

DECEMBER 21, 2025

**MORNING WORSHIP**  
**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

10:30 A.M.

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

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE | *The Prelude marks the beginning of worship.  
We invite you to observe quiet reflection when the prelude begins.*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP | *Psalm 80: 17-19*

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. Restore us; O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

\*THE HYMN OF PRAISE

*"The First Noel"*

HYMNAL #56

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; they are now justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

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

\*THE GLORIA PATRI

HYMNAL #579

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE | *LOVE*  
Jo & Richard Todd

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE ANTHEM | "Song of Mary"

*Soloist Julie Addison  
Violinist Cate Babb*

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

THE MESSAGE | "God is with Us"

\*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 HYMN OF RESPONSE

HYMNAL #40

*"Joy to the World"*

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.*

### Church Membership at RPC

*At Ripley Presbyterian Church, we joyfully welcome all who place their trust in God's grace through Jesus Christ and who desire to share in the fellowship and ministry of His church. Membership is open to all who profess faith, and no one shall be excluded for any reason other than a refusal to do so. The Gospel compels us to extend Christ's fellowship to all people; to withhold that welcome is to reject Christ himself and bring scandal to the Gospel. If you would like to explore church membership at RPC, Pastor Jody would be honored to walk with you in beginning that journey today.*

**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 | Choir Director

Lynn Hill | Administrator & Pianist

Sue Ellen Miller | Organist

Blake McGaughy | Handbell Director

Shea Scott | Christian Ed./Young Disciples & Youth

RPC Wifi | "Guest" | guest1234

**Ripley Presbyterian Church now has another option for Giving & Tithes.**

**Tithely Giving** is an easy-to-use platform that will allow you to give online &/or on your phone.

Simply scan the QR Code below, or download the Tithely app, or go to our website

(ripleypresbyterianchurch.com) and click on Giving & Tithes.



## RIPLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*The mission of Ripley Presbyterian Church is to glorify and love God and love people by meeting them where they are and encouraging them toward a lifelong joyous relationship with Christ.*

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)

Today's beautiful floral arrangement is given to the glory of God and in memory of Josh Heavener by Carol & Don Heavener.

### Today, December 21 | The Christmas Joy Offering (PC/USA)

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need, and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related school and colleges equipping communities of color.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24 | 5:00 PM

Prep Team | Sue Ellen & Max Miller & Melinda Marsalis



Please remember to pick up your poinsettia after the service.

### RPC Weekly Financial Update

RPC Weekly 2025 Budget: \$3,517.13   Offering Received 12/14/25: \$8,211.00

Worship Attendance 12/14/25: 72

### Sanctuary Floral Arrangement dates available January 4, 11, 18 & 25.

To provide flowers in memory/honor of a loved one, contact Lynn Hill (lynn@xcavators-inc. or call/text 662-837-6678).

If you want a particular date to provide flowers on a Sunday morning, please reserve that date with Lynn in advance. Arrangements typically run \$35 each. Contributions to the RPC/PW Flower Fund are greatly appreciated.



### RPC DECEMBER MISSION FOCUS | Living Waters for the World (PC/USA Mission)

Goal: \$500 | Total collected as of 12/14/25: \$325.00

Living Waters for the World (LWW) is a ministry of the Synod of Living Waters of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Believing God intends for all people to have clean water, Living Waters for the World, via enduring relationships, empowers its partners to provide long-lasting clean sustainable water for their communities. LWW water treatment systems and related educational programs address a critical niche of the world water crisis-communities with available but contaminated water. Long-term access to clean water is achieved by empowering mission teams to form partnerships with institutions, provide water treatment systems and related health education materials to their partners, train their partners to implement, operate and maintain their water systems, and lead ongoing support of its water system partners via a series of regional networks. Living Waters for the World clean water systems have now been installed at more than 750 sites in 25 nations.

### PRAYER LIST FOR IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Freddy Daniel, Martha Carolyn Sappington, Tommy Benson, Ginger Gay Britt, Bobby Mays, Calvin Austin, Kathy Norton, Jewel Byrd, Jim Braddock, Hank Nelson, Eddie McCafferty, Ron Jackson, Stacy Gossett, Sadie Downs, Lonnie Goolsby, Sandra Bolton, Marsha Lavender, Sherry Hill, Marilyn Harrell, Frank Shepherd, William Shields, Lacey Strunk, Barbara McElwain, Angie & Rickey Beavers, Grevil Flores, Rhonda Jackson, Liz Rutherford, Doug Norton, Rita & Carl Witt, Randle Beavers, Lucy Watkins, Kristy Huddleston, Polly Calvary, Sophie Taylor, Danielle Smith, Bobby Childers, Vince Jordan, Wayne Steverson, Jimmy Willingham, Pam Hargett, John Parks, Barbara Kirby, Bob Craig, Rev. Bill Connolly, Jerry Henson, Kaye Smith, Trent Rogan, Teresa Rhea, John Walker, Helen Beavers, Pembroke Bonham, David Morrow, Laura Hines, Hannah H. Jones, Deanna Hartman, Jackie Cooksey, Ali Rae Barkley, Tina Sanford, Gayle & Harvey Childers, Leah & Miles Harrell.

If you wish to have a name removed or added to this list, please contact the church office.

### Our Deepest Sympathies to....

The family of Dr. Harold Fisher

### Homebound, Assisted Living & Nursing Home Residents

Betty Holland, Carolyn Caviness, Johnny Cappleman

