



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Ocala



Our Vision

To be a church that shares God's love through Jesus Christ with everyone.

Our Mission

We are an inclusive historic downtown community of Christian faith.

We seek to welcome all people through prayer, meaningful worship, and supportive groups while sharing our talents and resources with those in need.



First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Today's Sermon
"The Christmas Song We Need"
Pastor Kenny Ellis

Reverend Kenneth Ellis, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Walk Jones, Transitional Pastor
Phyllis Von Ebers, Choir Director
Dr. Kosumo Morishita, Organist
Leslie Athanason, Vocalist

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1, 2024

10:00 a.m.

We Gather with Others in God's House

Words of Welcome

Song "Light One Candle, to Watch for Messiah" verse 1

Phyllis VonEbers, Soloist

Lighting the Advent Candle

Melissa Malone and Sharon Shirley

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Prelude

"Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

arr. Cindy Berry

We Give Praise and Adoration to God

Call to Worship

Bill Tucker, Liturgist

Leader: Keep watch! For the One who brings peace is coming.

People: We wait in anticipation for Christ

Leader: We wait for God's revealing of joy. Remain alert!

People: Love is coming to dwell among us. Hope draws near.

*Hymn

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

*Confession of Sin

In our waiting and preparation, we come to rest, again, at the foot of the cross. Even in this season of anticipation, we see the fullness of God's promised redemption in the waters of baptism. As those who are fully known and redeemed, we confess our sin before God and one another. (silent prayer)

*Assurance of Pardon

*Passing the Peace

*Gloria Patri

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo from Angels We Have Heard on High"

Glo—ri-a in excelsis De -o!

Glo—ri-a in excelsis De -o!

First Reading (see sheet)

Psalm 25:4-10

Children's Sermon

Dr. Jones

Songs (see sheet)

“While We are Waiting, Come”

“People, Look East”

Cindy Andrews and Debbie Atchison, song leaders

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Anthem

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
Chancel Choir

arr. David G. Shreiner

Second Reading

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,

‘My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.’

Sermon

“The Christmas Song We Need”

Pastor Kenny

Lord’s Supper followed by Lord’s Prayer

We Depart to Live and Love as Christian Disciples

*Hymn

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

*Benediction and Offering

(After service, ushers will be standing by the doors to receive your tithes and offerings.)

Postlude

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates”

arr. Jean Hilbert

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Welcome Visitors - Thanks for worshipping with us! Please complete a yellow card and bring it to an usher in the back after worship.

Welcome Reception Today Join us for light refreshments after worship today in the courtyard to welcome Pastor Kenny.

Ushers Needed December 1, 8, 15, 22, 24th and 29th. Sign up after worship or call Evelyn Longo 352-286-8439 with any questions.

Advent Study This year's book is called *Calling All Angels*. The study will be in room 1 at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday mornings beginning December 3rd and by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights.

Adult Sunday School meets each Sunday at 8:50 a.m. in Room 1. All are welcome to the class.

Middle and High School Youth Group will meet today at 5:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. Youth Group meals are needed. Contact Carter Ullman (863) 651-4863 or sign up on the Meal Train at: www.mealtrain.com/09nwe9

King's Brass will perform for us on Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Grace Church invites you: December 9th at 6:30 p.m. *The Waiting Dark: An Advent Journey* - an organ concert, with Joshua L. Mazur, Assistant Conductor for the Ocala Symphony Orchestra. Lessons and Carols on December 13th at 7:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, December 15, 2024 is Christmas Music Sunday with the Chancel Choir, Hand Bells, FPC Strings, Leslie Athanason, Kosumo Morishita and the Youth Group. Following worship we will have a Christmas Farewell Appreciation Luncheon for Rev. Jones.

PRAYER LIST

Esther Arango-Palencia

Pat Bishop

Bill Blackwell (brother of Mary Kauffman)

The Byrd family (on the death of Tim)

Martin Cook

Patty Cook

Billy Davis (grandson-in-law of David Demarest)

Linda and Randall Deyton

(sister and brother-in-law of Annette Pickard)

Mina DiGeronimo

Ruth Fraser

Gabby Gates (friend of Dave Bice)

Joe Glenn (friend of Mary Kauffman)

Dorothy Halliwell

(sister-in-law of Pat Interdonato)

Betty Hamilton (neighbor of Evelyn Yorlano)

Bill and Barbara Harrel

Lloyd Kauffman (husband of Mary)

Jose Kornmann (friend of Julia Wirono)

Lanier Lance (sister of Bill Tucker)

The Langley family (on the death of Sam)

Lukas Martin (grandson of Judith Martin)

Gloria Miller

Jodi Miller (daughter-in-law of Ginny Miller)

Bruce Moore (hip surgery)

Kathy Mortenson (sister of Sharon Shirley)

Susan Mulligan (friend of Mary Kauffman)

Barbara Parks

Anna Phelan (granddaughter of
Dude & Stephanie Phelan)

Tony Porter

Fritz Rain (friend of Marybeth Olson)

Ruthanne and John Reiss

Michael Rou (cousin of Dr. David Albright)

Debra Tomkins (sister of Rusty Juergens)

Ann VanDenburgh

Jeanne Vincent

Judy Weese (chemo treatments)