

# Christmas Eve



**First Presbyterian Church**

December 24, 2025, 6 p.m.

*Florence, South Carolina*



# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



## PRELUDE

*Comfort, Comfort, Now My People*

*People, Look East*

*What Child Is This*

GENEVAN 42  
Genevan Psalter 1551  
setting by Jerry Westenkuehler

BESANÇON  
French folk melody  
setting by Robert Powell

GREENSLEEVES  
16th century English melody  
setting by Peter Crisafulli

## WELCOME

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE/CALL TO WORSHIP

*Mackenzie and Wesley Snow, Tripp and Emilia*

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

No. 185  
MENDELSSOHN

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

*O Holy Night*

CANTIQUE DE NOEL  
Adolphe Adam  
setting by Sally DeFord

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born!  
O night divine! O night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming with glowing heart by his cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here came the wise men from the Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our friend;  
He knows our need, he guards us from all danger. Behold your King; before him lowly bend!  
Behold your King; before him lowly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace.  
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raising, let all within us praise his holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever! His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

John Dwight

## PRAYER

## ANTHEM

*Wexford Carol*

Traditional Irish Carol, 12th century  
setting by Elaine Hagenberg

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well, and bear in mind, what our good God for us has done,  
in sending His beloved Son. With Mary holy, we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;  
in Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born. Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks  
of lambs, and feeding sheep; to whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.  
"Prepare and go," the angels said, "To Bethlehem. Be not afraid. For there you'll find this happy morn  
a princely babe sweet Jesus born." With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find,  
and as God's angels had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold. Within a manger He was laid,  
and by His side the virgin maid attending on the Lord of Life, Who came to earth to end all strife.  
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas day; in Bethlehem upon that morn,  
there was a blessed Messiah born. Sweet Jesus born. Messiah born.

## LUKE 1:26-38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold to Mary

"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,  
to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary."  
— from Luke 1:26-27

## SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THE COMMUNITY

*A Cradle Carol*

Dan Forrest

Lord Jesus, Savior, infant weak, Why come to earth as one so meek? A newborn babe, helpless and small;  
And yet Creator of us all. Thou hast no beauty, form, nor grace; No fortune, rank, no fame, no place  
That men should see Thee and adore A babe so humble and so poor.  
But to the soul whose eyes are healed, To whom the Truth has been revealed,  
Thy glory challenges the sun; Thou art a thousand joys in One. Though strangers see a babe in straw,  
Thy children see the Lord of all Who laid aside His rightful reign to take away our sin and shame.  
This sacrifice of love divine, This condescension to mankind  
With beauty robes Thy lowly frame, and sanctifies Thy simple name.  
O aid my worship, Mighty King, That I might with the angels sing, "Glory to God on high!"  
Now crowned again beyond the sky! Oh, help me see Thee and adore This little child, my God and Lord.  
Rebekah Pringle

## CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Dr. Stuart Bond

### God is Moving In

John 1:1-5; 9-14

(Pew Bible page 1049)

## SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING

*During the Service of Candle lighting, the lights will be dimmed.  
When your candle is lit, please light the candle of the person sitting next to you.*

## \*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Silent Night! Holy Night!*

No. 186

STILLE NACHT

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon virgin mother and Child!  
Holy Infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.  
Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia!" Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.  
Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light, Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.  
Joseph Mohr

## BENEDICTION

### \*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Away in a Manger*

Traditional American  
arr. Walter L. Pelz

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.  
James Murray

### POSTLUDE

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

FOREST GREEN  
Traditional English melody  
setting by David Lasky

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.  
Phillips Brooks

#### **This evening's worship is led by:**

Dr. Stuart Bond, Senior Pastor  
Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music and Organist  
The Chancel Choir  
Christa Godwin, soprano  
Justin Taylor, violin  
Margaret Jones, flute  
David Hubbs, trumpet

**WE WANT TO WARMLY WELCOME YOU** to this Christmas Eve Service. Our prayer is that you will be uplifted, refreshed, and find life and peace tonight in the presence of God.

**LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER:** Those in need of prayer Chris Alexander for the loss of his mother, Clara Alexander; Cathy Bazen, for the loss of her mother, Alice Park Walkup; Mike Porter, for the loss of his mother, Bobbie Porter; Kent Caudle; Aubrey Crawford; Rainey Josey; Dave and Linda Lawson; Bob McLean; Lalla Saleeby; and Ginger Sullivan.

**THE CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE:** To prevent candle drippage, please hold the lit candle straight and lean the unlit candle into the flame. The congregation will exit the sanctuary by rows. Please extinguish your candle outside the church and exit the front porch to prevent a backup in the aisle.

**CHRISTMAS EVE BENEVOLENCE OFFERING:** We will collect an offering at both of our Christmas Eve services (4 and 6 p.m.) that will be used to assist the underserved population of our community. Traditionally this offering brings in between \$8,000 and \$10,000. You may also donate to the Christmas Eve offering online. These gifts are used throughout the year to assist those in our community who come to our church seeking assistance meeting the basic needs of life (rent, utilities, and food). Your generosity is appreciated.

**REMINDER ABOUT YEAR-END GIVING:** Traditionally, some of our covenant partners make year-end contributions to our church to fulfill their pledge commitments. If you are planning to make a year-end contribution, please note checks must be **postmarked** no later than December 31, 2025, in order to receive contribution credit for 2025.

**ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 4,** there will be combined worship at 10 a.m. And Sunday School will not be held. A traditional service will be held December 28 and a contemporary service on January 4.



The **January Keenagers** luncheon will be held at noon Tuesday, January 6, in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. State Sen. Mike Reichenbach, District 31, will be the speaker. Meal will be chicken and rice casserole, steamed green vegetables, tossed salad, bread, and rainbow Jell-o cubes. All those 55 and older are invited to come for food, fun, and fellowship. Cost for lunch is \$6.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT FIRST: Dinner and programs** will resume January 7. We are looking forward with great excitement to our Wednesday nights for all ages. Dinner service and Youth program start at 5:30 p.m. Children's programs start at 6 p.m. Adult programs start at 6:15 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT ELECTIVES:** We are offering two classes this season. Beginning January 7, Pastor Stuart will lead a study on the Book of Luke. We'll dig through the text to enhance your Sunday morning experience, as he'll be preaching from Luke. Join him in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall after Wednesday dinner. Kelly Hickey, director of Children's Ministries, will lead *Parenting One on One*, an interactive class digging through scripture, learning ways to parent differently, and engaging with one another. Parenting is the hardest job in the world, and it really takes a village. Come join the village to see where God leads.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:** We will hold a blood drive from noon to 5 p.m. Monday, January 12, giving us all an opportunity to make a difference in our community and around the country. Patients in need count on drives like ours to provide a steady supply of blood. Eighty-four percent of blood donations are given at blood drives hosted by sponsoring organizations such as ours. Contact Kimberly Brauss in the church office to schedule an appointment, 843-662-2583 or [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org). Or sign up online at [redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=FirstPresFlorence](http://redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=FirstPresFlorence).

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MEN:** Three New Year's Resolutions for ALL First Presby Men in 2026: No. 1 Go to the gym every day and lose 15 pounds. No. 2 Take music lessons to learn to play the accordion. No. 3: Go to the Men's Retreat on April 17-19 at Hickory Knob State Park. Guys, leave Nos. 1 and 2 alone but do yourself a favor and mark your calendar RIGHT NOW for April 17-19. More information will be coming. If you have questions, contact Bill Cain, 407-473-0912.

### **Simeon's Prayer**

from W.H. Auden's *For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio* (1944)

And because of His visitation, we may no longer desire God as if He were lacking:

Our redemption is no longer a question of pursuit but of surrender to Him  
who is always and everywhere present.

Therefore at every moment we pray that, following Him,  
we may depart from our anxiety into His peace.

**COVER ART:** This Christmas painting of the Nativity is painted in a style referred to as the Cuzco School. A group of religious painters founded the school in the city of Cusco around 1534. This painting shows the Holy Family surrounded by a shepherd, ox, ass, and an angel with a banner proclaiming "Glory to God in the highest" in Latin. Several Peruvian flowers blooming at the base of the manger further mark the piece as being from the Cuzco School.



# *Christmas Greenery*



## In Memory Of

Herbert Ames  
Thom Anderson  
Ken Anderson  
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Banner, Sr.  
Glenn Bell  
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred W. (Red) Bethea  
Deborah Diane Blackburn  
Lawrence and Jean Boggs  
Wallace Cheatam  
Elizabeth Allen Commander  
Pete Cooper  
James David Dozier III  
Gwen DuRant  
Gwen DuRant  
Susan and Dick Dusenbury  
Wendy Fleming  
Sarah Foster  
Alton and Evelyn Gibbons  
Arthur and Corine Harrington  
Judy Henegar  
Mr. and Mrs. R. Lyde Hicks  
Wendell Holland  
Vicki Vassy Holler  
Vera Hoover  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Lowder, Jr.  
Jack Maffett  
David and Mary Lou McLean  
Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Moore  
George and Jeanette Nofal  
Mr. and Mrs. Mills F. Nunn  
Robert Olsen  
Mr. and Mrs. C.N. Painter  
Dr. Jay Pearson  
Dr. Jay Pearson  
Dr. Jay Pearson  
Dr. Jay Pearson  
Graham Porter  
Mr. and Mrs. Luther B. Rogers, Jr.  
Janis Smith  
Daniel Snow  
Daniel Snow  
Daniel Dusenbury Snow  
Allan C. Spearman  
Rufus Spivey

## Given By

Jeremy, Amy, Lilly, and Freeman Williams  
Sandra, Mark, Robin, and Kyle Anderson  
Bobby Henegar  
Dave and Carol Banner  
Porter and Connie Stewart  
Nigel and Shannon Watt  
David, Ann, Bryan & Madisen, and Carrigan Spearman  
Joe and Elizabeth McLean  
Zip and Patti Vassy  
Hunter Burch  
John and Ashley Scott  
Justin and Amy Dozier  
Kimberly Brauss  
Drake and Erin DuRant  
Stuart and Susan Snow  
Nigel and Shannon Watt  
Bob and Emily McLean  
Rocky and Carolyn Pearce and Family  
Harrington and Spivey Families  
Bobby Henegar  
Michael and Lee Nunn  
Carolyn Holland  
Zip and Patti Vassy  
Bobby Henegar  
David, Ann, Bryan and Madisen, and Carrigan Spearman  
Barbara Maffett  
Joe and Elizabeth McLean  
Dave and Carol Banner  
Sandra, Mark, Robin, and Kyle Anderson  
Michael and Lee Nunn  
Bob and Betsy Olsen  
Porter and Connie Stewart  
Hunter Burch  
Rocky and Carolyn Pearce  
Bobby Henegar  
John and Ashley Scott  
Jeremy, Amy, Lilly, and Freeman Williams  
Mike, Lynn, David, Sarah, and William Porter  
Frances Rogers  
Bob and Emily McLean  
The Brand Family  
Nigel and Shannon Watt  
Stuart and Susan Snow  
David, Ann, Bryan and Madisen, and Carrigan Spearman  
The Spivey Family



# *Christmas Greenery*



## In Memory Of

Mr. and Mrs. S.G. Stewart  
Kirk Stewart  
Al and Betty Stiefel  
Jack Sullivan  
Rich and Lucy Thomas  
Rich, Lucy, and Ben Thomas  
Richard and Lucy Thomas  
Anna Vassy  
Anna Vassy  
Anna Vassy  
Bobby and Rosemary Vassy  
Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Watt  
Richard Watt  
Dr. Bruce White, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Neille A. Wilson

## Given By

Porter and Connie Stewart  
Porter and Connie Stewart  
Linda Westbrook  
Sandra, Mark, Robin, and Kyle Anderson  
Betsy Thomas Johnson  
Wilson, Sarah, Jay, and Billy Douglas  
Allison Johnson  
Zip and Patti Vassy  
Nigel and Shannon Watt  
Jeremy, Amy, Lilly, and Freeman Williams  
Zip and Patti Vassy  
Nigel and Shannon Watt  
Nigel and Shannon Watt  
Hunter Burch  
Cliff Wilson

## In Honor Of

Jane Ames  
Stuart and Cindy Bond  
Stuart and Cindy Bond  
Stuart and Cindy Bond  
Stuart and Cindy Bond  
Stuart and Cindy Bond  
Stuart and Cindy Bond  
Lynn and Harriett Brown  
Janet Brand and Kimberly Packard  
Ann Rodgers Chandler  
Ann Rodgers Chandler  
Ann Rodgers Chandler  
Ann Rodgers Chandler  
Jeremy and Courtney Emert  
Butch and Janet Genoble  
Don Hebert  
Carolyn Holland  
Dr. and Mrs. Barry Jenkins  
Betsy T. Johnson  
Betsy T. Johnson  
Betsy T. Johnson  
Brown and Sara Johnson  
Phil and Til Martin  
Coach Bob and Mrs. Emily McLean  
Fellow PNC Members  
Munford and Lyllian Scott  
Ms. Kaiti Bryant and Ms. Kelly Hickey  
Maymie Lou Spearman

## Given By

Richard and Caroline Genoble  
Ronnie and Frances Welch  
Joe and Elizabeth McLean  
Porter and Connie Stewart  
Sandra, Mark, Robin, and Kyle Anderson  
Dave and Carol Banner  
Richard and Caroline Genoble  
Jeremy, Amy, Lilly, and Freeman Williams  
Richard and Caroline Genoble  
Jeremy, Amy, Lilly, and Freeman Williams  
Porter and Connie Stewart  
Rocky and Carolyn Pearce  
Sandra, Mark, Robin, and Kyle Anderson  
John and Ashley Scott  
Richard and Caroline Genoble  
Richard and Caroline Genoble  
Joe and Elizabeth McLean  
Richard and Caroline Genoble  
Jim and Sarah Moseley  
Wilson, Sarah, Jay, and Billy Douglas  
Sandra, Mark, Robin, and Kyle Anderson  
Allison Johnson  
Allison Johnson  
Zip and Patti Vassy  
Your McClenaghan Students  
Porter and Connie Stewart  
Ronnie and Frances Welch  
The Brand Family  
David, Ann, Bryan and Madisen, and Carrigan Spearman

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service  
6:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day

*CDC and church office closed*

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

*CDC and church office closed*

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

10:00 AM Combined Worship Service  
5:00 PM Youth: Outdoor Movie Night

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

2:30 PM Prayer Group: Price Classroom  
5:15 PM CDC Bible Study  
5:30 PM Selah Yoga: CLC  
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Meeting  
10:00 AM Staff Meeting: WOC  
1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal  
3:00 PM CDC Music Time: JFH

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

*CDC early dismissal*

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 New Year's Day

*CDC and church office closed*

## Chrismons

**Chrismons Children's Corner:** The Children's Corner began with Frances Kipps Spencer in 1957 on her first Christmas tree decorated with handmade white-and-gold Chrismons, a "monogram of Christ."

Our Children's Corner is traditionally on the bottom of the left tree as you face the pulpit and choir. See whether you can find the: Nativity, Angel, Mary, Joseph, Whale, Noah's Ark, Fish in the Net, and the Basin and Towel.

There are many others handmade that you will recognize from scripture on our two trees to honor Jesus and to keep our Lord at the center of our Christmas celebration and Advent season at First Presbyterian Church.

