



FIRST WORSHIP – RELEVANT FAITH FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

695 Calvin St, Fayetteville, AR ● 479-442-4411 ● www.fupcfay.org

December 15, 2024

9:00 a.m

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Christ is made the sure foundation.

Jesus Christ is the head and cornerstone, chosen by God and precious in God's sight.

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church.

Binding all the Church into one.

We come before Jesus Christ, the cornerstone of our hope, standing beside us as we face each question, walking with us as we venture forth, entering every hard or joyful moment.

Let us be like living stones built into a spiritual house to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Let us worship the living and loving God!

MUSIC:

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Words: Medieval Latin, translated by John M. Neale; Music: German Folk Melody

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: Today is the third Sunday in the season of Advent.

People: We are moving closer to the anticipated arrival of the Christ Child.

Leader: We light the third candle on the Advent wreath in praise of Jesus our Savior, the Rock and Cornerstone of our salvation. Through faith in Jesus, we are members of the household of God, "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone."

People: By faith, our lives are built on the solid foundation of Jesus and His Word.

Leader: Built on that foundation, "you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

People: Each day, we offer to God the sacrifices of prayer, praise and a life lived by faith.

Leader: Let us pray,

Unison: Lord Jesus, Holy Child of Bethlehem, You are our rock and our foundation. Help us in the power of the Holy Spirit to build our lives on You and on Your Word. When the storms and temptations of this life threaten to overwhelm us, help us to remain firm in faith, knowing that You, our Cornerstone, cannot be moved. Hear our prayer and accept our praise, Amen.

MUSIC

Light a Candle Bright and Tall

Words by David Wood; Music by Conrad Kocher

**Light a candle bright and tall, for the Joy this season brings.
Joy like fountains brimming full, through our world now let it ring.
Shine within our hearts today; come, O Joy to us we pray.**

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Words by Edward Mote; Music by William B. Bradbury

**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, You have made us to be co-creators with You in this world. You have entrusted us with the responsibility not only for making decisions which form the foundations of our own lives, but for the building of Your realm in this world. We confess we have not always been wise builders. Too often we have heeded only the voice of our own want and will, setting about to build upon the blueprint for life of our own making, rather than that which You have shown to us in the life and teachings of Jesus. We confess that our souls are tarnished and wounded by wrongful choices and willful sins. We confess how often we try to build our lives on the weak and crumbling foundations of earthly values and possessions. Have mercy upon us and forgive us. Strengthen us to live as Your holy people built on Jesus our cornerstone...
(*silent confession*)... Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE Matthew 5:1-2, 7:21-29

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
7 ²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you who behave lawlessly.' ²⁴ "Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!" ²⁸ Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, ²⁹ for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MESSAGE *Solid Foundations* – Rev. Stewart Smith

SONG

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Words and Music: German Carol

**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SONG

This is a Birthday Offering Sunday, the offering baskets will be placed at the back of the sanctuary as you exit if you would like to contribute.

Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child
African-American Spiritual

**Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so lowly, meek and mild:
New life, new hope, new joy he brings.
Listen to the angels sing: "Glory, glory, glory to the new-born king!"**

PARTICIPANTS

Interim Senior Pastor

Rev. Stewart Smith

Minister of Music/Commissioned Ruling Elder

Isaac Thomas

Director of Christian Education

Kristi Button

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Amanda McDonald

Membership Coordinator

Amy McCann

Childcare Coordinator

Lee Pendley

Choral Interns

Cole Jackson

Jeffrey Kerst

Isabelle Pennick

Verna Labitad

Will Trotter-Wright

First Worship Band

Rob Button, guitar/vocals

Jeffrey Kerst, acoustic guitar

Isabelle Pennick, percussion

Don Steinkraus, bass guitar

Will Sulliban, percussion

Isaac Thomas, piano/keyboard

Audio/Visual Team

Christopher Verdery, coordinator

Connor Button, audio

Drew Parker, video

Greg Merrell, video