

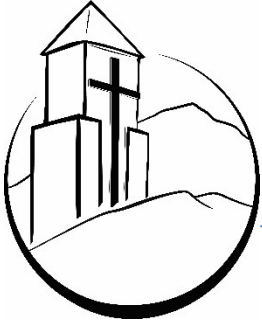
# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*"Called to Grow, Share, Serve"*

131 Big Valley Street  
Boone, North Carolina 28607

828-264-3906

[www.firstpresboone.org](http://www.firstpresboone.org)



Third Sunday of Advent

Lessons and Carols

December 14, 2025

10:30 AM Worship

The Prelude

*Echoes of Christmas*  
Exuberant Bells

arr. Karissa Dennis

Welcome & Announcements

Dr. Jeff Smith

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Greg & Donna Warmuth

## Gathering to Worship God

### Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

**People: We come to listen and receive God's joyous Word among us.**

Leader: We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.

**People: We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.**

Leader: Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

**All: Come! Let us worship God with joy as we sing praises to God together!**

\*\*Hymn of Praise

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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## Confessing Our Sin to God

Prayer of Confession

Dr. Jeff Smith

Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. Forgive us for our lack of preparation to receive him. Grant us wisdom to see your purpose and will in sending your Son and to make room in our hearts for the living Christ who comes in power and glory to establish his kingdom of peace and justice. For we offer our prayer to you in the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

\*Please stand if able

\*\*Please stand and sing if able

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 in us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**\*Passing The Peace**

Dr. Jeff Smith

*(We encourage you to pass the peace of Christ to those seated around you.)***Proclaiming God's Word Through Lessons and Carols****Sharing with our Children**

Erin Fowler

*(Our children are invited to join Mrs. Erin for children's church, room #149 following the message.)***First Lesson****Isaiah 11:1-9**

Dr. Jeff Smith

Isaiah's prophecy of the Messiah

**Carol***A Midnight Clear*  
Exuberant Bells

arr. Sondra Tucker

**Second Lesson****Micah 5:2-4**

Rev. Larke Blanton

The Shepherd of God's flock

**Carol***Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*  
Raine Bausano, Flute & Chancel Choir

Craig Courtney

**Third Lesson****Isaiah 9:6-7**

Dr. Jeff Smith

To us a child is born

**Carol***Noel*  
Praise Team

Lauren Daigle

**Fourth Lesson****Luke 1:26-38**

Rev. Larke Blanton

The angel appears to Mary

**Carol***Breath of Heaven*  
Chloe Carroll, Soprano with Tyler Dellaperute, Piano

Amy Grant

**Fifth Lesson****Matthew 1:18-23**

Dr. Jeff Smith

The angel appears to Joseph

**Carol***Joseph's Song*  
Praise Team

Michael Card

**Sixth Lesson****Luke 2:1-20**

Rev. Larke Blanton

The birth of Jesus

**Carol***Love Came Down at Christmas*  
Exuberant Bells

arr. Jason Krug

Carol

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

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## Responding as Faithful Stewards of God's Good Gifts

Our Tithes and Offerings

Rev. Larke Blanton

Offertory

*Let Earth Receive Her King*  
Tyler Dellaperute,, Piano

Lowell Mason

***We encourage you to give:***

You may place your gift in the offering plates as they are passed down your pew.

Or you may go to the church website ([www.firstpresboone.org](http://www.firstpresboone.org))  
and click on the "Giving" button, to give online.

**\*\*Doxology**

To the tune of *The First Noel*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Kelvin Gryder, Elder

*If you or someone you know needs special prayer today or if you would like to speak personally with someone about making a first-time commitment to Christ Jesus, or growing in the Christian faith and discipleship, a church officer is available to speak with you following the worship service at the communion table in the front of the church.*

## Going to Love and Serve the Lord

**\*\*Going to Serve**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

#119

**\*Being Blessed to Be a Blessing**

Dr. Jeff Smith

**\*\*The Sending**

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (v. 1)

#547

"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

**\*The Postlude**

*Hallelujah (Secret Chord)*  
Chancel Choir & Praise Team

Leonard Cohen