

1st Sunday of Advent

December 1st, 2024

10:00 AM

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-10

PRELUDE
OPENING LED BY THE CHOIR

Debbe Picerno

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Advent is a time to be filled with anticipation and hope.

P: We wait and hope for the One who will bring light to the darkness.

L: Advent is a time to remember that God's love extends to all people.

P: We wait and hope for the One who will bring justice.

L: Advent is a time to renew our determination.

P: We wait and hope for the One who will bring righteousness.

L: Advent is a time to strive for understanding.

P: We wait and hope for the One who will bring peace.

***OPENING PRAYER**

***HYMN** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 245

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy Father, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts.
Amen. (Silent Confession)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

L: Believe the good news of the Gospel

P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***CONFESSION RESPONSE:** "Behold the Lamb"

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***OFFERING RESPONSE:** "Doxology"

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 5:2-4

ANTHEM

"Those Who Wait Upon the Lord"

Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 4:1-7

SERMON

"At the Right Time"

Rev. Dr. Stephen Franklin

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

***HYMN**

"Behold the Lamb"

COMMUNION

***CONFESSION OF FAITH**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***HYMN**

"Be Still, My Soul"

No. 712

POSTLUDE

Debbe Picerno

***Those who are able please stand.**

Ushers: Deacons

Welcome Desk: Wollers

Liturgist: Autumn Moore

Greeters:

Fellowship Hour: Wollers

Child Care: Pam Greb

<u><i>THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR</i></u>		
Sunday:	10 AM	Worship & Communion
	11 AM	Concert Practice
Tuesday:	1 PM	Quilting
	5:30 PM	Deacon Meeting
	6:30 PM	Trustee Meeting
Wednesday:	9 AM	Coffee & Conversation
	6:30 PM	Choir

CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE- If you are a new member or regular attender and would like to participate in our Christmas card exchange please sign up in the Library to have your name added to our Christmas card quilts.

CHRISTMAS DINNER- Sunday, Dec 8th at 5:30 PM followed by a Christmas Concert around 6:15 PM. A sign up sheet is located in the narthex for an approximate head count and side dishes.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS- Available on the table outside the sanctuary for pickup.

OFFERING ENVELOPES- Available for pickup today on the table outside the sanctuary. There are extra sets available for those who would like them, just write your name next to a number on the list please.

CHRISTMAS EVE READERS & CANDLE LIGHTING- There is a signup sheet for those that would like to read at our 7 PM Christmas Eve Service and volunteers to light the advent candles in worship.

NEW MEMBERS- If you are planning on joining the church, new covenant partners will be recognized in worship on Sunday, December 15th. Please let the office know if you plan on officially joining.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES- We will have Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:30 & 7 PM this year. We hope you will join us!

CLUB 35- Will be having their Christmas Party on Sunday, December 15th from 12-2 PM. Please see Pastor Mike or Laura for more details.

FISHBONE DINNER-

Meridian Presbyterian Church

www.meridianpres.org

724-482-2630



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“At the Right Time”
Rev. Dr. Stephen Franklin