **Margaret Allen; Ellen Goodman** (hand surgery this week); **Rev. Chris & Rachel Kiepe** (Lynette’s cousins with COVID); **Angie & Bob Moncrief** (Lynette’s cousins); **Richard Mullenax** (hip issues); **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.

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

David Earnest	Wil Howie	Susan Scales Huffman
Jetta Kuykendall	Johnny McReynolds	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

**STEWARDSHIP.** If you have not submitted your pledge, please send it to Pat Colwick as soon as possible.

**Session**

Rev. Ron McDougald, <i>Moderator</i> , chaplain.mcdougald@gmail.com	
Charles Bryson, dr.sedge@gmail.com	Robert Green, <i>Clerk</i> , robert@robertgreen.org
Susan Kuykendall, susankuyk@yahoo.com	Pat Colwick, pcolwick@yahoo.com
Sara Green, sgreen@netdoor.com	Anne McWhorter, annmcwho@peoplepc.com

Interim Minister: Rev. Ron McDougald, chaplain.mcdougald@gmail.com  
Communication Coordinator: Nancy Bryson, nancybryson68@gmail.com  
Music Director: Linda Karen Smith  
Recording Secretary: Susan Kuykendall, susankuyk@yahoo.com  
Treasurer: Pat Colwick, pcolwick@yahoo.com, 1006 S. Montgomery St., Starkville, MS 39759

Mailing Address: c/o Robert Green, 1000 Yorkshire Road, Starkville, MS 39759

Website: www.fpcusastarkville.org  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/StarkvilleFirstPCUSA