



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DUNCANVILLE



What do you fear?

IN THE TIME OF HEROD, WE
LONG FOR GOD TO BREAK IN



Advent begins

November 30th, 2025

10:30 AM

543 E Freeman Street, Duncanville

Order of Worship

INTROIT

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE Joseph and Brittany Haywood

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On Sundays and Mondays,

All: on good days and bad days,

One: early in the morning and very late at night,

All: here in this room, and out in the world,

God, we long for you to break in.

One: Meet us in this space.

All: Surprise us with your presence.

One: Fill this room with your good news.

All: With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

ADVENT HYMNS

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, 123W
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus, 124W

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-present God,
we long to feel you close.

We long to feel your presence in our lives.

We long for you to break through the chaos and
suffering of this world.

However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long
enough to feel you in our midst.

Forgive our rushing and distractions.

Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this
space.

Remind us that even in the time of Herod,
even on the longest nights, you are always there.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SONG OF PRAISE
LIGHT OF THE WORLD

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM
Magnificat

SCRIPTURE

Lamentations 3:55-57

I have called on your name, O Lord, from the deepest pit.
You heard my plea:
“Do not close your ears to my cry for relief!”
You came near on the day I called to you;
you said, “Do not fear!”

Luke 1:5-13

During the reign of Herod king of Judea, there lived a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah, and he had a wife named Elizabeth, who was a descendant of Aaron. They were both righteous in the sight of God, following all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they did not have a child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both very old.

Now while Zechariah was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the Holy Place of the Lord and burn incense. Now the whole crowd of people were praying outside at the hour of the incense offering. An angel of the Lord, standing on the right side of the altar of incense,

appeared to him. And Zechariah, visibly shaken when he saw the angel, was seized with fear. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son; you will name him John.

SERMON

“In the Time of Herod, We Long for God to Break In”

-Rev. Rachael McConnell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER

Jacques Berthier



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
Alt. text: The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:
when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song, the
Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.
Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

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HYMN

O Come Let Us Adore Him 82W

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION



Depths

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Inspired by Lamentations 3:55-57

16"x20" Acrylic, oil pastel, metal leaf on canvas

I am reminded of my love-hate relationship with theme park rides as soon as the ride quiets into a slow, steady climb—creeping toward an edge that seems to vanish. It's at this point that full panic sets in and it hits me: a drop is coming. It's not the speed or height of roller coasters that scares me. It's the weight—being pulled down by something far heavier than myself, strapped to metal with gravity dragging me into the depths while my stomach scrambles to catch up, my heart left behind in midair. Many of us, like the writer of Lamentations, know this kind of free fall—in our personal lives, in our ministries, and in a political climate that seems to collapse our sense of security into a bottomless pit. Yet, when the fall ends, when the deepest depths have been reached, who hears us when we call? As we echo prayers from the depths of each of our lives, we can rest in the assurance that we are heard by a God who meets us at rock bottom. —carmelle beaugelin caldwell

Zechariah and the Angel (Artwork on cover)

by Hannah Garrity Inspired by Luke 1:5-13

32"x20" Paper lace & graphite drawing, backed with cyanotype print

Announcements

- **Advent Bible Study Starts this Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:00pm, led by Jeff Thorpe. Dinner begins at 6:00pm.**



Presented by

**The First Presbyterian Church Duncanville | Everman High School
& Life High School Waxahachie**

Friday, December 5, 2025 - First Presbyterian Church in Duncanville - 6:30 PM

Sermons are available online at www.fpcd.org/sermons.
The "W" stands for Hymnal for Worship & Celebration.
Contemporary songs are printed with permission CCLI #882193.

Welcome Guests and Visitors!

We want to get to know you! If it's your first time here, please fill out a visitor card from the seat back in front of you and place it in an offering plate, located throughout the sanctuary.

Sunday School and Children

Sunday school for adults and children meets at 9:15 AM in the Education Building. During the service, nursery is provided for ages 0-4 in the Education Building. Children are welcome to stay with you during the service, and are invited to come forward during the Children's Moment. If your child needs something to keep them busy, kids' activity boxes are available in the entry hall!



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Connecting with God and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the community