



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Co-Pastor
Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Matt Drumheller, Co-Pastor
Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

December 22, 2019

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

MORNING MEDITATION

In Advent, we prepare for the coming of all Love, that love which will redeem all the brokenness, wrongness, and hardness of heart which have afflicted us.

PEALING OF THE BELLS

OPENING SENTENCES

A voice cries out in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord!

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Please sign and pass the Register of Friendship during this time.

ANTHEM

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

Dan Forrest

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen,
To a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope.

Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth,
To a girl called Mary, with a light of joy.

Mary went to a place called Bethlehem,
To a humble stable with the light of love.

As we light our fourth Advent candle,
We rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Love.

Hymn 105

People, Look East

stanza 5

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.

People Look east: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Merciful God, you are our light and our salvation. We pray that you will come to rule the world with your truth and grace; guide the nations to reflect the glory of your justice and eternal love. By the power of your Spirit, make us ready to observe the birth of the Prince of Peace, that we may work faithfully for the coming of your perfect peace. In the name of Christ our Savior, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN 140**

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

Madeleine L'Engle

Matthew 3:3

On the fourth
Sunday of Advent,
the acolyte lights
the candle of love.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Silence

Advent God, you enter into our weary world to lift up the lowly, to fill the hungry, and to establish equity throughout the earth. Yet, like perplexed prophets and doubting disciples, we scarcely believe that you can mend this broken world. Expand our hearts, that we might see the extraordinary in our midst and embrace the everlasting joy you bring.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS**

hymnal 107, stanza 1

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.

Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,

He opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The congregation is encouraged to participate in the prayer with the children.

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Reverend Drumheller

Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of Faith Sharing with Children, parents may take preschool children to the nursery. Children in grades K-2 may go to the chapel for Children's Church.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled. Amen.

Sermons are posted to the church's website (www.fpcalbemarle.org). You can usually find the previous Sunday's sermon by Wednesday.

Angels Visit When We Sing

I. The Coming of God		Isaiah 9:2,6
	<i>For Unto Us a Child Is Born</i>	John Carter
II. Mary		Luke 1:26-33
	<i>Lullaby</i>	John Ness Beck
III. Joseph		Matthew 1:18-21
	<i>The Hands that First Held Mary's Child</i>	Dan Forrest
IV. The Son of God, Born in a Stable		Luke 2:1-7
	<i>Thou Who Wast Rich</i>	Molly Ijames
V. Angels		Luke 2:8-12
	<i>Angels Visit When We Sing</i>	Tom Trenney
VI. Shepherds		Luke 2:15-16
	<i>The Shepherds' Carol</i>	Dan Forrest
VII. Magi		Matthew 2:1-2
	<i>We Three Kings</i>	Craig Courtney
VIII. The Word Became Flesh and Dwells with Us		John 1:14-17
	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>	Mark Hayes
	Ann Crutchfield, Soprano	

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

TITHES AND OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory *Variations on a French Carol* Dale Wood
Doxology *Creator of the Stars of Night* hymnal 84, stanza 4

**To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Adeste fideles

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *A Christmas Blessing* Philip W. J. Stopford

*POSTLUDE *In dulci jubilo* Joahnn Sebastian Bach

*All that are able may stand.

We are grateful for your presence with us today. If you are a member of this church, please seek out those who are visiting and welcome them to this family of faith. If you are visiting and would like to know more about the church and membership here, please speak with one of the ministers following worship.

The acolyte today is Merrin Kinley . After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

Thanks to The Piedmont Triad String Quartet (Sarah Womack-Violin, Ruth Metheny-Violin, Louise Campbell-Viola, Gayle Masarie, Cello), Jennifer Braston (Percussion), Frank Poolos (Director of Vocal & Handbell Music), Stan Scheer (Organist), and the Chancel Choir for sharing their talent with us this morning.

Ushers: Jack Morton, captain; Kyle Barbee, Taylor Barbee, John Earnhardt, Brent Lisk, Grant Lisk, Greg Lisk, Penny Morton, Jeff Robertson, and Kim Robertson **Outside Ushers:** Mark Andrew; Jack Morton **Elder Greeters:** Sandy Saunders; David Whitley **Nursery:** Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** TBD **Children's Church:** Kristie Bryson; Elizabeth Bryson

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: The family of Cam Rogers (wife of Marshall Rogers), The family of Frank Breisch (brother of Gloria Bryson), Carolyn Sharpe, Sally Grantier, Katie Regner (pregnancy with triplets; daughter of Meg Connell Watson), Jean Rabe (Trinity Place), Jane Scheer (Spring Arbor), Don Joines, Mark Mabry, Jane Pickler. **See newsletter for complete list.**

ANGELS VISIT WHEN WE SING

*Presented by the Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 22 at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service*

IN MEMORIAM
Campbell Whitenack Rogers
December 11, 1947 – December 16, 2019



**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ON TUESDAY, 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 5:00 p.m. Highlights will include organ, vocal, and instrumental music. *The traditional candlelight service begins at 5:30 p.m.* Worship includes a story for the children, the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, music by the adult choir, sharing the light of Christ, and traditional carol singing.

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.



Community Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 25 at First Baptist Church

Sign-up on the Mission bulletin board in the pit stop to help with food and/or to volunteer.

YEAR END FINANCIALS

PLEASE NOTE: This year the church office will be closed the week of Christmas (Dec. 23 – 27). If you need any financial information, you can leave a message and name and number on the answering machine. Kyle will check the machine on Friday Dec. 27. She will get back to you by the end of the day on Monday, December 30, with an answer. The financial books will close on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at noon. Any contributions received after that time will be carried over to 2020.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & HOLIDAY GREENERY

IN MEMORY OF:

GIVEN BY:

Johnny Andrew..... Al, Becky, Emily & Jay
John and Nora Duckwall; James W. Duckwall..... Ann Duckwall
Jerry and Betsy Earnhardt John & Angie Earnhardt
Olin and Ruth Huneycutt..... John & Angie Earnhardt
Daniel Mann Whitley Martha & Doug Hughes
Rita Whitley Kyle, Laura Beth, Addison, & Stella Marks
Hugh McLaurin Lee McLaurin
Milton and Mary Miller..... Glenn & Becky Miller
Roswell and Myra Stilwill..... Glenn & Becky Miller
Rodney Mabry Morgan Rita Morgan & Family
Our Parents Tom & Holly Norwood
Bob Palmer Frankie Palmer
Our Parents and Grandparents..... Dan & Martha Sue
Daniel Mann Whitley David & Ellen Whitley

IN HONOR OF:

GIVEN BY:

Mildred Andrew Her Family
John and Angie Earnhardt Ella, Will, Maddie, & Lanie
Rebekah Ayscue Laura & Ken Frazier
Patsy McLaurin Lee McLaurin
Anna, Dave, Mason, and Addie Feezor Tom & Holly Norwood
Our Children and Grandchildren..... Dan & Martha Sue
Our Grandchildren – Elizabeth, James, Harper, Atticus, and Lily Chris & Barbara Whitley

Anthem Texts

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Edward Caswall (1858)

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Refrain: 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. (*Refrain*)

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this. (*Refrain*)

For unto Us a Child Is Born

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Lullaby

John Ness Beck (1977)

A child, a holy child, fast asleep beneath a winter sky,
is warm at rest at his mother's breast as she sings her lullaby.

The lambs, the cattle too are sleeping in a bed of hay,
and all around there's no other sound than lullaby, lullaby.

Sleep, lullaby, sleep well, lullaby. My precious one, Lullaby, my love, my only son, new life has now begun.

So the story goes, once upon a winter morn, a tiny boy bringing love and joy, the Prince of Peace was born.

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.

Thou Who Wast Rich

Frank Houghton (1934)

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor;
thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man;
stooping so low, but sinners raising heavenwards by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship Thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

Angels Visit When We Sing

Thomas Troeger (2002)

Angels visit when we sing and the morning stars rejoice.
We can hear them echoing in each faithful heart and voice: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Angels visit when we sing as they did at Jesus' birth
And the music that they bring links the heavens with the earth. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Angels visit when we sing and remind us with their praise
Sin and death have lost their sting! For the crucified is raised! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Angels visit when we sing and our hearts are touched by fire
As our hymns and anthems ring with the sound of heaven's choir. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Shepherds' Carol

Traditional Austrian Carol

As lately we watched o'er our fields through the night. A star there was seen of such glorious light.
All through the night, angels did sing carols so sweet of the birth of a King.
His throne is a manger, His court is a loft. But hosts of bright angels, in strains sweet and soft,
Him they proclaim, our Christ by name, and earth, sky and air straight are filled with His fame.
Then Shepherds, be joyful, salute your new King, let hills and vales ring to the song that ye sing.
Blest be the hour, welcome the morn, for Christ our dear Savior on earth now is born.
All through the night, angels did sing carols so sweet of the birth of a King.

We Three Kings

John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891)

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. (Refrain)
Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising, worship him, God on high. (Refrain)
Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume. Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)
Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Heaven sings Alleluia, Alleluia, the earth replies: (Refrain)

In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina Rossetti (1872)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan. Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow. In the bleak midwinter long ago.
Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away, when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed, The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.
Angels and archangels may have gathered there, Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air'
But His mother only in her maiden bliss, Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part, Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

A Christmas Blessing

Church of Ireland Prayer Book

May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the 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.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:45 am *Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

Monday, December 23

Church Office Closed

8:00 pm Bible Study with Matt

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Church Office Closed

5:00 pm *Christmas Eve Musical Prelude

5:30 pm *Christmas Eve Worship

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship & Breakfast

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

11:00 am-2:00 pm Community Christmas Dinner at First Baptist Church
(202 North 2nd Street, Albemarle)

Thursday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 29

11:00 am *Worship in the Gym

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

22-Joe Snuggs

23-Bill Jolly

25-Gloria Bryson

Bob Sasser

26-Connie Robinson

27-Duncan Bryson

Claire George Drumheller

29-Kay Griffin

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

23-Harold & Carolyn Sharpe

Craig & Teresa Taylor

26-John & Anne Montgomery

27-Brad & Jane Boone

28-Ben & Shannon Lisk

29-Don & Nancy Joines

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR

DECEMBER

Boxed Pasta Meals (Hamburger Helper)

Instant Potatoes

Stuffing Mix

**Visit the
Winter Art Gallery Exhibition
featuring Photography by Andy Cotton**