

Pickens Presbyterian Church



311 WEST MAIN STREET
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

“To the Glory of God, and the Service of People”

December 14th, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Eleven o'clock

The Church Gathers

Chiming of the Hour
Choral Introit
Friendship Pads

“Christ Chose the Manger”

Brad Nix

Please print your name(s), & contact information, pass the pad, pass it back, note the names of your neighbors and greet them by name after worship.

Concerns in the Life of the Church

Elder Dennis Schwab, Liturgist

Prelude

“Joyous Noel”

W.A. Mozart

Call to Worship & Advent Wreath Lighting

Randall and Tammy Ferguson

And we all say together, *Let us walk in the light of the Lord.*

Advent Wreath Song: *A candle is burning, a candle of joy.*

A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.

*Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.*

Sandra Dean, © 1986. Tune "Away In A Manger"

Advent Wreath Prayer

Hymn #1

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

The Church Confesses

Prayer of Confession

Holy and wonderful God, we confess that we have closed our eyes to what you are doing. We prefer to concentrate on problems, bad news and violence. When we do, we miss all the healing, freeing and helping you accomplish in our world. We pass up opportunities to participate in your Good News. We rob ourselves of so much joy. Forgive us and give us eyes to see, ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to treasure your mission in the world. Fill us with unquenchable joy at the coming of Jesus. . . . (silent, personal confession)
Amen.

Kyrie

You are the Lord, Giver of mercy.

You are the Christ, Giver of mercy. You are the Lord, Giver of mercy.

Assurance of Pardon . . . in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. *Thanks be to God.*

**You are invited to stand in spirit or in body.*

***Passing of the Peace** Peace be with you. *And also with you.*

(Please turn to the person in front of you, behind you, and beside you to share Christ's peace with them)

***Gloria Patri #579** *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.*

The Church Proclaims God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Dennis Schwab

1st Scripture Reading Isaiah 35.1-10

The Word of God for the People of God. *Thanks be to God.*

Time with the Children of God

Elder Tina LaFoy

2nd Scripture Reading James 5.7-10

The Word of God for the People of God. *Thanks be to God.*

Anthem

"We Need a Little Love"

John D & Michael Rowsey

Sermon

"Seeing Joy"

Dr. David Torrey

The Church Responds in Faith

***Hymn #12**

"People Look East"

***Affirmation of Faith**

(from A Declaration of Faith)

In Christ, God gave us a glimpse of the new creation God has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, the church, or our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new. Amen.

Offering

(Use the QR Code to the right for Online Giving)



GIVE NOW

Offertory

"Gesù Bambino / Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

arr. Tom Fettke

***Doxology #592**

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (debts/Debtors)

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them up to the Lord. . . .*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our Debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Hymn (insert)**

"You Shall Go Out with Joy"

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

"To a Maid Engaged to Joseph"

Rusty Edwards

(Please remain seated until worship ends after the Postlude)

The Church Enters the Mission Field

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the name of Jesus the Christ, "Welcome Home" to the House of the Lord. *If you are visiting, we offer a special welcome and invite you to participate with us in mission and ministry. If you would like to become a member of our congregation, please speak to the Pastor. We invite you to visit our website (www.PickensPresbyterian.org) to register for our newsletter.*

PRAYER CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. – Philippians 4:6 (NRSV)

REQUESTS: Share prayer concerns in worship, on the pew cards (*place in the offering plates*), or email the church office admin@pickenspresbyterian.org.

(Prayer concern list policy: Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks, after which they may be either renewed for another 4 weeks, or moved to the Long-Term Prayer Concern List)

Name (relationship)	Concern
<small>12/7/25</small> *Dr. Don Marler	health concerns
<small>11/30/25</small> Lynda Richards (Karleyanne's mother)	health concerns
Donna Gessell (Jo Anne's sister)	health concerns
<small>Continual</small> Hurricane Melissa victims	recovery
Nigerian Christians	
Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza	
*new this week	

The Christian love and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of **Paul & Yvonne McGrath** (parents of Ashley Dodgens) who died to this life on Sunday, November 30, 2025.

CELEBRATIONS

LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERN LIST

Bert Allison, John Blackwood, Caroline Bowen, Katherine Acker Brooks, Barbara & Joe Christopher, Margaret Dawkins, Steve Ellison, Shawn Erickson (Ron & Sylvia's son), **Jane Gillespie, Mike & David Goldsmith, Howard Harden, Samuel Hood** (John & Jana Holland's nephew), **Beverly & Burnett Kelly, Drema LaFoy** (Tina's mother), **Brad Michael** (Bob Michael's Son), **Hank Owens, Susan Steedman** (Sarah Mahanes' Mother), **Kay Tilley, Bev Timerding** (Deb Holtel's sister), **Melvin Tolliver** (Deb Holtel's uncle), **John & Tiffanie Torrey** (David's brother & wife).

EXTRA GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Peace in Ukraine. PDA support: gifts to [DR000156](#).

Humanitarian Aid to Gaza. Text PDAIP to 41444, or gifts to "DR000081-Israel/Palestine".

Hurricane Melissa. PDA support: gifts to [DR000194](#).

*Make checks payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with DR support number on memo line.

CHURCH EVENTS THIS WEEK: Online calendar: <http://PickensPresbyterian.org/Calendar>

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Session has called a congregational meeting for today, December 14th, 2025, immediately following worship for the purpose of approving changes to the Pastor's Terms of Call and receiving a report about the 2026 Church Budget.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: We hope that you are enjoying reading this year's Advent devotionals, "*Draw Near: Lighting the Advent Path with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love*," by Teri McDowell Ott, Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook. **There are printed copies of the full devotional available in the Narthex, and a link is included in our weekly Cliffnotes.**

GIVING TREE: To celebrate the season of giving the **Missions Committee selected Family Promise for our Giving Tree.** The tree is in ASH with tags that have items families need when they leave to start their own homes. You can participate individually or as groups by selecting a tag off the tree. **Please return the items to the tree** and Missions will deliver to Family Promise. **See Thursday's Cliffnotes for suggested household items.**

LESSONS AND CAROLS: Our annual **Lessons and Carols Special Service will be held on Sunday, December 21st** during our regular worship service. We hope all can join us for a beautiful morning of scripture readings and beloved Christmas carols, celebrating the story of Christ's birth. This year's service will feature a live instrumental ensemble, in addition to

our Adult Choir, adding an extra layer of warmth and tradition to this seasonal favorite. All are welcome. Come and share in the music, the message, and the joy of the Christmas season.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME: All Saints' Hall at 10:30am for food and fellowship. **Sign up at:** <https://tinyurl.com/FellowshipSnacks> or via the QR code in the CliffNotes.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Last Sunday's Giving: **\$4,507.35.**

Weekly Contributions Needed for Budget: **\$6,148.**

Year-to-Date Contributions: **\$275,191.66.**

Year-to-Date Expenses: **\$245,955.43.**

SERVING:

TODAY (December 14th)

December 21st, 2025

Elder of the Week:	Vickie Swaynham	Robert Simms
Liturgist:	Dennis Schwab	Carole Reed
Sanctuary Guild:	Debbie Hendricks	Debbie Hendricks
Ushers:	The Townsend Family	The Townsend Family
Refreshments:	TBD	Starla Taylor
Camera Operation:	Ginger Chastain	Anna Chastain
Sound Board:		
Nursery Volunteers:		
Sanctuary Flowers:	<i>Poinsettias</i>	<i>Poinsettias</i>
Communion Set-up:		
Communion Servers:		
<u>Lectionary readings for today:</u> Liturgist: Dennis Schwab Isaiah 35.1-10 Psalm 146.5-10 James 5.7-10 Matthew 11.2-11		<u>Lectionary readings for next Sunday:</u> Liturgist: Carole Reed Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

You Shall Go Out with Joy 80

The Trees of the Field

Em B7 Em B7 Em

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;

G C G D

the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be -

B N.C. Em B7 Em

fore you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the

B7 Em B7 Em B7 Em

trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

D7 N.C. G C G D

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;

D7 G D7 G

the trees of the field will clap their hands;

C G D

the trees of the field will clap their hands

B7 Em B7 Em

while you go out with joy.

*Clap hands.

This text paraphrases Isaiah 55:12, which is generally understood to describe a "second exodus," this time from Babylon rather than from Egypt. This release of God's people and their return to their own land gives rise to a joyful celebration involving all creation.