



## Service for the Lord's Day

Pastor deNay Kirkpatrick

December 31, 2023

First Sunday of Christmas

*\*Please stand, as you are able*

### Gathering of the People

#### Chiming of the Hour

#### Welcome and Announcements

David Perry

#### Prelude

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

arr. Wade

#### \*Call to Worship

David Perry

One: Every year we celebrate Christmas.  
**Many: Every month we break bread.**  
One: Every week we gather for worship.  
**Many: Every day we count our blessings.**  
One: Every minute God is near.  
**Many: Yes, every minute God is near.**  
One: These are the rituals of our faith.  
**Many: Let us worship Holy God.**

\* Hymn 115

*Away in a Manger*

MUELLER

*(The children will come forward before the hymn starts  
and stand on the chancel steps in front of the table)*

**\*Prayer of Invocation (Unison)**

deNay Kirkpatrick  
from Touch Holiness

**Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create all the possibilities of the future. Because you are a God of love, we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past. Because you are the God of our faith, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise, we come into your presence with gladness and a joyful noise, and we serve and bless you. Amen**

**A Moment with the Children** *Jesus is Dedicated in the Temple*  
*(The children will bring the story to life for us)*

## **Confessing to God**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

**God of rhythms, we confess: our faith would not be what it is without rituals. Unlike you, we depend on bread and water. We have to return to this space again and again to hear old, familiar stories. For if we stopped, we know it would not take long before we lost our way. Forgive us for our fragility and thank you for giving us ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto. With grateful and humble hearts we pray, amen.**

**Silent Reflection**

**Assurance of Pardon**

## **Proclaiming God's Word**

**Prayer of Illumination**

deNay Kirkpatrick

**Gospel**

**Luke 2:21-38**

**21** When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child, and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**22** When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord **23** (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), **24** and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

**25** Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. **26** It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

**27** Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, **28** Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

**29** “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word,  
**30** for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
**31** which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
**32** a light for revelation to the gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

**33** And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. **34** Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed **35** so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

**36** There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, **37** then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. **38** At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Word of God for the People of God

**Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**

\* Hymn 627

*I Love You, Lord*

I LOVE YOU, LORD

## Responding to God’s Grace

\* **Affirmation of Faith** (Unison)

**We believe that faith is a journey marked by rituals and rhythms. We come to worship. We confess our sins. We pass the peace. We offer grace. We hear the Word. We baptize children. We break the bread. And we tell the story of a loving God. And through these sacred rituals, we are reminded: we are not alone. God is near, and we have work to do. May this belief shape the rhythm of our lives. Amen.**

**Invitation to the Table and Prayer of the People**

**One:** This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. We gather here - at this table of grace - to celebrate the goodness of God and the abundance of God's love. In a spirit of unity, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who are here for the first time, you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come as God's beloved, beautiful and blessed.

**Many:** **We come to this table thankful, for the abundance of God's world; thankful that there is more than enough food and grace to go around. We come, thankful that Jesus came to show us the way - the way of steadfast love and compassion, the way of forgiveness and unity. We come, thankful that the Spirit is alive in us and among us.**

- One: We need to be at this table because there are wounds in the Body of Christ that need healing. There are members in this body who are hurting. There are neighbors who suffer.
- Many: Sisters and brothers, sons and daughters who do not have enough to eat or access to clean water. As we gather together in spirit, let us remember the tenacity of God's Love and the creative power of God's Spirit brooding over the face of the earth.**
- One: Merciful God, we give thanks for all of the rich treasures of your creation: for tiny seeds and giant trees, for grain, yeast, salt, and water, for fruit, soil and sunshine, for the things we grow and the mysteries of life, for the wonders and surprises in nature that startle us into gratitude.
- Many: Loving Christ, we give you thanks for all the treasures of relationships: for those who have gone before us in faith and courage, for family memories passed down, for the stories we tell in church that help us to see your goodness, for the Biblical narrative that sets the pattern for each of our lives and our life together.**
- One: Holy Spirit, we give you thanks: for the gift of this table around which we gather; for all who make nourishment and clean water possible; for this community that connects us in ever widening circles; and for the hope and vision of a time and place where everyone will have enough to eat and drink, and we will all sit at table as one body.

### Silent 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 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.**

#### The Communion of Empty Hands

- One: Friends, here we gather for a communion of empty hands. The absence of a common loaf reflects a world of profound food insecurity; the absence of a cup filled to the brim reflects a world where water has become a precious commodity.
- Many: We gather in solidarity with all of God's children in need around the world - those who are hungry and have no food, those who are thirsty and have no access to clean water. We gather as truth-tellers, mindful of the stories that challenge injustice, inequality, racism and poverty. We gather remembering the stories that empower the powerless.**
- One: Here we gather remembering this story: On the night of his betrayal and arrest, Jesus sat at table with his followers and friends and shared a meal. After the meal, Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and invited all to take eat and remember. He took the cup, blessed it and invited all to take, drink and remember.

**Many:** Now as we share in the communion of empty hands, we remember the church – breaking bread as Jesus did, pouring the wine and inviting all to taste and see that the Lord is good. We remember that the gifts of God are for all of the people of God.

**One:** Let us enact this holy meal in a spirit of unity: breaking the bread, and dipping the bread in the cup as Jesus did; sharing the feast as one.

*Communion liturgy adapted by Reverend Elizabeth O'Neil  
from "Visions of a World Hungry", by Thomas Pettepiece*

**\*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

*Donations of non-perishable food items will be distributed through our partnership with T.E.A.M and Three Hots and a Cot. As we receive the offering of special music, please bring your offerings forward and place them in the baskets at the front of the sanctuary.*

**Offertory** *Come and Worship Medley* Smart/Ham

**\*The 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.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

## **Sending of God's People**

**\*Hymn 697** *Take My Life and Let It Be* HENDON  
(verses 1, 2, and 3)

**\*Charge and Blessing**

And all God's children say, "Alleluia! Amen!"

**\*Postlude** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Mendelssohn/Smith

Except where otherwise noted, liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed, play by Rev. Anna Strickland  
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***We welcome Barbara Hazard as our guest organist/pianist this morning!***

## ***Welcome to Cahaba Springs***

*We warmly welcome you* to worship this morning at Cahaba Springs! To learn more about our worship, learning, fellowship, and service opportunities, please pick up a copy of our calendar in the entryway or visit us online at [cspchurch.org](http://cspchurch.org). We encourage you to participate in any opportunity that interests you and hope you will return often.

**Children:** We welcome children of all ages in worship. Childcare is also available during worship, staffed by experienced workers. During the 11:00 am service, children are invited forward for a special message during *A Moment with the Children*, then may continue to worship with their family or go to Junior Church. Worship bags for children are available in the Narthex.

**Communion:** All are welcome at the table as we celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month. If you prefer to remain seated during communion, an elder will be glad to bring the elements to you.

**Offering:** Offerings may be placed in the offering plates that will be passed around during the offertory, or you may give securely online through eOffering - an information sheet on eOffering is on the table in the entryway.

**PER IRS REGULATIONS hand delivered 2023 offerings must be received in the church office no later than 12/31/23 in order to receive credit on your contribution statement for 2023. **Mail-in offerings must be postmarked no later than 12/30/2023 regardless of the date on your check.****

## ***December/January Happenings at Cahaba Springs***

***Children, Youth, & College Sunday*** – today where we will celebrate Communion of Empty hands benefitting T.E.A.M. and Three Hots and a Cot.

***First Tuesday Dinner*** – Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM at El Patron in Trussville.

***PHFC January Workday*** – Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting at CSPC parking lot at 8:30 and returning around 3. We will either work at the Thrift Store or take down Christmas decorations.

***Fellowship Lunch*** – Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship. Please bring a side, salad, or dessert; meat will be provided.

***Knit Wits*** – Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM meeting in the Ladies' Room.

***Stated Session Meeting*** – Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship.

***XYZ January Luncheon*** – Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at a local restaurant, more details to follow.

***PW January Luncheon & Study*** – Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> immediately following worship. We will study Chapter 5 of Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts by Olive Mahabir. Please bring sides or dessert; soup will be provided.

***Communion of Empty Hands*** – Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> benefiting T.E.A.M.

***CSPC Book Club*** – Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. This month's discussion will be on *Wish You Were Here* by Jodi Picoult led by Karen O'Brien.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

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*for our church family...*

Agnes Dauphinee	Nellie Songer	Margaret Linville	Wayne Hughins
Melissa Scholl	Jim Gillespie	Joan Lowery	Tom Lowery
Edward Giddens	Serena Jenkins	Jean Camp	Carol Brown
Ed Swartz, Jr.	Cecile Floyd	Chuck Smith	Betty Quattlebaum
Corbett Millar	Rosemary Holcomb	Julie Smith	Randy Little
Steve Goodwin	David Goodwin	Arnold & Laura Reichert	

*for our extended family...*

Lisa Krayner Smith	Jennifer Lee	Grayson Pope	Sonia Burrage
Louis Scholl	Heather Hawkins	Virginia Yarbrough	Leslie Speakman
Joy Martin	Don McCants	Eleanor Garner	Jeff Strickland
Matthias	Candice White	Gene Eades	Bobby Hogleund
Shelley Easterling	Barry Parvin	Aaron Dailey	Cindi Wesley
Mason Ford	Pat & Vicky McCann	Perry Johnson	Laura Stalls
Laura Rainey	C. J. Fonte	David Narkates	Deborah Braswell
Tommy Robbins	Kevin Little	Amy Baughman	Andy Lewis
Nancy Carlisle	Joe Pat Bludsworth	Bennett Fuller	Gene McKean
Philippe Lathrop	Mike & Nancy Hartman		

***If you need someone to drive you to doctor appointments or other necessary places, please call the church office. We have a list of people that will be glad to assist you.***



## ***Classes for 2024***

***Reel to Real*** – Sundays at 9:30 AM in *Harmony Hall* led by Steve Goodwin. This is a discussion class based on movies and how they relate to us biblically.

***Fun With the Lectionary*** - a new Sunday School class for youth and adults beginning on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. We will meet in the small conference room behind Yvonne's office. The class will be led by Pastor deNay and will study the lectionary readings for the week. We will be following the three-year **Revised Common Lectionary** for Sundays and festivals which was produced by the ecumenical Consultation on Common Texts in 1992 and was included in the Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship* (Westminster John Knox Press, 1993/2018). This lectionary provides scripture readings for proclamation in public worship, following the Sundays, festivals, and seasons of the Christian year (or liturgical calendar). The three-year lectionary cycle (Years A, B, and C) focuses on different sections of scripture each year, notably the Gospel of Matthew in Year A, Mark in Year B, and Luke in Year C (the fourth gospel, John, is prominently featured at certain times in each year). We are currently in Year B. For more information, contact Pastor deNay.

***Growing in Grace & Gratitude*** -- Sundays at 9:30 AM. *The children grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the (grace) of God was upon them. – Luke 2:40.* Children nurtured in the love and grace of God learn the story of who and whose they are by watching, listening, tasting, smelling, playing, and exploring holy things in the context of a faith community. We welcome the children as God's beloved who will seek to follow Christ. We are in need of teachers, so if you would like to serve, please see Karen Brown or Linda Inzer.

***Thursdays Together*** – Thursdays at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room led by George Fritsma. We are studying *It Was on Fire When I Lay Down on It* by Robert Fulghum. Quoting a man rescued from a burning bed, the title is a clue to the merriment in some of the essays collected here, inviting readers to laugh as they empathize with those who put themselves in absurd situations. These stories remind us that there is a clownish facet in everyone's character, one of the traits that make us human.

## ***Other Weekly Events***

***Chancel Choir*** – Thursdays at 6:30 PM.

***Chordmakers*** – Fridays at 5:30 PM in Harmony Hall. Please join us for good food, fun, fellowship, and of course music

***Birmingham Youth Group*** – Sundays, meeting at 4:20 PM at CSPC and traveling to various Presbyterian Churches. This is a gathering of youth from several Presbyterian Churches as a way to connect, socialize and learn. Transportation and dinner are provided. Contact Karen Brown for additional information.



CAHABA SPRINGS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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A church where all people  
are welcomed and cared for,  
empowered to grow spiritually,  
and equipped to serve God  
and each other in meaningful ways