

First Presbyterian

FLORENCE SOUTH CAROLINA

10 a.m.

December 28, 2025



*We are called to love God
with our head, our heart,
and our hands*

LOVING *with* OUR HEAD

We are lifelong learners shaped by God's Word

OUR HEART

We commit to loving God and loving people

OUR HANDS

We use our God-given gifts to serve others

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www.florencefirst.org

Enter Reverently. Meditate Quietly. Worship Devoutly.
Leave Gracefully. Serve Christ Faithfully.

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO
Early English carol
setting by Paul Manz

GREETINGS

INTROIT

Ring the Bells

Harry Bollback

Ring the bells! Let the whole world know Christ was born in Bethlehem
many years ago; God the Father gave His Son — Gave His own Beloved One
To this wicked, sinful earth, To bring mankind His love — new birth!
Born to die that man might live, Came to earth new life to give,
Born of Mary, born so low — many years ago.
God the Father gave His Son — Gave His own Beloved One To this wicked,
sinful earth, To bring mankind His love — new birth! Ring the bells!
Let the whole world know Christ the Savior lives today, as He did so long ago!

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord's Prayer

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Joy to the World

No. 179

ANTIOCH

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

located in front of hymnal

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

Glory Be to the Father

GREATOREX
Henry W. Greatorex

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord God, we confess that we have failed to live out the two commandments to love
you and love others. We have been thoughtless at times. Remind us of what is truly
valuable and help us to let go of the rest. (Time of silent prayer and confession). In
Christ's name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Let us share together in Romans 5: 1-2:

All: Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace
with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained
access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in
the hope of the glory of God.

Pastor: In Christ, we are made whole and set free.

All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

See Amid the Winter's Snow

John Goss
arr. Raymond H. Haan

See amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below;
See the tender Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years! Hail, ever blessed morn!
Hail, Redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem! Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies;
He who throned in height sublime Sits amid the cherubim! Hail, ever blessed morn!
Hail, Redemptions happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem! Say, ye holy shepherds, say What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep On the lonely mountain steep? Hail, Redemptions
happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee in Thy sweet humility! Hail, Redemptions happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Edward Caswall

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Kaiti Bryant

👏 Children in 3K-5K are invited to go with a worship caregiver to attend *Children in Worship*.
If this is your child's first visit, please fill out and follow the instructions on the
"First Presbyterian Church Loves Children" sticker located in the friendship pad.
Parents, please pick up your children at Children in Worship at the end of the service.

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Elder Richie Wilhoit

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Traditional Spiritual
arr. Mark Hayes

When I was a seeker, I sought both night and day.
I asked the Lord to help me, and He showed me the way.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.
While shepherds kept their watching over silent flock by night,
Behold! Throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born. And lo!
When they had seen it, they all bowed down and prayed.
They traveled on together to where the Babe was laid.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.
He made me a watchman upon the city wall;
And if I am a Christian, I am the least of all.
Tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

**The Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SERMON

Dr. Stuart Bond

The Sunday After
Luke 2: 22-40
(Pew Bible page 1015)

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 182
ADESTE FIDELES

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The First Noel

THE FIRST NOEL

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.
English carol

*POSTLUDE

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Traditional English carol
setting by Wilbur Held

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

This morning's worship is led by
Dr. Stuart Bond, Senior Pastor
Mr. Richie Wilhoit, Elder
Ms. Kaiti Bryant, Program Director of Children's Ministry
Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music and Organist
The Chancel Choir
Christa Godwin, soprano

*Congregation is invited to stand if able.

† † † † †

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome guests! If you're visiting us for the first time this morning, we would like to give you a small gift. As you leave the sanctuary, deacons (with name tags on) will have a *Jesus Calling* book ready for you. We are glad you're with us.

Lord, Hear Our Prayer. Those in need of prayer include Chris Alexander, for the loss of his mother, Clara Alexander; Cathy Bazen, for the loss of her mother, Alice Park Walkup; Kent Caudle; Aubrey Crawford; Rainey Josey; Dave and Linda Lawson; Bob McLean; Lalla Saleeby; and Ginger Sullivan.

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.

Wednesday Night Life: Join us for dinner and classes on Wednesday nights starting January 7. Dinner at 5:30 p.m. is \$7 per person, with a cap at \$30. Educational classes for children follow at 6 p.m. and adults at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday Night Elective: Parenting One on One

Come join Ms. Kelly on Wednesday nights beginning January 7 for Parenting One on One, an 11-week class, in the Lawson-Rain Chapel. During our time together, we will look at tools to add to our tool belt to help strengthen parenting skills. This interactive class also will have opportunities for anonymous Q-and-A time. Participants will engage with one another as we share life experiences, dig into scripture, learn ways to parent differently while laughing together. Parenting is the hardest job in the world, and it really does take a village. Come join the village and see where God leads.

Keenagers luncheon will be held at noon Tuesday, January 6, in the Fellowship Hall. Guest speaker will be state Sen. Mike Reichenbach. Covenant partners 55 and older are invited to join us for food, fun, and fellowship. Meal will be chicken and rice casserole, steamed green vegetables, tossed salad, bread, and rainbow Jell-o cubes. Cost of lunch is \$6.

Giving is an act of worship! Did you know that we offer **TEXT to Give** to our Covenant Partners and guests? It is simple and can be done any time and from anywhere. From your mobile device, simply text **Florencefirst** to **73256** and you will receive a link to our online giving site, where you can make a secure donation to support the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Additionally, our covenant partners and guests may **SCAN** this QR code from your mobile device and be directed to our online giving site. Thank you for your support of the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church!



Children’s Ministry

- ◆ We are looking forward with great excitement to our Wednesday nights children’s programs starting January 7.

Youth Ministry

- ◆ Parent Meeting: 10 a.m. January 25. We will go over the calendar from January to August. Youth are welcome to attend.

Just for Women Bible study: Just for Women will start a new study, *Reflections of Peter*, for winter and spring beginning January 13. They will focus on I and II Peter. The Florence meetings will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays in the CLC at First Presbyterian Church. The study will wrap up on April 28.

Embracing God’s Word: Study on the Timothy and Titus resumes on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. January 11 at First Presbyterian Church. Discover how to live and lead for Christ with wisdom, courage, and purpose — just as Paul challenged Timothy and Titus to do. Register at embracinggodsword.com.

CALENDAR

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 New Year's Day

CDC and church office closed

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

- 12 PM Girl Scouts Cookie Rally

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

- 10 AM Combined Worship Service