

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Service of Word
December 21, 2025 at 11:00AM

GATHERING IN PRAISE

The Chiming of the Worship Hour

The Welcome and Announcements

The Prelude

“Away in a Manger”

arr. Berry

The Lighting of the Candles

The Introit

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

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The Opening Prayer

****The Hymn of Praise***

“Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates”

No. 213 (vs. 1, 3, 4)

The Children’s Moments

The Intercessory Prayers

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord’s Prayer

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

****The Congregational Hymn***

“People Look East”

No. 202 (vs. 1, 4)

The Giving of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

arr. Sorenson

Jessi Sugg, soloist

****The Doxology***

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Gloria Bunnell and Amy Lee

see insert

****The Prayer for Illumination***

see insert

****The Scripture Lesson***

Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

“Joseph’s Decision”

RESPONDING IN FAITH

****The Nicene Creed***

No. 880

****The Gloria Patri***

****The Hymn of Invitation***

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” No. 211 (vs. 3, 4)

SENDING FORTH

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

****The Benediction***

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

****The Choral Benediction***

“Come, Lord Jesus”

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****Postlude***

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

arr. Gammill

*The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the Glory of God
and given in loving memory or honor of
those listed in the poinsettia booklet.*

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communion Offerings – The Communion offerings this month will go toward our Good Samaritan Community Assistance Fund which offers emergency utility assistance to local residents in need. We are in desperate need of funding for this program. You may give funds at any time; just designate them for assistance.

Christmas Candlelight Service – The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 24th. Join us for this beautiful service and Holy Communion. A nursery will be available.

Christmas Office Closure – The church office will be closed to the public beginning Wednesday, December 24, 2024, until Monday, January 5, 2026, for the Christmas holidays. There will be no newsletter on December 23 or December 30.

End of the Year Monetary Gifts – If you would like to make donations to the church while the offices are closed, you may send them by mail or contact Julie Gray if you would rather hand deliver them.

Adopt-a-Family - Many thanks to Bob Seitz for chairing this outreach ministry again this year. We adopted 12 families, and deliveries were made on Friday, December 19th. Also, a big thank you to everyone who donated, shopped, wrapped and delivered! You are all appreciated.

Poinsettias – The Judy Shirley Circle would like to thank everyone who bought poinsettias. You helped raise money for our mission projects and helped create a beautiful setting for our worship services. You may pick up your poinsettia on Christmas Eve or leave it to adorn our sanctuary through January 4th. A special thanks goes to Jane Caston who is diligently keeping them watered and beautiful for our worship services.

*The new Advent candles are dedicated to the Glory of God
and given in loving memory of
Carlisle Campbell
by his wife, Beverly, their children and their families.*

***First United Methodist Church
612 East Broad Street
West Point, MS 39773***

December 21, 2025



***Rev. Chad Bowen, Pastor
Rachel Wood, Music Ministries
Stacy Hays, Family Ministries
Kindal Gammill, Pianist***