

## Offering

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## Offertory

“What Shall We Give?”

Trad. Catalan Carol

## \*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 #29

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

## \*Charge and Benediction

## Postlude

“The King Is Born”

arr. James Koerts

(Please remain seated until worship ends after the Postlude)

## The Church Enters the Mission Field

# Pickens Presbyterian Church



311 WEST MAIN STREET  
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

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

December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

First Sunday after Christmas

Eleven o'clock

## The Church Gathers

## Chiming of the Hour

## Choral Introit

“O Night Divine”

## Friendship Pads

*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 Tina LaFoy, Liturgist

## Prelude

“O Beautiful Star”

arr. Adger M. Pace

## Call to Worship & Advent Wreath Lighting

The Morris Family

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

## Advent Wreath Song:

*We honour Messiah with Christ candle's flame  
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.  
O Come all you faithful, rejoice in this night,  
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.*

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

## Christmas Litany:

In joyful expectation we pray to you our Savior and Redeemer. Blessed are you, O Lord our God! We bring you our praise and thanksgiving.

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

*You have opened the eyes of our hearts so that we may see. We are no longer bound by our blindness to live with no hope. You have invited us to be caught up in your vision of a new order of things. With Mary, we can say, "My soul magnifies the Lord. . . ."*

Because Jesus took on our flesh, life itself is filled with new meaning and dignity. "The word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory...full of grace and truth."

*"From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." Thank you, Lord.*

We are in your debt Lord. You are faithful when we are not. "Your faithfulness endures to all generations." Your promises are sure and your love is steadfast.

*We ask you Lord to teach us to love others as you have loved us. Lord hear our prayer.*

Thank you Lord for the blessings of home and family and friends. In and through them we learn the joy of loving and being loved.

*We praise you God Most High for these rich blessings.*

Lord we celebrate your coming to us in Jesus your Son. Prepare us for that joyful day when he will come again. In the meantime, accept our imperfect offerings - our broken selves - as we struggle to be faithful, as we yearn for your coming when all will be made new.

**All: Glory and Honor and Praise and Thanksgiving be unto you O Lord Most High. Come to us soon, Emmanuel. Amen.**

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

### The Church Confesses

#### **Prayer of Confession**

*God of Christmas, we would never have thought to find your Savior in an innocent baby. We confess we would have expected a warrior with a great army. We would not have thought to find your kingdom to be one of service, obedience and humility. We confess we would have expected, maybe even wanted, a kingdom that reflected our own values and self-interests. Lord, forgive us when we quickly leave Christmas behind and neglect to live lives worthy of our calling as followers of our Lord, the Prince of Peace. By your Holy Spirit, help us turn to you and live according to the values of your*

*kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. . . . (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)*

**\*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 Tina LaFoy

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading**

Psalm 148

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

#### **Time with the Children of God**

Elder Tina LaFoy

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading**

Matthew 2.13-23

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

#### **Anthem**

"Come, Emmanuel"

M Barrett & S Pethel

#### **Sermon**

"The Night of His Birth"

Dr. David Torrey

by Katherine Paterson

### The Church Responds in Faith

#### **\*Hymn #308**

"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

#### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

(from The Confession of 1967)

*In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all. Amen.*