

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 *Rejoice, Rejoice!* Mark Sedio

INTROIT *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* Marty Haugen
The Sanctuary Choir

Awake, and greet the new morn, For angels herald its dawning, Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, Behold! the Child of our longing.	Come as a baby weak and poor, To bring all hearts together, He opens wide the heavenly door And lives now inside us forever.
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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: We give thanks for the light of Christ, shining in the lives of all people.

One: With Mary, the mother of Jesus, we rejoice, for the Mighty One has done great things for us. Holy is God's name!
Lighting of the Joy Candle

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of blessing and promise, you sent your Son to stir up in all of the nations righteousness and praise. Like Mary, give us open hearts to find joy in the unexpected, knowing that your covenant of grace abounds. Guide us to be witnesses to this joy in our every day lives, expectant and hopeful to meet Christ in all those we encounter along the way. Amen.

One: Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

†OPENING HYMN, No. 2 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
HYFRYDOL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Emmanuel, God with us,
we fail to see that you continually bless us
with the richness of your grace.
Instead, we mistake possessions for blessing
and status for righteousness.
Forgive us God,
and make us the disciples you call us to be.
Prepare a place in our hearts for Christ,
that we may magnify your love,
and give thanks for the many blessings
we receive from your hands every day.**

(Continue your personal prayer of confession in silence)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE, HYMN No. 1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus STUTTGART

Congregation and Choir

**Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†ACT OF PRAISE, HYMN No. 23 (refrain only)

Gloria in Excelsis Deo GLORIA
Congregation and Choir

†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 Cathie Dodson

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 Luke 1:46b- 55
Pew Bible, page 53; large print, page 69
(Bibles are located in the racks beneath the pews.)

ANTHEM *Sans Day Carol* Cornish traditional carol
arr. John Rutter

The Sanctuary Choir

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk, And Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk: <i>And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.</i>	Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal, And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all: <i>And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.</i>
Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass, And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross: <i>And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.</i>	Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red, Then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead: <i>And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.</i>

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Pew Bible, page 650; large print, page 846
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Are We Ready?

Rev. Sarah Cooper Searight

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - *from a Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.**

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

**preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,**

**teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,**

**healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,**

**eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,**

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,**

**suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

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

MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

Offertory *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. John Ferguson

†Doxology, No. 592 OLD HUNDREDTH

†Prayer of Dedication

†HYMN, No. 13 *Prepare the Way* BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†RESPONSE *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*
Marty Haugen

The Sanctuary Choir

Rejoice, take heart in the night, Though dark the winter and cheerless, The rising sun shall crown you with light, Be strong and loving and fearless;	Love be our song and love our prayer, And love, our endless story, May God fill every day we share, And bring us at last into glory.
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†POSTLUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come* J. S. Bach

†Worshippers standing if able.

Elder Reader: Charles Grubb
 Ushers: Neil Erwin (captain), Glenda Erwin, Margaret Schuetze, Paul Schuetze,
 Carol Shockey, John Guth, Berry Glassell, Stephen Glassell
 Extended Session: Sabra Bushnell
 Worship Center Leaders: Kelly Hodgson, Brenda Nims
 Acolytes: Cole Ajluni, Quintan Ajluni

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.

CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN by Sitters' Registry and church volunteers. A nursery is available in CE-106 during both 8:45 morning prayer and 10:45 worship. During worship, Extended Session for 2-3-year-olds is offered in CE-105, and children 4 years - first grade are welcome in the Worship Center (CE-113).

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.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE are Terrel Sugar, Holly Guy and Sammy Guy, from the Journey Sunday school class.

THE LAST TUESDAY ADVENT NOONDAY NOEL in our series will be this coming Tuesday, December 13 at 12:10 p.m. in our chapel. Come reflect on the spirit of Advent and take some time for yourselves as you hear scripture, pray, sing hymns, and savor wonderful harp music presented by Brook Boddie. Then stay for a delicious gumbo lunch afterward!

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be received Sunday, December 18, 2011. The Christmas Joy Offering is split evenly between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and the Scholarship Funds for Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

THE ART on the cover of the bulletin today is by the artist Daniel Bonner.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
SHREVEPORT**

A Service for the Worship of God
 Ten Forty-Five O'Clock
 December 11, 2011
 Third Sunday of Advent

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@wpsump.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
Rob Ajluni	Children	robajluni@hotmail.com
George Fritze	Evangelism	kinggpf@yahoo.com
Bruce Henderson	Worship	bhenderson@highlandclinic.com
Elton Richey	Communications	ebrlaw@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
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



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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