Pickens Presbyterian Church

311 WEST MAIN STREET
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671
"To the Glory of God, and the Service of People"

December 21st, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent Eleven o'clock

A Service of Lessons & Carols

The Church Gathers

Chiming of the Hour
Concerns in the Life of the Church
Preparation for Worship

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship, first in silence, then as we listen to the prelude.

Prelude *"The Christmas Spirit"* *Lindy Kerby*

Choral Introit *"O Night Divine"* *Russell Mauldin*

Call to Worship & Advent Wreath Lighting Ken and Judy Acker

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

Advent Wreath Song: ***A candle is burning, a candle of love,***
a candle to point us to heaven above,
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.
Sandra Dean, © 1986. Tune "Away In A Manger"

Advent Wreath Prayer
***Hymn #41** *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

The Church Confesses

***Invitation to Confession**
***Prayer of Confession**

Great God, as we behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory. Yet, we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter little that we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. . . . *(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.

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

The Church Proclaims God's Word

Lesson 1: Jeremiah 33.14-16 Jan Sparks
Hymn # 3 *"Comfort, Comfort You My People"*

Lesson 2: Micah 5.2-5a Tina LaFoy
Hymn # 49 *"Once in Royal David's City"*

Lesson 3: Isaiah 11.1-4a Jonathan Holder
"A Song of Christmas" *M. Barrett & J. M. Martin*

Lesson 4: Isaiah 11.6-9 Debbie Teeple
"Come, Emmanuel" *M. Barrett & J. M. Martin*

Lesson 5: Luke 1.26-35 Karlyanne Richards
"Prepare the Way" *M. Barrett & J. M. Martin*

Lesson 6: Luke 1.38 Jeff Price
"Christ Chose the Manger" *Brad Nix*

Lesson 7: Luke 2.1-7 Judy Cook
"Sleep Little Lamb" *M. Barrett & J. M. Martin*

Lesson 8: Luke 2.8-16 Christa Schwab
"We Need a Little Love" *J. D. and Michael Rowsey*

Lesson 9: Isaiah 9.2, 6-7 Dennis Schwab

The Church Responds in Faith

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

GIVE NOW

Offertory *"Coventry Carol"* *arr. Faye Lopez*

***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)

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 #31** *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude *"Infant Holy"* *arr. Olive Huisman*

(Please remain seated until worship ends with the end of the Postlude)

The Church Departs and Service Begins

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**
12/14/25	
*Brown University Shooting victims	
*Christa Schwab	health concerns
11/30/25	
Lynda Richards (Karleyanne's mother)	health concerns
Donna Gessell (Jo Anne's sister)	health concerns
Continual	
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 **Dr. Don Marler** who died to this life on Friday, December 12, 2025.

The Christian love and sympathy of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of **Sam ("Skip") Turner** who died to this life Tuesday, December 9, 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**

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: This special offering will be collected during Offertory today. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present,

and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. **Please see the bulletin insert for more information. You can also go to: https://pcusa.org/donate/cj999999-christmas-joy-offering.** If giving online, please include the name of our congregation.

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 by Sunday, December 28th**, and Missions will deliver to Family Promise. **See Cliffnotes for suggested household items.**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: We hope all will be able to attend our **Christmas Eve Communion Service at 4:00pm, and the Candlelight & Communion Service at 11:00pm** this Wednesday evening.

OFFICE CLOSED: The church office will be closed on Wednesday the 24th and Thursday the 25th for the Christmas holiday.

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: **$1,025.**
Weekly Amount Needed to meet Budget**: $6,148.**
2025 Budget: **$319,714.**

SERVING:	**TODAY (December 21st)**	**December 28th, 2025**
Elder of the Week:	Jeff Price	Tina LaFoy
Liturgist:	Jim Mahanes	Tina LaFoy
Sanctuary Guild:	Debbie Hendricks	Debbie Hendricks
Ushers:	The Townsend Family	The Townsend Family
Refreshments:	Starla Taylor	TBD
Camera Operation:	Anna Chastain	Carole Reed
Sound Board:		
Nursery Volunteers:		
Sanctuary Flowers:	*Poinsettias*	*Poinsettias*
Communion Set-up:		
Communion Servers:		

Lectionary readings for today:	**Lectionary readings for next Sunday:**
Liturgist: Jim Mahanes Isaiah 7:10–16 Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 Romans 1:1–7 Matthew 1:18–25	Liturgist: Tina LaFoy Isaiah 63:7–9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10–18 Matthew 2:13–23