



Hope

Peace

Joy

Love

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Jackson, Tennessee**

December 22, 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30 AM

THE CHURCH GATHERS

OPENING WORDS: *(Responsive)*

Elder Julia Kipp

We waited.

And imagined a Savior.

We imagined power.

One like the world but stronger and on our side.

We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.

We imagined the work done for us

through the destruction of our enemies.

We received a baby who will teach us our calling

to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.

Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

Praise to the wisdom of love. Amen!

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE

Trumpet Tune on ADESTE FIDELES

Lasky

CALL TO WORSHIP/

Allison and Drew Moore, Ayden Johnson

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

RESPONSE *(all singing, refrain only Hymn: 88)*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

TO PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

****PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 133** *(Please stand at the introduction to the hymns)*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Elder Julia Kipp

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Elder Julia Kipp

Great God, once again we behold the gift of the Christ child, yet we are also mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story of this day points us to Your glory, yet we struggle daily to join in the angels' song. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter little, that we have overlooked the good news of great joy.

Tell us again that the Savior is born.

Tell us again that we are forgiven.

Tell us again that life can be abundant in faith and hope and love,

not because of who we are, but because of what You have given us in Jesus Christ.

In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Elder Julia Kipp

One: Through God's love, we are restored and saved, for God entered our world in Jesus Christ, "not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."
"Those who believe in him are not condemned." (John 3:17-18)

ALL: *Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen!*

#*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: (Hymn: 82, stanzas 1 & 2)

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

TO GIVE THANKS, PETITION AND INTERCESSION

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

Onward to Bethlehem
Chancel Choir

Beebe

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Rev. John White

(After the Time with Children, our young friends ages 4-2ND grade are invited to the Children's Church in the Education Building. An adult will escort the children. After church the children will be escorted to their appropriate Sunday School rooms. Grades 3-5 are invited to remain in the Sanctuary for worship.)

*HYMN: 137

He Came Down

HE CAME DOWN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 35 in front of hymnal)

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Julia Kipp

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10-16 (page 636)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 1:18-25 (page 1)

One: This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

"The Man in the Background"

Rev. John H. White

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

from A Declaration of Faith

*God sent the promised Deliverer to his people.
Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child,
descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of Mary, a virgin.
We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child,
yet born of God's power as was no other child.*

*In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life
are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated.
The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule.
Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship between God and humanity
that God always intended.*

*(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center isle on each pew,
sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)*

OFFERING

ORGAN

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

arr. Bock

OFFERTORY

Dr. Terry McRoberts, organist

*Doxology (Tune: 607)

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Dedicatory Prayer

Elder Julia Kipp

TO GO OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: 145**

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION:**

Come, Lord Jesus, Come
Chancel Choir

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***ORGAN POSTLUDE**

Prelude on BRING A TORCH

Uehlein

ACOLYTES: *Ridley Alexander / Jaxon Reynolds*