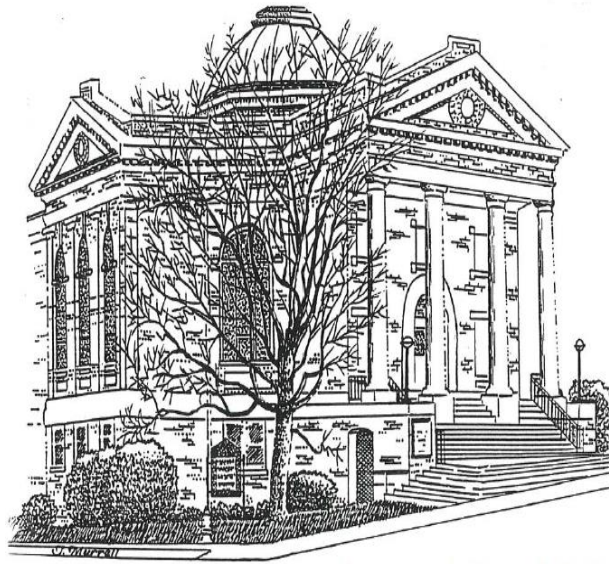


First Presbyterian Church *Albemarle, North Carolina*



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 18, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"See Amid the Winter's Snow"

Dan Forrest

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below, see the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years. Hail, thou ever blessed morn, hail, redemption's happy dawn, sing throughout Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Alleluia! Lo, within a manger lies he who built the lofty skies. He, who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim. Hail, thou ever blessed morn, hail, redemption's happy dawn, sing throughout Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Alleluia! Sacred infant, all divine, what as tender love was Thine, this to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this. . Hail, thou ever blessed morn, hail, redemption's happy dawn, sing throughout Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Alleluia!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Carter Gibson, acolyte

The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child. **She shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel: "God with us."** Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

Response:

"The Candle of Hope"

LYONS

("O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!")

*The candle of love tells what we are worth: God loves us so much, God came to the earth!
An angel brought news of a child who would be The one who would save us and set us all free.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 80

Jim Hesley, liturgist

Give ear, O shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God of power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways – in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies, and in resurrection from the dead – show us the face of Immanuel in our time. Bring us from fear to awe, we pray; in the name of the father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN 140

“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew; He was little, weak, and helpless; tears and smiles like us he
knew;*

And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

*And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love, for that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heav'n
above,*

And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. *Silent Confession and Reflection*

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*RESPONSE 132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (stanza 3)

IN DULCI JUBILO

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

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LESSONS AND CAROLS	“The Angels are Singing, Christ is Here!”	
The Coming of God	“How Far Is It to Bethlehem”	Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7 Nicholas White
Mary	“Magnificat” from “Christmas Canticles”	Luke 1:26-33 John Rutter
Joseph	“The Hands that First Held Mary’s Child”	Matthew 1:18-21 Dan Forrest
The Son of God, Born in a Stable	“Carol of the Crib”	Luke 2:1-7 Joanna Forbes L’Estrange
Angels	“Gloria in Excelsis Deo”	Luke 2:8-12 Lloyd Larson
Shepherd	“The First Noel”	Luke 2:15-16 Dan Forrest

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Offertory “Pastorale” from “Christmas Concerto, Op.6, No. 8” Arcangelo Corelli

*Response 150

“As With Gladness Men of Old” (stanza 3)

DIX

*As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with us. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN 133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.*

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*True God from true God, light from light eternal, born of a virgin, to earth he comes!
Very God, begotten, not created! [Refrain]*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest: [Refrain]*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

“A Christmas Blessing”

Philip W.J. Stopford

*May the joy of the angels, the gladness of shepherds, the worship of the wisemen and the peace of the Christ Child be yours this
Christmas. May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly, fill you with joy and peace. And the
blessing of God the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. Amen.*

*POSTLUDE

“Vivace” from “Christmas Concerto, Op.6, No.8”

Arcangelo Corelli

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Bold print indicates places where congregation reads or sings.

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Thank you to The Piedmont Triad String Quartet (Sarah Womack, Violin; Susan Gallimore, Violin; Kate Middel, Viola; Gayle Masarie, Cello), Mike Poolos-Percussion, the Chancel Choir, Frank Poolos (Director of Vocal and Handbell Music), Stan Scheer (Organist), and Jim Hesley for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Carter Gibson.

Ushers for December: Wes Eudy (captain), Nathaniel Eudy, Cidney Eudy, Brett Richards, Seth Richards.

Outside Ushers for December 18: Ronnie Michaels, Lee Snuggs.

Elder Greeters: Andy Mcleod, Mary Kesselman.

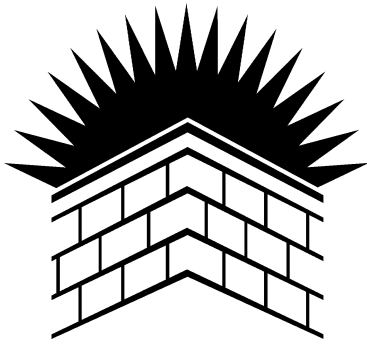
Sound: Evan Sanges **Film:** Jackson Palmer **Nursery:** Bailey Mitchell

There is no Children's Church during December. Children are encouraged to remain in worship.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Claude Harwood, Wayne Palmer, Penny Welling (friend of the congregation), Gloria Bryson (Trinity Place), Ann Byrd (Home), Tim Rodgers, Doris Forte-Spring Arbor, Brayden Enzor (grandson of Gus & Pam Holbrook); (Home), Carole Yost (Home), Jean Rabe, Anita Gower, Nancy Jolly, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Elizabeth Wilson, Ann Snuggs, Susan Pandich-breast cancer, Jason Miller (friend of the congregation), Laura Frazier, Debbie Hinson, Emma Gibson. The family of Joe Russell Jr.
See newsletter for complete list.

NEW OFFICER TRAINING
Wednesday Dec. 21, 4-6 p





We encourage children to remain in worship!
There are worship bags available for them in both lobbies of the church.
Feel free to pick these up anytime before, during or after worship.

The Christian Education Corner

If you are not on the SPOND app please download it. That is the easiest way for all of us to keep in touch. Here is the link to join <https://group.spond.com/LTOXZ>

Monday Night Bible Study 9th-12th graders at the home of Debby Johnston (1212 Heritage Dr.) Mondays at 8:30 pm.



Show your FPC spirit
Order an "At Home Under the Dome" t-shirt. Youth will be in the Pit Stop for the next few Sundays taking orders. All proceeds go to youth summer Montreat trips





Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt

6 pm to 8 pm
Meet at church at 6 pm
We will do some caroling along the way to spread the Christmas joy!



DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH (230 SOUTH 2ND ST, ALBEMARLE) SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 FROM 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

The Annual Community Christmas Dinner is still ON for this year. It will again be a DRIVE-THRU on Christmas Day (Sunday, December 25). The food will be prepared and packaged by caterer. All of the desserts are being provided by the Albemarle Sweet Shop, and all of the volunteers will be from First Lutheran.

**Thanks to all who helped color Christmas Cards! You may still give donations to the Community Christmas Dinner (in the memo of your check designate "Community Christmas Dinner").
CONTACT MARTHA SUE HALL FOR MORE INFORMATION
(704-985-5821 OR HALLMSH@HOTMAIL.COM)**

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2023 are available for pickup in the common area right outside the church office. If your child would like envelopes, please let Kyle know. **NOTE: Envelope numbers change every year.** Remember...**DO NOT USE these envelopes until January of 2023.**



Lessons & Carols "The Angels are Singing, Christ is Here"
Presented by the Chancel Choir
of First Presbyterian Church

Today, Sunday, December 18, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

The 2022 Advent Choral Service will continue our tradition of tracing the Biblical account of the birth of Christ using scripture followed by contemplative readings. The choir will be accompanied by organist Stan Scheer, the Piedmont Triad String Quartet, and percussionist, Mike Poolos, directed by Frank Poolos.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24
AT 5:30 P.M. AND 11:00 P.M.

Carols and candlelight will mark the evening as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Christmas Candlelighting Service

The musical prelude begins at 5:15 p.m. Highlights will include organ, vocal, and instrumental music.
The traditional candlelight service begins at 5:30 p.m. Worship includes the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, music by the adult choir and sharing the light of Christ.

Worship at 11:00 p.m.

This service includes leadership by older youth and college students, traditional carol singing, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and sharing the light of Christ. This service is full of expectation as we move toward midnight and the birth of Christ. Dress is informal. Following worship, youth and their families are invited to enjoy a light breakfast and fellowship.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 18

4th Sunday of Advent/Choral Christmas Lessons & Carols/Alternative Gifts before & after worship

8:30 am Session

9:45 am Sunday School

9:45 am Breakfast Bunch (K-5th graders)

11:00 am *Worship

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt

Monday, December 19

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

8:30 pm Bible Study 9th-12th grade –Home of Debby Johnston

Wednesday, December 21

6:45 am Men’s Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

4:00 pm New Officer Training

6:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Party)

Thursday, December 22

4:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Musical Prelude

5:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship & Breakfast

Sunday, December 25

Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day/Community Christmas Dinner

8:30 am Session

11:00 am *Worship

11:00 am to 1:00 pm Drive Thru Community Christmas Dinner- First Lutheran Church

*childcare provided

Church Staff

Transitional Pastor, Rev Catherine George

Office Manager, Kyle Lambert

Secretary, Beth Poolos

Transitional Director of Christian Ed,

Melissa Eudy

Director of Fellowship/Congregational

Care, Jane Snyder

Music Director, Frank Poolos

Organist, Stan Scheer

Facilities Manager, Shawn Graeff

Elders

Al Andrew, John Earnhardt, Bill Jolly, Mary Kesselman,

Mike King, Ken Knight, Kim Marshall, Andy McLeod,

Catherine Moeller, Sandy Rogers, Ellen Snyder,

Chris Whitley, Ellen Whitley

Deacons

Emily Andrew, Keith Bryson, Shannon Bullard,

Michelle Cumming, Wes Eudy, Martha Sue Hall,

Lillie Hancock, Jim Hesley, Liz Jolly, Myron Lowder,

Laura McLeod, Lee Snuggs

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December

18- Katie Carpenter

Mary Green

Katie Saltzman

20-Anna Henkenjohann

Morgan Smet

21-Emily Andrew

22- Joe Snuggs

23- Bill Jolly

25- Gloria Bryson

Bob Sasser

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

December

21- Gerald & Lynn Poplin

23- Craig & Teresa Taylor

Tithes and offerings may be mailed to:

First Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 1578

Albemarle, NC 28002



Online giving can be done through the church’s website

(www.fpcalbemarle.org).

Click on the GIVE button.

The offering as part of our worship is a response to God’s grace. The plates will be passed by the ushers or you may make your gift by scanning the QR Code here. Thank you for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & HOLIDAY GREENERY

IN MEMORY OF:

Johnny Andrew.....Al, Becky, Emily and Jay Andrew
Richards and Betty Long.....Al, Becky, Emily and Jay Andrew
Bill and Daisy Cotton.....Andy, Ruth & James Cotton
Ed and Betty Stanhope.....Andy, Ruth & James Cotton
Olin and Ruth Huneycutt.....John & Angie Earnhardt & Family
Terry and Betsy Earnhardt.....John & Angie Earnhardt & Family
Francis W. Green.....Mary & Family
Bede Karr.....Russell Karr
Marin and Joyce Morton.....Jack & Penny Morton
Charlie and Betty Lambert.....Jack & Penny Morton
Rodney M Morgan..... Rita Morgan, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren
Jane Pickler.....Bill Pickler
Campbell W. Rogers.....Marshall Rogers & Family
Our Parents.....Dan & Martha Sue

GIVEN BY:

IN HONOR OF:

Mildred Andrew.....Al, Becky, Emily and Jay Andrew
Her Family.....Mildred Andrew
Gran and Granddaddy Earnhardt.....Adrienne, Kevin, Ella, Maddie, Kelly, Charlie, Lanie & Will
Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast.....David Holbrook
Kyle Lambert.....David & Carroll Holbrook
Mary Green.....Palmer Schultz
Maddox, Marshall, Jaycee, Goodwin, Goldie.....Jack & Penny Morton
Our Children.....Dan & Martha Sue

GIVEN BY:

Anthem Texts

How Far is It to Bethlehem

Frances Chesterton (1917)

How far is it to Bethlehem, not very far?
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
Can we see the little child, is He within?
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?
How far is it to Bethlehem, not very far?
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?

May we stroke the creatures there, oxen or sheep?
May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?
If we touch His tiny hand, will He awake?
Will He know we've come so far just for His sake?
How far is it to Bethlehem, not very far?
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?

Great kings have precious gifts, and we have naught;
Little smiles and little tears are all we brought.
For all weary children Mary must weep;
Here, on His bed of straw, sleep, children, sleep.
How far is it to Bethlehem, not very far?
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?

God, in His mother's arms, babes in the byre,
Sleep, as they sleep who find their heart's desire.

Magnificat from "*Christiana Canticles*"

Luke 46-55

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Hands that First Held Mary's Child

Thomas Troeger (1986)

The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood.
From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood.
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,
But cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.

When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame
And gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name,
The angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height
And like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.

"This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,
But God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone."
The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,
And from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word.

The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift
And use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift.
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today,
But charged with faith may we be bold to follow in His way.

Carol of the Crib

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Light to the world, a child is born; dark is the night before the dawn:
Day is upon us, darkness is dying, with Mary's child in slumber lying.
Christ has come, our life to share; Sorrows and sins and griefs to bear:
See where above us the heav'ns are clear, the angels are singing for Christ is here!

Light for a world gone far astray, dawn of the hope of God's new day.
Songs for our sighing, joy for our weeping, with Mary's child so softly sleeping.
Christ has come, our life to share; Sorrows and sins and griefs to bear:
See where above us the heav'ns are clear, the angels are singing for Christ is here!

Light of the world, God's only Son! now is the day of grace begun:
Love is among us, love beyond dreaming, with Mary's child for our redeeming.
Christ has come, our life to share; Sorrows and sins and griefs to bear:
See where above us the heav'ns are clear, the angels are singing for Christ is here!

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

*14th century Latin hymn
Sussex Carol*

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring:
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria! We sing in excelsis Deo.

The First Noel

Traditional English Carol

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King, Noel

The first Noel the angels did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep. (*Refrain*)

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. (*Refrain*)

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought. (*Refrain*)