

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 28, 2025



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“Helping Others See Jesus’ Grace In Me”

Order of Worship

First Sunday After Christmas

**Congregation Stands/Rise in spirit*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*INTROIT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage."

People: On this first Sunday of Christmas, we, too, have come to worship Jesus the Messiah: the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Leader: When the wise men saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt down, paid him homage, and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

People: On this first Sunday of Christmas, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you, O God.

Leader: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

All: Glory to God in the highest heaven!

***OPENING HYMN #121 (GG)..... "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION (Unison)

We will indeed praise you, O God, and cause your works to be known. Your mercy and grace shall endure forever. As we obey your commandments and abide by your wisdom, we shall proclaim to the nations how you can be trusted. Upheld by the covenant you established, our feet firmly placed on an unshakable foundation, we enter your presence to give you all glory. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSON

Hear these words of the Apostle Peter, "Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord ..." With humble and trusting hearts, let us confess our sin before God and one another. Let us confess together our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSON (Unison)

God of Christmas, we would never have thought to find your Savior in an innocent baby. We confess we would have expected a warrior with a great army. We would not have thought to find your kingdom to be one of service, obedience and humility. We confess we would have expected, maybe even wanted, a kingdom that reflected our own values and self-interests. Lord, forgive us when we quickly leave Christmas behind and neglect to live lives worthy of our calling as followers of our Lord, the Prince of Peace. By your Holy Spirit, help us turn to you and live according to the values of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The angel said to Joseph, "She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Indeed, he did and still does. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

*GLORIA PATRI

SELECTION #123 (GG)....."It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION..... Rev. Dr. Julia Robinson Moore

SCRIPTURE READINGS..... Rev. Dr. Julia Robinson Moore

Old Testament: Job 5:19 - 26

New Testament: Ephesians 6:10 - 18

SERMON..... Rev. Dr. Julia Robinson Moore
“**THE POWER OF PRAYER**”

INVITATIONAL HYMN #114 (GG)..... “**Away In A Manger**”

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from The Confession of 1967) (unison)

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor and won the victory over sin and death for all.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

The letter to the Hebrews calls us to a life of gratitude and generosity with these words: “Through Jesus let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Let us present our tithes and offerings with glad and generous hearts. Amen

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SELECTION #145 (GG)..... “**What Child is This?**”

***DOXOLOGY**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious and loving God, in this season of giving and receiving gifts, we thank you for your indescribable gift of your only Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. With gratitude and joy, we bring our tithes and offerings today. With your blessing, may they be multiplied and used to share the good news and love of Jesus Christ. Thank you, God, for your many blessings and your claim on our lives to share them with others. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #136 (GG)**..... “**Go Tell It on the Mountain**”

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

RESPONSE..... “**Three-Fold Amen**”

POSTLUDE

Participating in Worship - December 28, 2025

Liturgist: Renea Stitt

Offering Collection: Valerie Tutt & Ronald Thomas

Counters: Helen Hairston & Gail Walker

Ushering: Robert Ryans, Jr., Gaynelle Grier & Joan Antrum



Prayer List

Barbara Cannon ♦ Carlye Blakeney Bennett ♦ Abby Flanders
Shepard Foley ♦ Yvonne Thomas

AT HOME/SICK AND SHUT-INS

Dr. Sandra Govan - 6508 Wickville Dr., Charlotte, NC 28215

Ms. Constance Sims - 5925 Sierra Dr., Charlotte, NC 28216

Mrs. Margaret Freeman - 14333 Whistling Teal Dr., Charlotte, NC 28262

Mr. O'Neil Junious, Sr. - 5322 Grenelife Village Rd., Charlotte, NC 28269

Skilled Nursing, Hospitals & Senior Living

Dr. Mildred Y. Mosley - Waltonwood at Cotswold - 5215 Randolph Rd., Apt. 2018, Char,

Help for Our Neighbors

The Deacon Board is seeking donations of new or slightly used Blankets or Comforters for our overnight neighbors. The cots are twin size; however, we will make any size work. Washcloths and bath towels are also needed. Please see any member of the Deacon Board if you are able to donate.