

Pickens Presbyterian Church



311 WEST MAIN STREET
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

"To the Glory of God, and the Service of People"

December 7th, 2025

Second 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 Carole Reed, Liturgist

Prelude

"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"

arr. Kenneth D. Varner

Call to Worship & Advent Wreath Lighting

Kay and Leo Tilley

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

Advent Wreath Song: *A Candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.*

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

Advent Wreath Prayer

Hymn #13

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

The Church Confesses

Prayer of Confession

God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace brings. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us to bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. . . . (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.*

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

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

(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 Carole Reed

1st Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11.1-10

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

Matthew 3.1-12

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

Special Music

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

arr. Matt Limbaugh

Steve Ellison - Piano

Sermon

"Are You Listening?"

Dr. David Torrey

The Church Responds in Faith

***Hymn #3**

"Comfort, Comfort You My People"

***Affirmation of Faith**

(adapted from The Confession of 1967)

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes our natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. God wills that God's purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ, and all evil be banished from God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. Amen.

Offering and Change-for-Change Food Pantry Offering

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



GIVE NOW

Offertory

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

arr. Mark Hayes

***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**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table and The Great Thanksgiving

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Holy Lord, Father almighty, . . . we will celebrate victory with him.

Remembering the Lord Jesus, we break bread and share one cup, announcing his death for the sins of the world, and telling his resurrection to all people and nations.

. . .

The Lord's Prayer (debts/Debtors)

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People (As we are one body, let us wait to eat and drink together)

"Bless the Lord, O My Soul"

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all God's benefits.*

Prayer after Communion

***Hymn 48**

"Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming"

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

arr. Carolyn Hamlin

(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
11/30/25..... Lynda Richards (Karleyanne's mother).....	health concerns
Donna Gessell (Jo Anne's sister)	health concerns
11/9/25..... Chil Francis	health concerns
Troy (Deb Holtel's cousin)	health concerns
Doug Tate	health concerns
Continual..... Hurricane Melissa victims	recovery
Nigerian Christians	
Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza	
<i>*new this week</i>	

The Christian love and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of **David Gessell** who died to this life on Wednesday, December 3, 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>

FROM THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE: This Sunday we receive the Change-for-Change special offering to support our Emergency Food Pantry and Little Free Pantry.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: Please join your church family in reading “*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.**

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, 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.

POINSETTIA SPECIAL OFFERING: We are accepting memorials and honorariums for the Poinsettia Offering through today, December 7th. The poinsettias that decorate the chancel during Advent represent our Jane B. Morris Service/Fuel Fund that the gifts support. Special envelopes are in the pew racks. Please make your check out to Pickens Presbyterian Church, with Poinsettia Offering on the memo line only. Thank you! **Memorials and Honorariums will be listed on a special bulletin insert on December 14th and 21st.**

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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Last Sunday’s Giving: **\$8,295.**

Weekly Amount Needed to meet Budget: **\$6,148.** 2025 Budget: **\$319,714.**

SERVING:

TODAY (December 7th)

December 14th, 2025

Elder of the Week:	David McCormick	Vickie Swaynham
Liturgist:	Carole Reed	Dennis Schwab
Sanctuary Guild:	Debbie Hendricks	Debbie Hendricks
Ushers:	The Townsend Family	The Townsend Family
Refreshments:	Louise Hope	TBD
Camera Operation:	Robert Simms	Ginger Chastain
Sound Board:		
Nursery Volunteers:		
Sanctuary Flowers:	Cindy Wood	<i>Poinsettias</i>
Communion Set-up:	Nancy Goldsmith	
Communion Servers:	Robert S, Betsey, Butch, Roy, Starla	
<u>Lectionary readings for today:</u> Liturgist: Carole Reed Isaiah 11.1-10 Psalm 72.1-7, 18-19 Romans 15.4-13 Matthew 3.1-12		<u>Lectionary readings for next Sunday:</u> Liturgist: Dennis Schwab Isaiah 35.1-10 Psalm 146.5-10 James 5.7-10 Matthew 11.2-11