

**Erwin Presbyterian Church**

First Sunday after Christmas \* December 31, 2023 \* 11:00 a.m.

105 N. Elm Ave., Erwin, TN 37650 \* 423-743-3431\* erwinpresbyterianchurch.com

**Prelude**  *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Dorthy Wells

Ethan Thomas, organist

**Welcome and Announcements** Rev. Rick Raum

**Introit** *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* Red Hymnbook #177

**\* Call to Worship (Psalm 148)**  Richard Riggs

Leader: Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights above.

**All: Praise him, all his angels;**

**praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

Leader: Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars.

**All: Praise him, you highest heavens**

**and you waters above the skies.**

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for his name alone is exalted;

his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

**\*Hymn**  *Joy to the World* Red Hymnbook, #161

**Call to Confession** Richard Riggs

Leader: Scripture tells us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Scripture also promises us that we are now made right with God by God’s grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Acknowledging this truth about ourselves and with gratitude for the truth about God, let us confess our sins in God’s presence and before one another.

**Prayer of Confession** Richard Riggs

**All: Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory: missed opportunities to share your love; times when we were silent when we could have spoken up for what was right; indifference to your claim on our whole lives through Jesus Christ; and a lack of gratitude for your amazing grace by which you save us and call us to be your people.**

**Lord, forgive us. As we look ahead to a new year, free us from thinking we can save ourselves. Help us to follow where you lead. Show us how to be your children and your heirs, forgiven and freed to live for our God and for one another in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(*Please take a moment of silent confession)*

**Assurance of Pardon** Richard Riggs

Leader: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Believe the good news. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gloria Patri**  Red Hymnbook, #546

**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**.

**\*The Peace** Rev. Rick Raum

Pastor: Jesus said, “My peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.” May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Please take a moment to greet one another and share the peace of Christ.

**First Scripture Reading-** Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Richard Riggs

10 I delight greatly in the Lord;
    my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
    and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
    and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
**11**For as the soil makes the sprout come up
    and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness
    and praise spring up before all nations.

**62**For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,
    for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
    her salvation like a blazing torch.
**2**The nations will see your vindication,
    and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
    that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.
**3**You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord’s hand,
    a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

**Anthem** *The Virgin’s Slumber Song* arr. Max Reger

Gail Hood

**Prayer for Illumination** Rev. Rick Raum

**Second Scripture Reading- Luke 2:22-40** Rev. Rick Raum

**22**When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord**23**(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), **24**and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

**25**Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. **26**It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. **27**Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, **28**Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

**29**“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. **30**For my eyes have seen your salvation, **31**    which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: **32**a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

**33**The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.**34**Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, **35**so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

**36**There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, **37**and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.**38**Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

**39**When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. **40**And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** *He Will Bring Us Goodness and Light*  Rev. Rick Raum

**\*Declaration of Faith (The Apostles’ Creed)** Richard Riggs

Leader: Let’s declare our faith.

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayer of the People**  Rev. Rick Raum

**Ends with *The Lord’s Prayer***

**All: 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.**

**Offering**

***Invitation to the Offering*** Richard Riggs

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. Let us give thanks to the Lord as we continue our worship and bring our tithes and offerings.

(*may the ushers move forward and collect the offering*)

***Offertory Music*** *Who Is He in Yonder Stall?*

***\*Doxology*** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*Red Hymnbook, #544

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**\**Prayer of Dedication*** Richard Riggs

Leader: Gracious and giving God, we give thanks to you for you are good. Your steadfast love endures forever. We thank you for the blessings of the past year and for how you have stood with us and guided us in difficult times. We give thanks that you will stand with us and guide us in the year to come. Bless these offerings that they may be used to your glory and in service to others in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Help us to have grateful hearts and to live as the joyful people of God, through Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all.

**All: Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *Love Has Come* Green Hymnbook, #256

**\*Benediction** Rev. Rick Raum

**\*Benediction Response**  *Emmanuel*

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,**

**His name is Called Emmanuel.**

**God with us, revealed in us,**

**His name is called Emmanuel**

**Postlude** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* arr. Lani Smith

Ethan Thomas, organist

**Notes:**

***\*****Responses with an asterisk indicate standing. Please stand as you are able.*

**Sources for Worship Liturgy:** The liturgy is based on *The Presbyterian Outlook*.

**Welcome Visitors**: Welcome! If you are visiting please fill out one of the green visitor’s cards from the pew and put it in the offering plate. We are glad you are here! Hope to see you again soon!

**Announcements**

**New Members' Class** (Sunday, January 7 and 21 at 12-2 p.m.): Erwin Presbyterian Church will hold a new members' class to discuss the essential elements of our faith and church membership. If you are interested in becoming a member at EP Church, please contact Rev. Marcos.

**Congregational Meeting** (Sunday, January 14):Following service.

**Directory Update ─** Today is the last day to update all directory information for our church members and attendees. Please review the contact list in the narthex and submit any changes.

**Food Collection ─** The food item for January is boxed potatoes.

**Elders of the Month** ─ Betty Stevens and Mary Beth Longcrier.

**New Year’s Day** ─ (Monday, January 1): Our office will be closed.

**Contact Information**

**Pastor**: Rev. Dr. Ramy N. Marcos **Administrative Assistant**: Jackie Andrews

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**Office hours** **Tu-Th, Sun:** 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Tu-Th:** 9 a.m. **-** 2 p.m.