

GREETING THE GATHERED:   The Love of Jesus Christ be with you!  
ALL: And also with you!

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE | LOVE

Elizabeth & Benton Elliott

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE   *The Prelude marks the beginning of worship. Please observe silence as the Prelude begins.*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP ---*Psalm 80: 1-3 & Isaiah 7:14*  
Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.  
Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

\*THE HYMN OF PRAISE

HYMNAL #23

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION:  
Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love.  
We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive.  
We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love,  
but also our resistance to follow you without question.  
In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should.  
Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds;  
with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us.  
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

THE SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION FOR OUR INDIVIDUAL SIN

THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS  
But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed,  
and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God  
through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.  
For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;  
we are now justified by God’s grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.  
*Romans 3:21-24*

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE ANTHEM | *Were You There on That Christmas Night?*

THE SERMON TEXT | Matthew 1: 18-25 (*NT p. 1*)

THE SERMON TITLE | “He Will Save His People from Their Sin”

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES’ CREED  
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING & THE OFFERTORY

\*THE DOXOLOGY

THE DEDICATION AND PASTORAL PRAYER WITH OUR LORD’S PRAYER

\*THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

HYMNAL #53

“What Child Is This”

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*PASSING THE PEACE AND BEARING CHRIST’S PEACE TO THE WORLD

\*THE POSTLUDE

*\*All Who Are Able Please Stand*

## WELCOME & INVITATION

*This church welcomes you, no matter who you are,  
where you come from, or why you are here.*

*We are Christ's people,  
and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide.*

*If you are passing through, Godspeed;  
if you are looking for a home, stay here;  
if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you.  
We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.*

*We are so glad you are here.*



**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** The RPC Office is open Monday through Wednesday  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, & Thursday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

RPC Staff  
Rev. Dr. Jody Hill | Pastor  
Jennifer Huddleston | Director of Music  
Lynn Hill | Administrator & Pianist

*Scan with your smart phone for our Website & Virtual Tour*



## The Fourth Sunday in Advent

# RIPLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*A Heart for Christ & Community Since 1837*

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Jody Hill | Pastor

Phone: 662-837-3765 (Office)  
Mail: P.O. Box 556 Ripley, MS 38663  
302 West Cooper Street

[www.ripleypresbyterianchurch.com](http://www.ripleypresbyterianchurch.com)

COMING UP...

DECEMBER 18, 2022 | Total Collected as of 12/11/22: \$375.00



*Every generous act of giving... is from above. –James 1: 17*

The only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ – a perfect gift from a generous God. Your gifts reflect our generous God by supporting leaders in our Church and world – past, present & future. Please give generously. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

**PRAYER LIST FOR IMMEDIATE NEEDS**

Sandra Love, Mike Carter, Shirley McClain, Austin Parks, Anne Elliott, Jovie Hill (infant daughter of Reed & Kelsey Hill), Anonymous, Johnny Daniel, Haley Loveless, Cathi Watson, Barbara Martin, Ali Rae Barkley, Clay Beaty, Jennifer Wilson, Dusty Rowland, Jane Kilzer, Angie Leisure Beavers, Betty Windham, Lenox Kennamore, Destiny Parker Hurley, Jean Hall, Gail & Harvey Childers, Frank Gay, Lori Chapman, Teresa Sharp, Calvin Austin, Bradley Childs, Leah & Miles Harrell.

**Our Deepest Sympathies to....**

The family of Ted Carter (brother of Mike Carter)  
The family of Ginger Brown

**Our Homebound, Assisted Living & Nursing Home Residents**

Laron Shannon, Jean Ketchum, Carolyn Caviness, Johnny Cappleman.

**RPC Weekly Financial Update**

RPC Weekly 2022 Budget: \$2,710.97  
Offering Received 12/11/22: \$8,900.00  
Worship Attendance 12/ /22: 68

**Nursery Volunteers** (10:30 Worship Service)

Dec. 18: B.J. Horton

**PASTORAL VISITS**

Pastor Jody will be in the church office on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings before worship. If you would like to schedule a pastoral visit on one of those days, please contact him or Lynn at the office to do so (662-837-3765). You can also request an in-home visit at another time more convenient to your schedule.

**A Note of Gratitude from Jennifer & Lynn,**

*“Thanks to all who were able to join us Sunday evening for our “Lessons & Carols”! It has been such a blessing to practice and prepare for this event that we have missed so much. A very special thanks to every member of our choir who made the practices so joyful and filled with hope and love! Also, thank you all for your generosity – we were able to raise \$1,278 for the Tippah County Good Samaritan Center. Our hearts are so full. God is just so good. Thanks be to God!”*  
*In Christ,*  
*Jennifer & Lynn*

**Please join us for this very special service**



**Sunday, Dec. 25 | 10:30 am**

*Rev. Dr. Jody Hill will offer a Christmas Day devotion for all those who can attend.*