

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHIMES

(The congregation is asked to pray for the blessing of God upon this service.)

*God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, and the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength. Amen.*

PRELUDE *As With Gladness Men of Old* John Leavitt

INTROIT *Jesus Is Born, Alleluia!* Eugene Butler  
The Sanctuary Choir  
Jesus is born! Alleluia!

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations,  
**Before the mountains were brought forth,**  
Before you had formed the earth or the world,  
**From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**  
Who regards the power of your wrath,  
**Or rightly fears your indignation?**  
So teach us to number our days,  
**That we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

**I will praise the Lord as long as I live!**  
**Praise the Lord, O my soul!**

-from Psalm 90

†OPENING HYMN, No. 22 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*  
REGENT SQUARE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Giver of Grace, we confess that we search for your light but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure, for we expect him to fulfill our desires, rather than your hopes for us. We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment, rather than those of servanthood, of compassion, of peace.**

**Forgive us, Lord, that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace. Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago, who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace, instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign. As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with the light of your joy and love.**

*(Continue your personal prayer of confession in silence.)*

KYRIE ELEISON, No. 572 Congregation and Choir

**Lord, have mercy upon us;**  
**Christ, have mercy upon us;**  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†ACT OF PRAISE *Gloria Patri* MEINEKE

**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.**

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

Stand, as you are able, and greet one another saying: **“The peace of Christ be with you.”** Respond by saying: **“And also with you.”**  
*(Children are invited to come forward now for A Time with Children.)*

THE WORD

A TIME WITH CHILDREN Betty Henderson

**Leader:** As you depart from us now, the children of God say:  
**Children:** God be with you as you stay.  
**Congregation:** God be with you as you go.  
**We are marching in the light of God,**  
**we are marching in the light of God.**  
**We are marching, marching,**  
**we are marching in the light of God.**

*Children, ages 2-3 yrs. who will be going to Extended Session and children, ages 4-first grade who will be in The Worship Center, may exit at this time through the narthex, where they will be escorted to the CE Building.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 60:1-6  
Pew Bible, page 649; large print, page 844  
(Bibles are located in the racks beneath the pews.)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12  
Pew Bible, page 1; large print, page 2  
This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Strategies of Containment*  
Rev. Pendleton Peery

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Nicene Creed  
Hymnal, page 15

†HYMN, No. 66 *We Three Kings of Orient Are*  
THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

Offertory *Christmas Comes Again*  
Old French Carol, ca. 1520  
The Sanctuary Choir

Christmas comes again, now sing we all Noel!  
Hark, o'er hill and plain,  
How bell doth answer bell.  
Soft shall they ring, until the Child is born.  
Christmas comes again, now sing we all Noel!  
Soon will he be wending in his baby gown,  
Joy to children lending  
Through each lighted town.  
Sweet now the call:  
“Good Christians, rest you all!”  
Soon will he be wending in his baby gown. Noel!

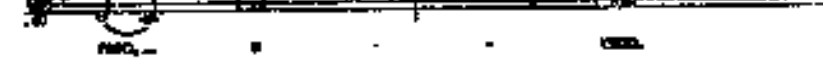
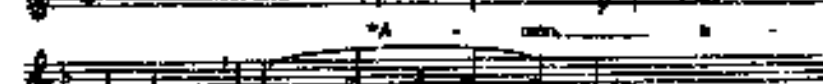
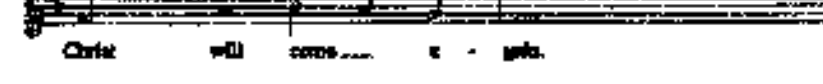
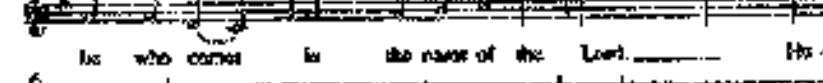
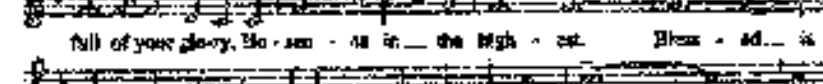
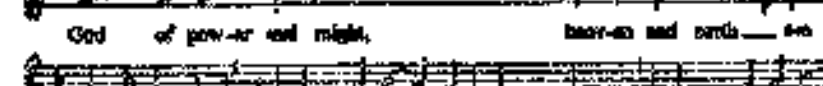
Glory to God in the highest, peace, goodwill to all.  
High above our meadows winging,  
Chants the bright celestial throng.  
From our mountains, sweetly ringing,  
Echo doth repeat the song.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*  
Hark! O'er meadowland and tillage,  
Gay the flute and sweet the string.  
Seek we now the happy village,  
Kneel before the baby King.  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

†Doxology, No. 592 OLD HUNDREDTH

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation  
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise. . .**

*... who forever sing to the glory of your name:*



The Lord's Prayer  
Communion of the People  
Prayer after Communion

†HYMN, No. 411 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* FESTAL SONG

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†RESPONSE *Jesus Is Born, Alleluia!* Eugene Butler  
The Sanctuary Choir  
Jesus is born! Alleluia! Jesus is born!

†POSTLUDE *Angels from the Realms of Glory* Edwin C. Johnson

† Worshipers standing if able.

**THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT**

Janie May Smith Hartman—December 19, 2011

*We express sincere sympathy to Walter and family in the death of his wife, and we rejoice with them in the assurance of resurrection.*

Elder Reader: Bruce Henderson

Ushers: Doug Caulkins (Captain), Annette Knight, Carol Shockey, Linda Blanchard, Susan Lavergne

*The cover art, "An Ancient Light," is by Jan L. Richardson and is used with permission*

**Ministers: All Members of the Congregation**

**Session Ministry Moderators:**

John Frierson	Administration	johnfrierson60@yahoo.com
John Guth	Church Facilities	johnguth@bellsouth.net
Rick LaBorde	Outreach	claborde@wpspump.com
David Oliver	Stewardship	dmo@rcco.com
Lynn Chance	Congregational Life	LWChance@att.net
Robert Folsom	Adult	robertfolsom@lendersoption.net
David Butterfield	Youth	david@msrlaw.com
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Bruce Henderson	Worship	bhenderson@highlandclinic.com
Elton Richey	Communications	eblaw@bellsouth.net
Julie Blewer	Staff Committee	jblewer@djslawfirm.com

**Church Staff:**

Pendleton B. Peery	Pastor
Bryan L. McDowell	Associate Pastor
Sarah Cooper Searight	Associate Pastor
Hollice S. Watson	Organist/Choir Director
Lindsey Wells Peery	Director of Children's Ministries
Carol Richey	Temporary Director of Children's Ministries
Peggy E. Sartin	Administrative Coordinator
Cindy K. Natale	Director, First Presbyterian Day School
Ginger Collier	Communications Director
Lauren Rogers	Director of Youth Ministry
Susan B. Whaley	Church Secretary
Lona L. Lockard	Staff Secretary
Jeff A. McKenzie	Sexton
Sherry L. Odom	Housekeeper
Lillie M. Sutton	Housekeeper

WORSHIP NOTES

**WE WELCOME FRIENDS AND VISITORS.** This church is for anyone who wants to be counted as a disciple of Jesus Christ, and who wants to be included in its worship and work. Thank you for signing your name and address on the attendance pad. There is an information center with material about our church and Presbyterianism in the foyer of the Jordan Street entrance to the sanctuary.

**A NURSERY IS PROVIDED FOR INFANTS THROUGH AGE TWO** in the Christian Education Building, Room CE 106 during both 8:45 morning prayer and 10:45 worship.

**WE WELCOME** into the fellowship of this church Miriam and Craig Durrett by reaffirmation of faith December 18, 2011.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO** Amber Carter and Warren Bradley, who were married December 17, 2011.

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP!** Bibles are available for use during worship; they are found at the end of every pew. We also provide **Worship Bags** designed for children elementary age and younger. The worship bags can be found in the narthex and at the front entrances to the sanctuary. Please return them after the service.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
SHREVEPORT

A Service for the Worship of God  
Ten Forty-Five O'Clock  
First Sunday after Christmas  
January 1, 2012



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us worship God.