

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Jack Brooks

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Jack Brooks

Matthew 1:18-25

(*) Please rise in body or in spirit

Bold Italic Letters indicate congregational response

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HENDERSON, TX

December 28, 2025

—Gathering—

PRELUDE

Infant Holy, Infant Holy

Jack Brooks

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Liz Cross

Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

On this first Sunday of Christmas, we, too, have come to worship Jesus the Messiah: the son of David, the son of Abraham.

When the wise men saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt down, paid him homage, and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

On this first Sunday of Christmas, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you, O God.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.
Glory to God in the highest heaven!

HYMN # 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

CONFESSION

God of Christmas, we would never have thought to find your Savior in an innocent baby. We confess we would have expected a warrior with a great army. We would not have thought to find your kingdom to be one of service, obedience and humility. We confess we would have expected, maybe even wanted, a kingdom that reflected our own values and self-interests.
Lord, forgive us when we quickly leave Christmas behind and neglect to live lives worthy of our calling as followers of our Lord, the Prince of Peace. By your Holy Spirit, help us turn to you and live according to the values of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*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 TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

Bible p. 652, Lg p. 848

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

Bible p. 1, LG p. 1

The wisdom of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Christmas Reflections

Rev. Evan Dolive

— Response —

HYMN #143

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Confession of 1967)
In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all.
Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people
and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows.
He expressed the love of God in word and deed
and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women.
But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people.

His life and teaching judged their goodness,
religious aspirations, and national hopes.
Many rejected him and demanded his death.
In giving himself freely for them,
he took upon himself the judgment
under which everyone stands convicted.

God raised him from the dead,
vindicating him as Messiah and Lord.
The victim of sin became victor,
and won the victory over sin and death for all.