

“Joyous Carols of Christmas” arr. Joseph M. Martin

Ding dong! Merrily on high in Heaven the bells are ringing. Ding dong! Verily the sky is riven with angels singing. Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! While shepherds watched their flocks by night all seated on the ground, an angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around! And glory shone around! Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies. With the angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!” King of kings! Lord of lords! Prince of Peace! The Everlasting God! Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing! Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ! While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy! He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love! Joy to the world, for Christ the Lord is born! Let there be Light! Let there be Light! And there was Light!

First Presbyterian Church ~ Pastor John Erthein

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Visit our Facebook pages:

First Presbyterian Church Bainbridge, GA and First Presbyterian Youth Group Bainbridge, GA

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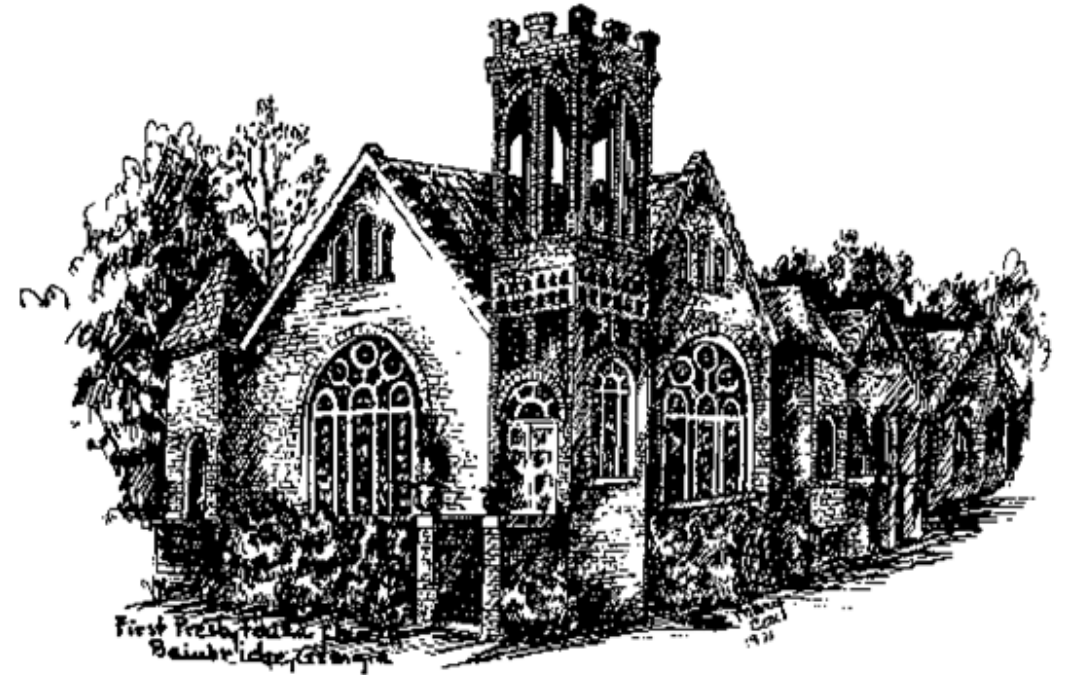
Elder Emeriti

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Our Corporation Officers:

CEO, Bill Allen ~ CFO, Virginia Smith ~ Secretary of Corporation, Bud Holleman



**First Presbyterian Church
Bainbridge, Georgia
Service 10:30 A.M.
December 18, 2022**

This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ’s people, and this is Christ’s place with its doors open wide. If you are passing through, Godspeed; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

Elder on Call ~ Nancy Griffin (229) 206-0056 ~ December 19-25, 2022

Liturgist ~ Tom Conger

Striking of the Hour

Greetings and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

David and Rhonda Kendrick

Prelude

"Back to Bethlehem"

arr. Marilyn Ham

Litany for "The Holly and the Ivy"

Tom Conger

L: A voice is calling in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

P: Let us prepare the house of the Lord for her King.

L: A Branch will spring up from the root of Jesse. He is the Lord, the one true vine, and His Father, the gardener.

P: Let us bring evergreen branches to recall His gift of everlasting life.

L: Let us bring holly to remember His sacrifice. Its thorns and sharp leaves recall the crown of the cross, and its red berries, His blood offered for us.

P: Let us bring wreathes, whose circles recall His endless love, without beginning or end.

L: Let us bring candles for He comes to dispel the darkness.

P: The time of singing is near. When the winter is past, the flowers in the field will blossom and fill the air with their fragrance. The trees will bear fruit and the whole earth will rejoice.

L: We have prepared the way, O Lord. We have prepared your house with the creation of your hands.

All: Now, prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son and His glory.

Choral Introit

"The Holly and the Ivy"

arr. John Purifoy

Prayer of Invocation

Tom Conger

* Hymn of Praise # 272

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

* Prayer of Confession *(Unison)*

Tom Conger

Holy God, who has set us apart from the world to bear the light of Christ in it, we confess that we have failed to live obedient lives. We frequently turn from you, fail to call out to you, and fear to ask for or receive the wondrous signs of your presence and the righteous blessings that you so freely give. Forgive us, O LORD, and let not the darkness overwhelm us. But shine upon, within, and among us! Let your saving light be seen in the midst of your people, for the sake of the nations, and for the glory of your name. **Amen.**

* Silent Prayer of Confession

* Assurance of Pardon

Pastor John Erthein

The gift of God is far greater than we can imagine. The Christ child born for us is "God with us." He himself puts an end to sin and inaugurates an entirely new creation. For in Christ we learn to refuse the evil and choose the good. Trust in the LORD, therefore, through whose grace we are forgiven, in whom we are chosen, and by whom we are sent to teach faith to the nations. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

* Gloria Patri # 813

"Glory Be to the Father"

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Pastor John Erthein

Mission Moment

Thad Pettyjohn

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"Joy to the World!"

arr. Melody Bober

Doxology # 815

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Dedication

Tom Conger

Choral Anthem

"Joyous Carols of Christmas"

arr. Joseph M. Martin

Prayer of Illumination

Pastor John Erthein

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

(Pew Bible Page 606 OT)

Matthew 1:18-25

(Pew Bible Page 7 NT)

Minister: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"This Does Not Look Good"

Pastor John Erthein

* The Apostles Creed ~ Traditional *(Unison)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* Hymn of Dismissal # 273

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

Pastoral Benediction

Postlude

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

Longfellow and Marks

**Those who are able, please stand*

NURSERY AVAILABLE – IF ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED, PLEASE ASK ONE OF THE USHERS