

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.*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY In the Bleak Midwinter Jack Brooks

***DOXOLOGY #607**
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
—Sending—

***HYMN #136** Go Tell it on the Mountain

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Angels, from the Realms of Glory Jack Brooks
You may be seated after the light passes you in the aisle.



First Presbyterian Church
Henderson, Texas



*Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences*



Debbi Ricci.....Admin. Assist.
Jack Brooks Guest Organist

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HENDERSON, TX
1st Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 2024

(*) Please rise in body or in spirit
Bold Italic Letters indicate congregational response

— Gathering —

PRELUDE

What Child is This

Jack Brooks

WELCOME

Liturgist: Liz Cross

CALL TO WORSHIP

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

Teach us, O Lord, how to lead lives of holiness and godliness while, in accordance with your promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

*HYMN # 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, we confess we neglect to seek your wisdom for our lives.

Instead, we think more highly of ourselves and our own knowledge, choosing to go our own way in this world. Lord, have mercy. We let the cares and concerns of this world crowd out the promise of your Word, that you are with us always. Christ, have mercy.

We confess we face the future with uncertainty and misgivings. Help us put our trust in you so we may live faithful and obedient lives, as we depend on the wisdom of your Holy Spirit and the love of Christ to shape our lives and actions. Lord, have mercy.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

He fulfills the desires of all who fear him: he also hears their cry, and saves them.

Friends, hear and believe the good news. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven!

Alleluia! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI #581

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.

—Word—

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:12-17

Bible p. 190, LG p. 246

The word of God.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 84: 1-12

Bible p. 513-514, LG p. 667-668

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

First Things First

Rev. David Reeder

—Response—

*HYMN #147

The First Nowell

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from a Declaration of Faith)

The Word which was with God from the beginning was embodied in Jesus Christ.

We hold that what God says to us and does for us centers in Jesus Christ our living Lord as he is remembered, known, and expected.

In Christ God's Word of acceptance takes flesh:

by grace through faith we are set right with God, adopted as children of God, not because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has done.

In Christ God's Word of demand is lived out:

to love God and neighbor as he did is what God requires of us.

The Spirit adds no different Word from God,

but leads us deeper into the truth of God uttered in Jesus Christ.