

**Greeters** *Darlene Miller, Barbara Riehl*  
**Ushers** *Shelley Miller, Brett Miller, Teresa Brittain, Bedford Chapman*  
**Liturgist** *Carl Snow*  
**Music** *Bob Eubanks, Nancy Wells, George Hill, FCPC Choral Ensemble*  
**Interim Pastor** *Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse*

### *Announcements*

**Christmas Eve services this evening are at 5:30pm and 7:00pm.** The 5:30pm service is designed with children in mind, more family oriented and the 7:00pm service is our traditional Candlelight and Communion Service.

**Don't forget to turn in your pledge!** Please turn your pledges in to the offering plate or scan this QR Code to submit it electronically! We have received 49 pledges of our 155 family units for a total of \$337,080. We need everyone's participation in order to reach our asking budget of approximately \$500,000. Big or small, when we come together we can achieve our goal. Thank you for your faithful support of Fountain City Presbyterian Church, here's to the next 100 years!



**The Church Office will be CLOSED December 25<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup>,** opening back up on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Youth Group will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>.**



***Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2023***

### ***Prelude***

### ***Word of Welcome***

*Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse*

### ***Belize Commissioning***

*Linda and Joe Schnorr*

### ***Lighting of the Advent Candles***

Leader: The LORD is the strength of God's people

**All: And a fortress of protection for God's Anointed One**

Leader: Save your people, God! Bless your possession!

**All: Shepherd them and carry them forever!**

*Don and Denna Grogan*

### ***Congregation***

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel**

### ***Call to Worship***

Leader: The LORD is my strength and my shield,

**People: My heart trusts in God!**

Leader: I was helped, my heart rejoiced!

**People: And I thank God with my song!**

*Carl Snow*

### ***\*Hymn Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (see insert)***

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me your inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

### ***Ritual of Friendship***

*Members and Guests – Please sign and pass the friendship register  
located on the center aisle under the pew in front*

*Carl Snow*

**Call to Confession**

*Carl Snow*

Leader: David said, “Turn to me, O God, and have mercy on me. My heart’s troubles keep getting bigger – forgive all my sins!” Let’s pray together for God’s mercy on our sins.

**Prayer of Confession**

*Carl Snow*

**All: Heavenly Father, are the rooms of our hearts ready for Your visit? Have we swept them by forgiving others? Are they decorated with words of truth and furnished with kind living? Or do they show the clutter of selfishness and the grime of wanting more of what the world offers? Are they lit with hope in You and Your love for us, or dark with fear and worry? Forgive us, Lord, and help us make our hearts a nice home for You not just at Christmas but always, for we ask in Jesus’ Name, AMEN.**

*(Time for Silent Confession)*

**Assurance of Forgiveness and Peace**

*Carl Snow*

Leader: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock! If anyone hears My Voice and opens the door, I will come in and be with them and dine with them, and they with Me.” (Revelation 3:20)

**\*Gloria Patri**

**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.**

**\*Passing the Peace**

*Carl Snow*

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all  
**All: And also with you**

**Special Music**     *“Mary Did You Know”*

*Solo, Michael Gonzalez*

**Prayer of Illumination**

*Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse*

**Scripture Reading**     *Matthew 1:18-25*

*Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse*

**Sermon**     *The Room Where It Happened*

*Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse*

**\*Hymn #279 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
  
Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you; Christ the babe was born for you.

**Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer**

*Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse*

**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**

**Call for Offering**

*Carl Snow*

Leader: Let’s worship by giving our tithes and offerings.

**Offertory**     *Jesu - Noel*

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

*Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse*

**\*Hymn #273 Good Christian Men, Rejoice!**

Good Christian men, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!  
Jesus Christ was born to-day: Ox and ass before Him bow,  
And He is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today.

Good Christian men, rejoice, With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!  
Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath ope'd the heav'nly door,  
And man is blessed evermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!  
Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one, and calls you all,  
To gain His everlasting hall: Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**\*Charge and Benediction**

*Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse*

**\*Congregational Benediction**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Gloria in excelsis Deo**

**Postlude**