

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Our Father which 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.*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY What Star is This? Mary Tidwell

*DOXOLOGY #607

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

—Sending—

*HYMN #819 Be Still, My Soul

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE In Bethlehem Mary Tidwell
You may be seated after the light passes you in the aisle.



Debbi Ricci.....Administrative Assistant
Mary TidwellGuest Organist



*Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences*



(*) Please rise in body or in spirit
Bold Italic Letters indicate congregational response

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HENDERSON, TX

3rd Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

PRELUDE
WELCOME

—*Gathering*—
Angels and Shepherds

Mary Tidwell
Liturgist: John Hillin

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 35:1-2; Matthew 11:4-5)

What if joy were to break out unrestrained in our world? What would we notice?
The wilderness and dry land would be glad; the desert rejoice and blossom.
The blind would see and the lame would walk. Lepers would be cleansed, and the deaf would hear.
The dead would rise and the poor would receive good news.
May joy break out in our worship today as we anticipate the One who comes into our world!
Come thou long expected Jesus!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE—Mary and Steve Lowe

*HYMN# 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and wonderful God, we confess that we have closed our eyes to what you are doing. We prefer to concentrate on problems, bad news and violence. When we do, we miss all the healing, freeing and helping you accomplish in our world. We pass up opportunities to participate in your Good News. We rob ourselves of so much joy. Forgive us and give us eyes to see, ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to treasure your mission in the world. Fill us with unquenchable joy at the coming of Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...Believe the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI #581
*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.*

—*Word*—

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-10 Bible p. 623, LG p. 811

SECOND READING James 5:7-10 Bible p. 217, LG p. 281
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 11:2-11 Bible p.10-11, LG p. 13-14

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON Are You the One? Jimmy Chapman

—*Response*—

*HYMN # 93 Life Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Declaration of Faith)

What do you believe?

In Christ, God gave us a glimpse of the new creation God has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, the church, or our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God’s good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new.