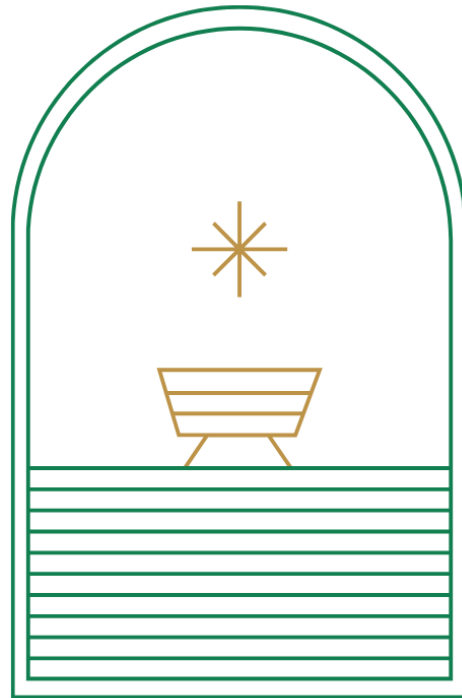


First Presbyterian Church

POOLER, GEORGIA



*“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people”*

Luke 1:68

December 8, 2024

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*Seeking to glorify God by holding out the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
to our community, our country, and our world to impact others to do the same.*

A service of praise and worship of Almighty God on the Lord's Day

December 8, 2024 ☞ 10:30 in the morning

Order of Worship

☞-Please Stand)

Preparation for Worship

"The LORD is in his holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before him." - Habakkuk 2:20

☞ Call to Worship

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground will become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Isaiah 40:3-5

The one true God graciously invites us into his presence to worship him in spirit and in truth, and we eagerly respond in faith. This begins a dialogue which will continue to the end of the service as God initiates with us, and we respond to him.

☞ Response of Praise in Song

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Trinity Hymnal #197

☞ Prayer of Invocation & Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

☞ Worship in Song

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Trinity Hymnal #208

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Trinity Hymnal #206

Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly and righteous life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

Isaiah 40:1-2

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

☞ Advent Scripture Reading

2 Samuel 7:4,11-16

Minister: *But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? The LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.*

People: **'When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**

Minister: *'I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, 15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.*

All: **'And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'**

Pastoral Prayer

Seeking to glorify God by holding out the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our community, our country, and our world to impact others to do the same.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:19-20

With grateful hearts for God's extravagant mercy and blessing, we joyfully present our offerings to the Lord for the ministry of our church and community.

Offertory Song

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Duet by Sarah D. & Morgan C.

⌘ The Doxology

The word “doxology,” coined in the 17th century, is a combination of the words “glory” and “word.” A doxology is a “word of glory,” a hymn of praise to the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), who is one divine nature in three Persons.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Bill Gleason

SONGS OF THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH
II. Zechariah's Song: The “Benedictus”
Luke 1:67-79

⌘ Closing Hymn

Good Christian Men Rejoice
Trinity Hymnal #207

⌘ Benediction

Ephesians 6:23-24

Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

Assisting in Worship: Ruling Elder Marshall Davis III
Preaching: Rev. Dr. Bill Gleason

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Announcements

This Week

Today	11:45 am	Coffee, Cakes, & Conversation	Fellowship Hall
	5:30 pm	Christmas Party & Carol Sing	Fellowship Hall
Tues.	6:00 pm	Session Meeting	
Wed.	6:00 pm	5:11 Christmas Party	@ the Gleasons'
Sat.	5:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party	@ the Devescovis'



Celebrating the Christmas Season at FPCP

Women's 5:11 Group Christmas Party | The women of the 5:11 Group (55+) are having a Christmas party this Wednesday night from 6-8 pm at Edna Gleason's (17 Belle Gate Ct, Pooler).

Church-wide Christmas Party and Carol Sing | We are celebrating the joy of our Savior's coming with a church-wide party and carol sing on **this evening at 5:30 pm**. There will be surprises!

Youth Christmas Party - Sat. Dec. 14th from 5-7 pm at the Devescovis' home (740 Pine Barren Rd, Pooler). Please RSVP to Graham or Jamie Douglas.

Prayer Meeting | Sun. Dec. 15th at 5:30 pm is this month's prayer meeting & fellowship meal.

6th-12th Grade Guys Event | Save the date for a guys only event on December 21st. Details coming soon!

Starting Back in January

Sunday School will be on break from Dec. 22 until January 12.

LIFE Groups will resume Jan. 12.

Men's Study | The men's study will resume on **January 10th at 8 am**, at church or via Zoom. Email Bill if you would like the Zoom link.

Women's Study | **Wed. evenings from 6:30-8, beginning January 15th**, the women will be studying the book of James, using the book *Steadfast* by Courtney Doctor. Books are available in the Women's Classroom.

Ministry Opportunities

Volunteers needed | We need volunteers in a variety of capacities, including nursery helpers, after-worship snack providers, and ushers. Please contact Crystal Twibell to find out how you can help. crystal@firstprespooler.com

Sermon Notes

SONGS OF THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH

II. Zechariah's Song: The "Benedictus"^[1]

Luke 1:67-79

Several key highlights ...

I. The Names of the Christmas Characters

- Zechariah: "The LORD _____"

v. 72 – To show the mercy promised ... and to **remember** his holy covenant ...

- Elizabeth: "God of the _____"

v. 73 – To remember ... the **oath** that he swore to our father Abraham

- John: "The LORD is _____"

v. 78 – Because of the tender **mercy** of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us ...

- Jesus: "The LORD _____"

v. 69 – God has raised up a horn of **salvation** for us ...

v. 71 – That we should be **saved** from our enemies ...

v. 74 – That we, being **delivered** from the hand of our enemies, might serve him ...

v. 77 – To give knowledge of **salvation** to his people in the forgiveness of their sins ...

II. The Nature of Christmas Mercy

- Comes near in the _____ of Christ (vv. 68, 78)

- Reveals the _____ of Christ (v. 78)

- Brings the _____ of Christ (v. 68)

- One that's _____

- One that's _____

III. The Kinds of People Christmas Is "For"

- People like Zechariah who are _____ (1:18-21)

- People like Elizabeth who are _____ (1:25)

- People like "our fathers" who are _____ (v. 72)

^[1] "Benedictus" in the Latin translation of "Blessed," the first word of Zechariah's song