

## Call to Confession

**Prayer of Confession**

Faithful and persistent God, forgive us when we run and hide from you. You ask us to go to places we would rather avoid, to speak words we fear will cost us, to love people we do not understand and would prefer to keep at a distance. Like Jonah, we flee; not always with our feet, but with our silence, our delay, our excuses about bad timing, or our insistence that someone else is better suited than us. Forgive us, O God. Forgive us for wanting to shape your mission instead of surrendering to it. Turn us around again. Free us from our need to decide who deserves grace. Give us courage not only to go where you send us, but to rejoice when your mercy exceeds our imagining. Amen.

**A Word of Forgiveness and Encouragement**

**Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.      **All: And also with you.**

We invite everyone to share Christ’s peace with your neighbors, both now and after the service. If you are with us on-line, we invite you to send a message or make a call to share peace. If you are here in person, we invite you to greet those near you.

**\*Sung Response**      *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*      Song sheet

The Word Proclaimed

**First Scripture Reading**      *Jonah 3:1-10*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.      **All: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**      *See, Amid the Winter Snow*      - arr. Dan Forrest

Katie Long, soprano; Jacob Dishman, pianoforte

**Children’s Message**

Children from age 4-5th grade may now go to the Grace Space, at the front of the sanctuary.

**Second Scripture Reading**      *Jonah 4:1-11*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.      **All: Thanks be to God.**

**Message**      Rev. Jess Rigel

**Words of Reflection**      “The Bright Field”      - R.S. Thomas

I have seen the sun break through  
to illuminate a small field  
for a while, and gone my way  
and forgotten it. But that was the  
pearl of great price, the one field that had  
treasure in it. I realise now  
that I must give all that I have  
to possess it. Life is not hurrying  
on to a receding future, nor hankering after  
an imagined past. It is the turning  
aside like Moses to the miracle  
of the lit bush, to a brightness  
that seemed as transitory as your youth  
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.

Thanksgiving and Offering

**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**      King James Version

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowéd be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in 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.**

Pray with the words that hold the most meaning for you,  
even if they differ from your neighbor’s.

**Call to Offering**

**Sharing of Offering**

We invite you to prayerfully donate to the continued life and work of our congregation. You may mail gifts directly to the church, or use our online giving platform, at <https://www.alamancechurch.org/online-tithing>.

**Offertory**

**\* Doxology**      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*      Song sheet

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**Sending**

**\* Sending Hymn**      *Here I Am, Lord*      Song sheet

Feel free to come forward during the closing song to light a candle, as a public sign of an inward commitment to life in the light of Christ. If your religious tradition includes crossing yourself, feel free to do that here.

**\* Charge and Benediction**

**Closing Music**

\*One asterisk means to stand, as you are able.

The nearest restrooms are out the sanctuary side door, through the breezeway, and into the alcove of the Thin Place Gallery.

Assisted listening devices are available from the technician at the Audiovisual booth, which is located at the back of the sanctuary.

Citations for references used during worship are available from the ministers, upon request. The New Revised Standard Version (Updated Edition) of the Bible is used during worship, unless otherwise noted.

Lectionary Year A, Second Sunday of Christmas, **January 4: *Jeremiah 31-7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:(1-9) 10-18.***

Lectionary Year A, Epiphany, **January 6: *Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12.***

Lectionary Year A, Baptism of the Lord Sunday, **January 11: *Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17.***



Alamance

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4000 Presbyterian Road  
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We are an ecumenical congregation in a Presbyterian Church, USA form.  
We are a **Matthew 25** Church.  
We are a Hunger Action Congregation.  
We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

We welcome all to the community of Jesus:  
to connect, to learn, to worship, to serve.