



# PALMETTO HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Celebrating Life in Christ  
By Reaching Out and Building Up  
For God's Kingdom and Glory*

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 24*

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,  
for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.  
Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?  
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.  
He will receive blessing from the Lord  
and righteousness from the God of his  
salvation.  
Such is the generation of those who seek him,

who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah  
Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle!  
Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory! Selah

## SONG OF EXALTATION

## *All Praise to Thee Eternal Lord (#219)*

All praise to thee, eternal Lord,  
clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;  
choosing a manger for thy throne,  
while worlds on worlds are thine alone.

Once did the skies before thee bow;  
a virgin's arms contain thee now:  
angels who did in thee rejoice  
now listen for thine infant voice.

A little child, thou art our guest,  
that weary ones in thee may rest;

forlorn and lowly is thy birth,  
that we may rise to heav'n from earth.

Thou comest in the darksome night  
to make us children of the light,  
to make us, in the realms divine,  
like thine own angels round thee shine.

All this for us thy love hath done;  
by this to thee our love is won:  
for this we tune our cheerful lays,  
and shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.

## INVOCATION

## SONG OF ADORATION

## *Before the Skies*

Before the skies were stretched abroad  
From everlasting was the Word  
God was He the Word was God  
and He must be adored  
By the Word all came to be  
The universe and all contained  
Showing God's authority  
His power and His reign

*Glory glory glory in the highest  
Glory glory glory God is with us with us*

Though His glories still proceed  
Never changing from our Lord  
He laid down His majesty  
and took on human form  
Mortals here beheld His face  
The heav'nly Father's perfect Son  
Full of truth and full of grace  
The Savior now has come

He gave up His life in love  
So our lips could gladly tell  
Christ the Word has come to us  
Our Lord Immanuel.

## SCRIPTURAL CALL TO CONFESSION

## *1 John 2:7-11*

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

## PASTORAL PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND SUPPLICATION

### SCRIPTURAL ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*1 John 2:12-24*

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

### SONG OF ASSURANCE

*Joy has Dawned*

Joy has dawned upon the world  
Promised from creation  
God's salvation now unfurled  
Hope for ev'ry nation  
Not with fanfares from above  
Not with scenes of glory  
But a humble gift of love  
Jesus born of Mary

Shepherds bow before the Lamb  
Gazing at the glory  
Gifts of men from distant lands  
Prophecy the story  
Gold a King is born today  
Incense God is with us  
Myrrh His death will make a way  
By His blood He'll win us

Sounds of wonder fill the sky  
With the songs of angels  
As the mighty Prince of Life  
Shelters in a stable  
Hands that set each star in place  
Shaped the earth in darkness  
Cling now to a mother's breast  
Vulnerable and helpless

Son of Adam Son of heaven  
Given as a ransom  
Reconciling God and man  
Christ our mighty Champion  
What a Savior what a Friend  
What a glorious mystery  
Once a babe in Bethlehem  
Now the Lord of history

## SCRIPTURAL PROFESSION OF FAITH

## *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell<sup>1</sup>.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the  
Father Almighty;  
From there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic<sup>2</sup> church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

<sup>1</sup>hell = death/grave; see WLC 50

<sup>2</sup>catholic = universal

## SONG OF APPROACH

## *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (#200)*

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heav'n's all-gracious King";  
the world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world:  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast'ning on,  
by prophet bards foretold,  
when with the ever-circling years  
comes round the age of gold;  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

## OFFERTORY

**11:1** Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. **3** So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." **4** But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." **5** Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. **7** Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." **8** The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" **9** Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. **10** But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." **11** After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." **12** The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." **13** Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. **14** Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, **15** and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." **16** So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

**17** Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. **18** Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, **19** and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. **20** So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. **21** Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." **23** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." **24** Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." **25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" **27** She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." **28** When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." **29** And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. **30** Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. **31** When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. **32** Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." **33** When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. **34** And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." **35** Jesus wept. **36** So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" **37** But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

**38** Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. **39** Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." **40** Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" **41** So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. **42** I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." **43** When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." **44** The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go.""

## Living Hope

1. Afflicted for Glory (vv. 1-4)
2. That You May Believe (vv. 5-16)
3. Death is Not the End (vv. 17-37)
4. That Others May Believe (vv. 38-44)

### Small Group Sharing

Consider sharing an experience where your faith has increased as a result of an affliction you / your family has gone through.

Consider sharing an experience where you have been impacted by someone else's testimony of God's grace in suffering and/or death.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

## *O Little Town of Bethlehem (#201)*

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.

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

For Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.

## BENEDICTION

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

<b>Missionary Christmas Tree</b>	Each year, we like to remember our missionaries with special Christmas gifts. Gift idea tags will be on the missionary Christmas tree in the foyer. Missionary magnets are also available in the narthex near the missionary tree. Choose a family to CONNECT with for 2025.
<b>FI Christmas Shop</b> Sat 12/14	The Fountain Inn Christmas Shop will need gifts as well as lots of volunteers for greeting, assisting families, wrapping, praying with families, loading gifts in cars, clean-up, etc. See the weekly mail for a link to the registry or to volunteer.
<b>Miracle Hill Renewal</b>	If you signed up, please your <b>unwrapped</b> gift of pajamas in the Christmas box labeled "Miracle Hill" in the church lobby TODAY.
<b>Senior Fellowship</b>	The Senior Fellowship will meet at the church at 9:30am this Wednesday for a time of fellowship. We are primarily of age 60+ and/or retired folks, although anyone is welcome!
<b>Special Christmas Service</b> Dec. 15	We will hold our annual Christmas Service on Dec 15 <sup>th</sup> with additional instrumentalists, vocalists and an array of Christmas carols. There will be no Sunday School that week or the following.
<b>Congregational Meeting</b> TODAY	During today's congregational meeting, we vote on our new and returning deacons. Those candidates include Rob Marr, David Boulware, Scott Roth, Perry Earle, and Keith Perry. All members are asked to attend this meeting directly after the worship service.
<b>Caroling Outreach</b> Dec. 18	Join us for an hour of caroling. We will hand out treats with invitations to our Christmas Eve service. We will then reconvene at the church for dessert and cocoa. Please RSVP by Dec. 11!

## WEEKLY SERVICE ROTATION

	December 8 <sup>th</sup>	December 15 <sup>th</sup>	December 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Infant Nursery</b>	Lauren & Chase H.	Allie & Tanner K.	Allene & Bill D.
<b>Toddler Nursery</b>	Amy & Paul U.	Lisa & Andrew T.	Allene D. & Melissa T.
<b>SS Nursery</b>	Amanda W. & Julie W.	N/A	N/A
<b>Deacon on Duty</b>	Will R.	Tommy C.	Scott H.
<b>Sound Room</b>	Andrew A.	Andy M.	Reese T.
<b>Refreshments</b>	Mary & Craig T.	Allene D. & Cathey H.	Katie E. & Sara Parks M.

## THIS WEEK AT PHPC

Mon Dec 9	Tues Dec 10	Wed Dec 11	Thurs Dec 12	Fri Dec 13	Sat Dec 14	Sun Dec 15
		<i>No YG</i>			<i>Fountain Inn Christmas Shop</i>	<i>Special Christmas Service</i>

## GIVING AND ATTENDANCE

Last Week's Giving	Last Week's Budget	Fiscal YTD Giving	Fiscal YTD Budget	Last Week's Attendance
\$-	\$11,090	\$-	\$243,972	147

Visiting PHPC?  
Please consider  
filling out a  
visitor form.



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