

December 23, 2018



May your heart be lifted in praise and rejoicing this Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives. Have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

*Please join us tomorrow night at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary for our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Communion and candlelight singing of Silent Night. A special Christmas Eve offering will be collected to benefit The Bigger Vision Community Shelter and The Athens Prayer Network.*

*St. James UMC ~ The Rev. Bill Curington, Pastor  
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# The Worship of God

December 23, 2018

PRELUDE *O Come All Ye Faithful-arr. John Behnke*

GATHERING SONG-HYMN NO. 196 (8:30) *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*  
(11:00) *I'll Pray on Christmas*  
St. James Praise Team

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (8:30) J. R. and Harriett Garrett  
(11:00) Jimmy and Rhonda Beeland

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenny Major

GREETING TIME

HYMN NO. 228 *He Is Born, The Holy Child*  
*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

OFFERING PRAYER Jenny Major  
GIVING TO GOD *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen-arr. Joel Raney*  
Bill Emerson and LaMurl Morris, piano duet

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*

READING OF THE WORD Psalm 145:18-21 (NLT)  
Jenny Major

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH -NO. 881 (The Apostles' Creed) (8:30)

HYMN NO. 217 *Away In a Manger*

MORNING PRAYER (8:30) Bryan Shaw  
(11:00) Alex Wiggans

*(11:00) Children may be dismissed to Children's Church in Room 103.*  
*Pre-K (3 years old by Sept. 1, 2018) through 3rd Grade.*

SERMON "Gift Given Keeps Giving"

HYMN NO. 245 *The First Noel*

SENDING FORTH Pastor Bill Curington

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING

*He rules the world with truth and grace,*  
*And makes the nations prove*  
*The glories of his righteousness,*  
*And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,*  
*And wonders, wonders, of his love.*

POSTLUDE *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing-MENDELSSOHN*

