

**THE WORSHIP OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
AT SWIFT CHURCH**

First Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE
HOPE Jim and Linda Runtz

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Chuck Carneal

Leader: O that God would tear open the heavens and
come down! Of that day or hour, no one knows,
only God.

People: Be alert! Keep awake! The time is drawing near:
Leader: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ,
the Son of God.

***HYMN** Chimes “What Child Is This?” #137

Vs. 1 – What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain: This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Vs. 2 – Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Refrain

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silent Prayer “Bless the Lord”

**God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you
can seem far away. You are hidden when we need
you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to
draw closer to you; instead, we lash out — against you,
our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray,
and come to save us! Let your face shine until our
tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope
is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your
hands, we can be made new. In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: ... in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

***RESPONSE** “Gloria Patri” #623

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

SPECIAL MUSIC Choir “Star of Bethlehem”
Song written by the Rev. Jerry Blacklaw

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Genesis 35:16–18

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:8–20

**Please stand as you are able*

RESPONSE

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Bethlehem”

The Rev. Dr. Jerry Blacklaw

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #141

Vs. 1 – O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see
thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Vs. 4 – O holy child of Bethlehem! descend to us,
we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** “The Apostles’ 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, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead; he
ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall
come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the
Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion
of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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.

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory "Emanuel, Emanuel"

***RESPONSE** "Doxology" #625
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; praise Him above ye heavenly hosts; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

BELL CHOIR "In Remembrance of Me"

THE LORD'S SUPPER "One Bread, One Body"

SENDING

***HYMN** Chimes "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" #133
Vs. 1 – Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Chorus: Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Vs. 2 – Christ, by highest heav'n adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb:

Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Chorus

Vs. 3 – Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Chorus

TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

***CHARGE**
Leader: Good people of Swift Church, who are you?
People: **Striving to bring God joy, we proclaim
Christ's love and grace through serving
and nurturing body, mind, and soul.**

*BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE** "He Came Down"

The flowers today are placed in loving memory
of Tatum Farmer by John and Linda Gilmore

Please join us for our "Christmas
Cookie Social" immediately
following worship!



Welcome to Swift Church

December 3, 2023

Striving to bring God joy!



We proclaim Christ's love and
grace through serving and nurturing
body, mind, and soul.

Swift Presbyterian Church
23208 Swift Church Road
Foley, AL 36535

swiftpc@gulftel.com (251) 943-8367 www.swiftchurch.org