



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT,
DECEMBER 21ST, 2025 | 8:30AM & 11:00AM
✠please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

*Variations on
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

JANET LINKER

WELCOME & MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**Please sign the attendance pads located on the end of each row.*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

CALL TO WORSHIP

PSALM 139

O Lord, you have searched us and known us.

You know when we sit down and when we rise up; you discern our thoughts from far away.

Where can we go from your Spirit? Where can we flee from your presence?

If we ascend to heaven, you are there; if we make our bed in the depths, you are there.

If we take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

Even there your hand shall lead us, and your right hand shall hold us fast.

Come, let us worship the God who is with us.

✠ HYMN

Angels We Have Heard On High

UMH 238

✠ APOSTLES' CREED

UMH 881

✠ GLORIA PATRI

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

8:30 JIM, WENDY, HACKETT, ADELAIDE, AND HARBOUR ROBERTSON

11:00 COURTNEY, JAKE, MILLER, HAYES, AND TATUM EPPERSON

We light these candles as a symbol of the love that comes to dwell among us. For you so loved the world that you came to be with us, to heal, forgive, and redeem. We give thanks for your love made flesh and dwelling in our hearts.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

EMBRACE ALABAMA KIDS VIDEO

OFFERTORY

He Is Born Now, the Prince of Peace

PURIFOY

✠ DOXOLOGY

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (11:00)

Children 5 years old through 6th grade can meet at the side door for Children's Church. They are to be picked up immediately following the service in the Pier Room upstairs in the Education Building. Nursery is available for children 4 years and younger in the Education Building.

HYMN

Come, Thou Long- Expected Jesus

UMH 196

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As your Holy Spirit spoke to Mary, speak to us now through your Word, that by hearing we too may receive faith and be strengthened to do your will. **Amen.**

✠ SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38

SERMON

*When You're Here, There, and
Everywhere*

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God of all places and times, you draw near to us in ways we often overlook. We confess that we rush through our days, missing your presence in ordinary moments. We grow anxious trying to be everywhere at once, forgetting that you are already here. Forgive us for striving instead of trusting, for fearing what might be instead of resting in what is. Teach us to dwell in your peace and to welcome your Word made flesh among us.

Hear the good news: The God who came to Mary comes to us still speaking peace, offering grace, and dwelling within us. In Christ, we are forgiven and made whole.

Thanks be to God!

✠ PASSING OF THE PEACE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 13

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ~ THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

✠ HYMN

Angels From the Realms of Glory

UMH 220

✠ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Variations on
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

JANET LINKER

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

COMMUNION SERVERS:

8:30
Meri Catherine and Jason Brasfield,
Mary Corbitt, Norma Walden
11:00
Carol Willis

GREETER:

(8:30) Emily Garner
(11:00) Carol Willis

PREACHER:

Dr. Kristen Curtis Wright

LITURGIST

(8:30) Gene Lammers
(11:00) Dr. Ann Pearson

STEPHEN MINISTERS:

(8:30) Dr. Ann Pearson
(11:00) Ann Claunch

USHER:

Head Usher, Mark Woodrow

MUSIC

Chancel Choir
Director, Tom Hood
Accompanist, John Richardson

MEDIA:

Colin Richardson
Toby Monckton

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:30am Traditional Worship

9:45am Sunday Schools

11:00am Traditional Worship

11:00am A Gathering Christmas

2:00pm Discovery Drama Team

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

3:00pm Grief Support Group

6:30pm Survivors of Suicide

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24-

Christmas Eve

3:00pm Traditional Service

3:30pm Gathering Service

5:00pm Traditional Service

5:30pm Gathering Service

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25-

Christmas Day-Office Closed

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26-Office

Closed

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:30am Traditional Worship

9:45am Sunday Schools

11:00am Combined Traditional
Worship

*No Children's Sunday School
or Children's Church on 12/28

SAVE THE DATE

Rita Sweatt Speaks | January 7th

Rita Sweatt brings the Book of Ruth to life in a moving dramatic monologue. This timeless story highlights Ruth's perseverance and God's enduring faithfulness. The event will be held at 5:45 pm in the CLC Fellowship Hall. Register today using bulletin QR Code or church website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Collection | Deadline December 24th

Hope Community and Page & Palette Bookstore are collecting Bibles to distribute throughout the year. To donate a Bible (soft-cover only, please), simply leave it in the golden-colored donation boxes in CLC or Office lobbies. For more info: Jolene Schmitt, mjds1214@gmail.com

Elementary Retreat at Blue Lake | Register by Jan. 5

3rd-6th graders are invited to a weekend at Blue Lake, *January 30-February 1!* Register using the bulletin QR code. For more info: Jenna Hood, jenna.hood@fairhopeumc.org

Discovery Weekend | January 23rd -25th

Discovery Weekend is a spiritual retreat that helps middle schoolers experience God's love in a fun and meaningful way. This church-wide event relies on many hands. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Miles(students@fairhopeumc.org)!

Embrace Alabama Kids | Special December Offertory

Our December communion offering will support **Embrace Alabama Kids**, a ministry of the United Methodist Church providing safe homes, hope, and healing for children and families across our state. If led to give, place your donation on the prayer rail during worship or use the QR code to donate online.

College Scholarship Deadline | January 11th

Please have your application for the 2026 school year submitted by January 11th. For additional information email scholarships@fairhopeumc.org

District Conference | January 11th

FUMC will be hosting the annual gathering of the Southwest District, led by our District Superintendent, Rev. Sheila Bates. This gathering will bring together clergy and laity from across southwestern Alabama for a time of worship, training, and exciting announcements about the shared missions and ministries of the churches in our area.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MEDICAL PERSONNEL | FIRST RESPONDERS | MILITARY PERSONNEL

SYMPATHY:

Michele Antinarella in the loss of her husband; and Jimmie Allen in the loss of her son-in-law, James Antinarella.
Jennifer and Michael Precht in the loss of his grandmother; and Elsa, Evelyn, and Ian Precht in the loss of their great-grandmother, Lou Jennings.

HOSPITALIZED:

Pat Lee, Jolene Schmitt

Monthly Finance Report: Through October, income and expenses remain on track with our 2025 budget. We anticipate ending the year with a small increase in reserves.

End-of-Year Giving

As we approach the close of the year, we invite you to prayerfully consider your end-of-year gifts to support the ministry and mission of Fairhope UMC. Your generosity helps us finish the year strong and continue sharing Christ's love with our church family and community. All gifts received or postmarked by December 31 will be credited to the 2025 giving year.

If you would like more information about church membership, contact one of our pastors or attend **Coffee with the Pastors on January 11th @ 9:45AM in the Christian Life Center Parlor.** Look for directional signs on Sunday morning.

ONE LINK. ALL THE INFO. Want to sign up? Volunteer? Register your kids? RSVP for an event? Scan the QR code to access all of Fairhope UMC's resources in one place! Stay in the loop...**SCAN NOW!**



"LOVE BOLDLY, CASTING THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD"

REV. MICHAEL PRECHT, SENIOR PASTOR
DR. KRISTEN CURTIS WRIGHT, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

REV. SHEILA BATES, SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
BISHOP L. JONATHAN HOLSTON, ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE

155 SOUTH SECTION STREET FAIRHOPE, AL 36532
FAIRHOPEUMC.ORG • 251-928-1148



THE GATHERING

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT *

DECEMBER 21ST, 2025 11:00AM AT FAIRHOPE UMC

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: Rev. Michael Precht

Liturgist: Miles Barnhardt

Communion Servers: Shelly & Rick Fitzhugh, Jennifer Galloway, Meg Galloway, Emily & Doug Garner

Music: Shea White and Praise Band, Youth Ensemble, Alivia Dowden, Jeff Farrow, Blake Nolte, Dena White, Jeremy White

Media and Sound: Cole Jones, Karl Langley, Jamie Waldhour

Stephen Minister: Dr. Ann Pearson

Ushers: Rick Fitzhugh, Charles Scarce, Phil Webb

**Advent is the four-week season in the church year when we prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of Christ. It's a time of waiting, hope, and expectation as we remember Jesus' first coming in Bethlehem and look ahead to his promised return. Throughout these weeks, the church marks the journey with candles, Scripture readings, and special songs as reminders of God's light breaking into our world. All of this preparation culminates on Christmas Eve, when we celebrate the birth of Christ anew.*

OPENING SONG

Carol of the Bells

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

PSALM 139

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

MADISON, CHRIS, AND COLLINS KILEY

SINGING OUR PRAISE

Joy Unspeakable Joy

Gloria

He Has Come for Us

Children 5 years old and up can meet at the gym door for Children's Church.

They are to be picked up immediately following the service in the Pier Room upstairs in the Education Building.

EMBRACE ALABAMA KIDS VIDEO

MUSIC OF THE SEASON-

King of Kings

YOUTH ENSEMBLE

In the Bleak Midwinter

JEFF FARROW

Noel

BLAKE NOLTE

O Come All You Unfaithful

ALIVIA DOWDEN

Mary Did You Know

JEREMY WHITE

Breath of Heaven

DENA WHITE

Joseph's Lullaby

SHEA WHITE

CONFESSION AND PARDON

God of all places and times, you draw near to us in ways we often overlook.

We confess that we rush through our days, missing your presence in ordinary moments.

We grow anxious trying to be everywhere at once, forgetting that you are already here.

Forgive us for striving instead of trusting, for fearing what might be instead of resting in what is. Teach us to dwell in your peace and to welcome your Word made flesh among us.

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SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

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FAIRHOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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