

# <sup>1st</sup> Church of Canton

**First Church of Canton  
3301 South Liberty Street  
Canton, Mississippi 39046**



Founded 1836

**December 3, 2023  
First Sunday of Advent**

# THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

***Our mission is to  
Reach people for Jesus Christ  
Teach people to be daily Disciples of Jesus Christ  
Heal and Nurture people in the name of Jesus Christ***

**“Yet In Thy Dark Streets Shineth”**

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PROCESSIONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR PRAYER & PREPARATION AT THE ALTAR

HYMN

“Come, Thou Almighty King”  
(Verse 1 – 3)

No. 8

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.  
His coming rends the dark of night where shines the everlasting Light.  
God send the Light divine in our dark streets to shine!

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon.

**God’s Spirit came to him and told him that he would not die until he had seen Christ the Lord.**

When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and praised God.

**“Now, Lord, you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace.”**

The aged prophet Anna was also there in the temple; day and night she worshipped God, fasting and praying.

**She praised God, and spoke about the child Jesus to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us from the threatening dangers of our sin, and save us by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **\*GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

### **PRAYERS AND CONCERNS**

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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 for our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **First Lighting of the Advent Candle**

We light this first candle as a sign of Christ our Hope. The season of Advent calls us to a journey. We stand at a juncture here

**where we may look back to the past and what the Lord has done for his people there to make this present possible.**

We look also to the future, to the time of fulfillment, when the Lord will come again. Advent is a time of increasing light.

**Watch it begin to glow, even in these dark streets.**

ANTHEM

“Come, Emanuel”

HYMN "Jesus Loves Me" No. 185  
(Children come forward for Children's Time)

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 245  
(Verse 1, 2 & 4)

OFFERTORY "Ave, Ave, The Angel Sang" Arr. Robert Lau

**\*DOXOLOGY**

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.

WORSHIP CHORUS "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 250  
(Verse 1)

SERMON "Hope Introduced" Bro. David Lowery  
Luke 1:5 – 17

HYMN "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations" No. 446  
(Verse 1, 3 & 4)

**\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

**\*RECESSIONAL OF OUR PASTOR**

**\*POSTLUDE** "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" Arr. Mansfield

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\*Please stand as you are able.

***Welcome to FCC in the name of Jesus Christ.***

You are very important to us at FCC.

We hope you experience the presence of Christ in worship here, and enjoy a genuine sense of Christian hospitality in the fellowship. Please speak to Bro. David if you wish to become a member of FCC.

## **BULLETIN NOTICE**

Today we begin our Advent worship series, Yet in Thy Dark Streets Shineth. In this service, we welcome you to Jerusalem at the time of Zechariah – a world where God is far off, where repentance is necessary, and where the blood of sacrifice serves as the only point of connection between God's people and their God. Our need for Jesus becomes clear in this place as we await the coming of the Christ Child for the salvation of our souls.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ◆ **Communion Offering** for December – Contingency Fund. Christmas Eve Communion – Good Samaritan Fund March to the Manger.
- ◆ **Second Sunday Harvest** is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month.
- ◆ **White poinsettias at the altar** are provided by Kathy Gardner & family in loving memory of Ted Gardner.
- ◆ **Prayer Quilts Hanging**, please go by and pray over it and tie a knot... There is a quilt hanging for Sawyer Fair and Clay McPherson.
- ◆ **If you ordered pecans, we still have a few left for pickup.**
- ◆ **Advent Service and Lunch.** Advent Service is Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, & 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service.
- ◆ **Mature Years Bingo** is Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.
- ◆ **December 6<sup>th</sup> will be the last night for Children's Activities until we start back in January.**
- ◆ **Ruth Jones Circle** will meet the second Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Communion** is Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.
- ◆ **Office will be closed for Christmas Monday and Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, and for New Year's Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- ◆ **Sara Nichols Circle** will meet the fourth Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.
- ◆ **The Christmas Trees** placed annually in front of our church provide an opportunity for members & friends to place a light in honor or memory of special people in their lives. Forms are located in the back of the church. Please make checks payable to the Sara Nichols Circle.

## **DECEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING Contingency Fund**

## **CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION OFFERING GOOD SAMARITAN FUND MARCH TO THE MANGER**

## SECOND SUNDAY HARVEST FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Grace Episcopal Church partnered with the Mississippi Food Network to provide food to the neediest among us. Grace Food Pantry is open from 10:00am-1:00pm on the third Thursday of each month at Grace. They have a specific need for peanut butter and canned tuna fish. If you would like to provide nonperishable food items to the pantry, please place your donations in the baskets located in the sub-story.

## CONCERNS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### LONG TERM

Ric Andreoli	Bobby Hall	Carl McKenzie	Bethany Hicks Sears
Gary Andrews	Karen Hall	Billie Jean McMullen	Philip Schmitt
Sherry Briggs	Toxey Hall	Chap McMullen	Sarah Schnulo
M.L. Burnside	Patricia Hammack	Clay McPherson	Sieger Lee Sims
Gloria Carter	Wendy Harms	Dorothy Measells	Anne Sory
Hope Coup	Carolyn Harris	Brianna Medina	Evelyn Springer
Jonathan Davis	Mike Harvey	Sue Lowe Owen	Lee Stewart
Jeff Dennis	Hazel Holmes	Alton Parker	Druscilla Thompson
David Fisher	Johnny Irvin	Mae Parker	Sophia Weems
Kathy Gardner	Judy Lambert	Jo Beth Ray	Mary Joe Wicke
Michelle Gardner	Gilda Madison	Carolyn Rice	Jackie Worthy
Mark Gilbert	Mattei Family	Christy Saxton	Geoffrey Yoste
Jessica Leigh Goolsby			

### SHORT TERM

Sherry Briggs	Edward Hayes	Bill Reedy	Janie & Mat Tumminello
Sawyer Fair	Barbara Haynes		

**If you know of someone that needs to be added to our Prayers Concern List, please fill out our Prayers Concern listed under Attendance Registration or If someone needs to be removed from the prayer list, please let us know.**

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 3	8:00AM	Men's Club Breakfast & Christmas Carols
	9:30AM	Sunday School Class
	10:30AM	Morning Worship
Tuesday, December 5	12:00PM	Advent Service & Lunch
Wednesday, December 6	12:00PM	Mature Years Bingo
	5:30PM	CA & Youth Supper
	5:45PM	CA & Youth
	7:00PM	Sanctuary Choir
Sunday, December 10	9:30AM	Sunday School Class
	10:30AM	Morning Worship
Monday, December 11	10:00AM	Ruth Jones Circle
Tuesday, December 12	12:00PM	Advent Service & Lunch
Wednesday, December 13	7:00PM	Sanctuary Choir

## CHURCH STAFF

### Pastor

Choir Director

Organist

Children's Choir Director

Director of Children's Ministries

Secretary

Nursery Director

### Brother David Lowery

Jayne Doolittle

Ann Stubblefield

Angela Teasley

Brooke Chandler

Cynthia Penn

Freida Gilmer

## ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION

### VISITORS

- ☐ **1<sup>st</sup> Time**  
☐ **2<sup>nd</sup> Repeat/Occasional**  
☐ **New Resident Address:**

**Name(s):**

**Address:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Zip:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

### **PRAYERS CONCERN LIST**

We are no longer maintaining attendance records for Members. If you are a visitor or need to add someone to our prayer list,

please fill out and tear off the Attendance Registration to the right and place in the Offering Plate.

Thank you,  
Bro. David

## FIRST CHURCH OF CANTON

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**YouTube:** First Church of Canton • **PayPal:** [office@firstchurchofcanton.org](mailto:office@firstchurchofcanton.org)