



December 31, 2023

11:00 am

First Presbyterian Church

Kannapolis, North Carolina

Our mission is to know Christ, serve Him, and make Him known.

~ **Gathering Before the Word** ~

Welcome

Prelude and Preparation for Worship *The Prayer* Salem
Jaazaniah Salehm, tenor

Lighting of the Candles Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

***Call to Worship**

Leader: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid.

All: I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.”

***Carol of Praise No. 93** *Go Tell it on the Mountain* GO TELL IT

Prayer of Adoration*Prayer of Confession**

God of grace, You have given us Jesus, the Light of the World, but we confess that we sometimes choose darkness and cling to things that hide the brightness of Your love. We seek the assurance of Your forgiveness, Father, and ask that You would fill us with Your Spirit that we might walk in the light of Jesus and tell of Your glory shining in the face of Jesus, our Lord and our Light forever.

Silent Prayers of Confession**Assurance of the Gospel**

Ephesians 2:8-10

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Song of Prayer

Open the Eyes of My Heart
Jaazaniah Salehm, tenor

Smith

Apostle's Creed

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, died, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose 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 living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

***Carol** *We Three Kings* Kings of Orient
(see insert)

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Word for our Children Alpha Barger

Offering and Special Music *Trading My Sorrows* Evans
Jaazaniah Salehm, tenor

***Scripture Reading** Matthew 2:1-12 Page 956

Sermon "Story of the Magi" Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

Sending Song *Never Going Back* McDowell
Jaazaniah Salehm, tenor

***Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude *Love Came Down at Christmas* Irish Carol

*All who are able, please stand
CCLI# 222113

A special welcome to our guest soloist this morning, Jaazaniah Salehm. He is a composer, vocalist, and visual artist who is devoted to spreading the hope of salvation through Jesus Christ. As a classically trained pianist, he enjoys sprinkling classical elements into his compositions. Jaazaniah is currently majoring in Worship Music and Production at Catawba College.



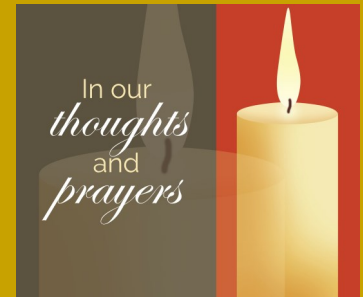
The 2024 Bible Reading Plan is now available. Pick up a Bible Reading Plan bookmark in the Narthex.

Prayer Concerns

Help us keep Prayer Concerns current with weekly updates. Email the church or note on a prayer card and place in the offering plate.

CHURCH FAMILY

- Bill Jolley- health concerns
- Greg Arcos- mother died
- Phil Smith- recovery from surgery on ankle
- Linda Hathaway- death of sister-in-law
- John Robertson- health concerns
- Barbara Boucher- health concerns
- Hank Cranford- health concerns



FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Martha Stricker (Bill Stricker's mother)- perforated intestine
- Robert Little (Richard's brother) new treatment for cancer
- Everett Halsell (Sue Maiocchi's dad) beginning treatment for cancer
- Justin Wallace (Melba Funderburk's grandson)- rare disease

HOMEBOUND

- Randy Childers - Big Elm
- Bob and Shirley Faust - Morningside
- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Iris Efird - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Sue Maiocchi

Children's Message: Alpha Barger

Children's Message next week: Jane Argabrite

Children's Church: Dave & Jane Argabrite

Children's Church next week: Chris & Chariti Lowder

Acolytes: Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

Acolytes next week: Scarlett Porter & Camryn Lowder

Nursery: Jane Argabrite & Vickie Ellington

Nursery next week: Chariti Lowder & Jenny Sparks

Ushers: Todd Pless, Tony Rary, Phil Smith, Pam Hooks

Ushers next week: Jeff Barnhardt, Mark

FINANCIALS

FOR NOVEMBER

YTD Income \$282,449.88

YTD Expenses \$272,957.28

YTD Budget \$267,212.00

Last week's attendance: 12/24/23

Worship AM- 133

Worship Christmas Eve - 199

No Sunday School 12/24/23