CALL TO WORSHIP*

Advent Week 1 - Isaiah 9:2; John 8:12

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. Isaiah 9:2 (ESV)

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12 (ESV)

PRAYER OF PRAISE & ADORATION

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

Johann Sebastian Bach and Charles Wesley

Come, thou long-expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the saints Thou art
Dear Desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

Joy to those who long to see Thee
Dayspring from on high appear
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse
Of Thy birth, we long to hear
O'er the hills the angels singing
News, glad tidings of a birth
"Go to Him, your praises brining
Christ the Lord has come to earth"

Come to earth to taste our sadness
He whose glories knew no end
By His life He brings us gladness
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend
Leaving riches without number
Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder
Christ was born the Lord of all

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child, and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

*What Child Is This**

William Chatterton Dix

What child is this who laid to rest; on Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet; While shepherds watch are keeping
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud; the babe, the Son of Mary

Why lies He in such mean estate; where ox and ass are feeding
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here; the silent Word is pleading
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through; the cross be borne for me, for you
Hail, hail the Word made flesh; the babe, the son of Mary

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant king to own Him
The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him
Raise, raise the song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born; the babe, the son of Mary

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22:34-40

[34] But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. [35] And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. [36] "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" [37] And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. [38] This is the great and first commandment. [39] And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. [40] On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (ESV)

CONFESSION OF SIN

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

PRIVATE CONFESSION

PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL

1 Timothy 1:15-17

[15] The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. [16] But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. [17] To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

*In The Bleak Midwinter**

Offertory Hymn

We Are Messengers

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter, long ago

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain
Heav'n and earth shall flee away, when He comes to reign
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ

Angels and archangels, may have gathered there
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss

What can I give Him, poor as I am
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part
Yet what can I give Him: give my heart

DOXOLOGY*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER ending in THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

MESSAGE

THE PROMISE OF A SAVIOR

GENESIS 3:8-19

PAGE 3

Rev. Andrew Keasling

*Silent Night**

Eugene Englert, Franz Xaver Gruber, and Joseph Mohr

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.

CHURCH LIFE UPDATES

BENEDICTION

** Please stand if able*

Are you a guest at FPO? Welcome!

We are so happy you are here today! We would love the opportunity to connect with you and answer any questions you may have about FPO. Scan the QR below to complete our guest form. We know there are many wonderful churches in Auburn-Opelika and we hope that you always feel welcome here.

Sunday Schedule:

Worship @ 10:30am

Equip @ 9:15am

Adults in the Fellowship Hall
Children ages 3months-3rd grade in the FPOkids building
Children ages 4th & 5th grade in the White House
Youth ages 6th-8th grade in The Corner
Youth ages 9th-12th grade in the White House

Prayer Requests

Life is so often busy and full, and we are constantly dealing with difficult things, frequently doing so alone. We as a church long to be able to truly do life together and come alongside one another. One of the best ways we can do that is to pray for one another. Therefore, we are creating a weekly congregational prayer list to be shared with the staff and officers so they can be in regular prayer for the needs of the people at FPO. We encourage you to let us know about how we can best pray for you by emailing us at **prayer@firstpresopelika.org**. We would love for you to share day-to-day needs as well as surgeries, illnesses, deaths, births, diagnoses, or other life events so we can lift those to the Lord.

Community Groups

The functional picture of church life in the Bible is FAMILY. Community Groups at FPO are designed to provide the context for the experience and expression of family. Community Groups are generally groups of 6-14 people that meet in someone's home throughout the week and are built around pursuing intentional relationships designed to spur one another toward following Jesus.
If you are interested in joining a Community Group, or have questions, please contact Jonathan Prudhomme at jonathan@firstpresopelika.org.

Caring Ministry

We as a church long to care well for each other as we walk through the trials of this life. We now have a Caring Ministry to help us do that well. The best way to do that is to be informed of what is happening in our lives. If you or someone you know at the church is walking through a difficult time, please let us know at **caring@firstpresopelika.org.**

CHURCH LIFE

FPO Missions Moment

Our Missionaries
Noeun and Tiffany Non - Maelin, Nolan and Selah serve in Central Asia by partnering alongside the local indigenous church body in Central Asia. They desire to make disciples, build communities leading to church growth and planting. We desire to see healthy churches grow and planted in their indigenous context.

Zachary Lightfoot is serving with Onward in Japan building relationships with university students in order to share the Gospel.

This thanksgiving we are giving thanks for all God has done this year for FPO missions. We are very thankful for the part we play in reaching the world for Christ. Thank you, FPO members, for your faithful giving.

Save the Dates: Upcoming Events

ONE Worship Service until January 10th

We have temporarily returned to ONE worship service at 10:30am beginning today, November 29th, until January 10th.

Women's Ministry Advent Wreath Making Event - Monday, 11.30.16 @ 6pm

Join the FPO Women's Ministry for Advent Wreath making and fellowship! The event will be in the FPO Fellowship Hall on Nov. 30th from 6 to 8 pm with a cost of $15. RSVP on Realm (QR code below) or by sending Jillian a Venmo @J-Heards in order to have enough supplies on hand. It is always a sweet time of fellowship and worship to start the advent season!

College Lunch and Study Days

All college students are invited to a free lunch in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service on December 6th.
The Fellowship Hall will also be open during the following times for any college students wanting a quiet space to study for exams:
December 6th from 12:30-4:00pm
December 7th from 11:00am-5:00pm
December 8th from 11:00am-5:00pm

SAVE THE DATE: Marriage Saturday - January 16th

Mark your calendars for our Marriage Saturday event, which will take place at FPO on January 16th. More details to come!

You can always find our upcoming events on our website at www.firstpresopelika.org/events & www.firstpresopelika.org/this-month

First Presbyterian
Church of Opelika

ADVENT 2026

PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS

November 29, 2026