



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina
Matt Drumheller, Pastor

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

November 29, 2020

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

MORNING MEDITATION

*Hold fast to dreams for if dreams die,
Life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.*

From *Dream*
by Langston Hughes

PRELUDE *Prelude on 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'* Charles Callahan

PEALING OF THE BELLS

OPENING SENTENCES

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
We were like those who dream.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rebekah Ayscue, liturgist

Psalm 126

The power of dreams lies in waking up, for when we close our eyes,
We can see a better world.

When we close our eyes,
We can dream a better dream.

But when we open our eyes,
We begin the work of faith.

The power of worship is the same. When we enter this space,
We dream a better dream.

But when we leave this space,
We begin the work of faith.

So come. Dream your dream.
Find hope here.

For when we depart,
We will begin the work of faith.

HYMN 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

First Presbyterian Church

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Worship Archive

December 3, 2017

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all thing mightily:
To us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's Tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Merciful God, in Scripture we hear your dream for a beautiful world. We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation. We heard your dream for harmony and unity. We hear your dream for community and hope. We hear your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes. We continue to live with the curtain drawn, the covers pulled tight, and our eyes shut to the realities of the world. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS *Raise a Song of Gladness* Jubilate Deo

CANDLELIGHTING

Alison and Kennady Atwater

Hymn 107 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* Rejoice, Rejoice

Andy Cotton, Baritone

**In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing;
As morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth into song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
The weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

At the conclusion of Faith Sharing with Children, children in grades K-2nd are encouraged to join Duncan Bryson, Elizabeth Bryson, and Kristie Bryson for Children's Church via Zoom. The link for the Zoom call can be found in yesterday's worship email.

ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Howard Helvey

Comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;

Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;

Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,

Calling us to repentance since the kingdom is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;

Let the valleys rise to meet Him and the hills bow down to greet Him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;

And all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 126 and Mark 13:24-37

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Those Who Dream Keep Awake

Reverend Matt Drumheller

On the first Sunday of
Advent, the acolyte lights
the candle of hope.
Today's acolyte is
Thora Kilde.

First Presbyterian Church
Worship Archive
December 18, 2016

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

When the fullness of time came, God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the *just seed of David*, the *Angel of the great counsel of God*, the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true human, two perfect natures united and joined in one person. Amen.

HYMN 97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Aberystwyth

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation

Offertory

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Johannes Brahms

Prayer of Dedication

The SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

Words of Institution

Celebration

Prayer

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Johanne Sebastian Bach

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

From heaven above to earth I come
To bring good news to everyone!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To all the world and gladly sing.

This is an excerpt
from the Scots Confession
focused on
the birth and nature
of Jesus Christ.

First Presbyterian Church
Worship Archive
December 15, 2019

First Presbyterian Church
Worship Archive
December 2, 2018

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Thank you to Duncan Bryson for helping to create this morning's video. Thank you Alison and Kennady Atwater, Rebekah Ayscue, and Andy Cotton for participating in worship this morning.

Liturgy in this worship service adapted from prayers by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

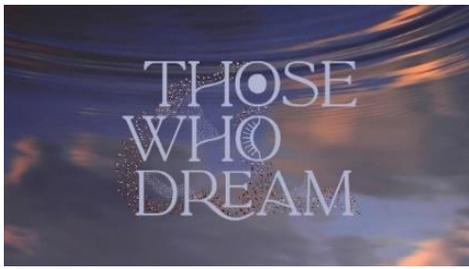
The acolyte today is Thora Kilde.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Dick Liles, Ann Hatcher (mother of Ann Snuggs; recovering from fall), Gus Feather, Judy Ross (diagnosis of pancreatic cancer; friend of Tom & Holly Norwood), Bede Karr, Sandy Saunders, Ann Upchurch, Yoder Whitley, Jean Rabe, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Jane Pickler. See newsletter for complete list.

Marlene and Bruce Mittendorf are moving to Cary. Since we will not be together in worship, you are encouraged to stop by the church and sign a hymnal for them. Call before you to come to make sure someone is in the building (704-982-2722).

In an effort to keep the newsletter prayer list updated, we would appreciate your help. Please notify the church office (704-982-2722 or pknighnten@fpcalbemarle.org) or Martha Sue Hall (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com) of changes. Thank you.

In lieu of poinsettias in the sanctuary this year due to COVID-19, please consider a memorial or contribution to the Alternative Gift program this season.



Advent Drive-Thru Sundays following Worship

Our *Advent for All* event this year will look very different since we are unable to gather. When you drive through after worship for your Cookies & Cocoa and Advent Devotional on the first Sunday of Advent on November 29, we will provide you with material to make an advent wreath at home, along with the devotions for each week in Advent. We hope you will make time to craft your wreath and gather for the devotions with your family every week.

Hanging of the Greenery

We will be unable to decorate the sanctuary and the church as we normally would this year, however we would love to have your help decorating the Chrismon Tree. In the week following the First Sunday of Advent, you are invited to sign- up to come hang some Chrismons.

**On Tuesday, December 1 and Thursday, December 3,
15-minute time slots will be available from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please call the church office to sign-up to come into the sanctuary help decorate (wearing a mask and practicing social distancing). In this way, you can help create our Advent worship space.

Advent Music

You will have an opportunity to enjoy some of your favorite Advent music this season. On several days in December, Stan and some friends will be playing live music in the sanctuary. Contact the church office (704-982-2722) to sign-up for a 30-minute time slot. This will be a masked and socially distanced event with limited attendance. Dates/Times are: Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 p.m.; Tuesday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Fellowship Drive-Thru

After worship each Sunday (whether online or in person) you are invited to hop in your car and come drive thru the parking lot. You'll receive sweet treats and a chance to see some familiar faces. Also, you will have the opportunity to participate in our Alternative Gifts program, our Christmas Kitchen, and more.



**FIRST FAMILY MEAL
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2
FROM 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.**



RSVP BY 2:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

First Family Meal Pick-up or Delivery is on Wednesday, December 2! Unfortunately, we are still unable to gather for First Family in December. If you would like a First Family meal, please RSVP by Monday, November 30 at 2:00 p.m., and we will have your meal ready for pick-up or delivery on Wednesday, December 2 between 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. For your safety, kitchen staff will wear masks and gloves while preparing your plates.

Menu: Hugh Wainwright's Chicken-n-Dumplings, Sweet Potato Cake, Pound Cake and Brownies

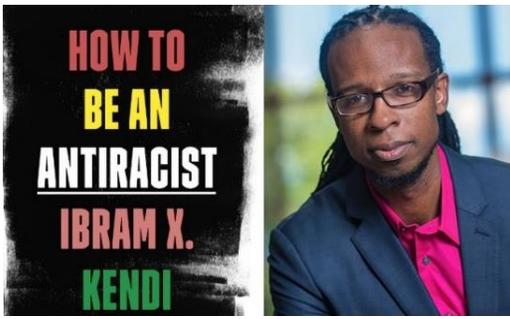
Suggested Donation: \$5 per person....Maximum of \$15 per family.

Please come with correct change or a check written to First Presbyterian Church.

All we need you to do is: call Anne Montgomery

(704-982-7823 or email Anne at johnandannemontgomery@yahoo.com) and let her know how many plates you need, if you would like sweet potato cake, pound cake or brownies for each meal, and if it will be a pickup or delivery (include address and any special instructions).

*****PLEASE RETURN COLORED COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER CARDS*****



Education and Conversation

Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Our congregation, along with many others, is continuing a challenging journey of educating ourselves about systemic racism in America. Members of the church have been gathering on Zoom to explore how we benefit from or are affected by systems of privilege, and how we might bring about a kingdom-oriented world in which, *we are all one in Christ.*” (Galatians 3:28)

Our conversation will take place on December 1. We will be reading the book *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. In his memoir, Kendi weaves together an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science – including the story of his own awakening to antiracism – bringing it all together in a cogent, accessible form. Please join us on Zoom on Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00 pm to discuss this book.

Alternative Christmas Gifts

Sunday, November 29 thru Sunday, December 20

Alternative Gifts will be available at the Advent for All Drive-Thru event on Sunday, November 29. After that day, you may purchase Alternative Gifts in the church office. Sandy Rogers and Sandy Saunders are available to deliver your Alternative Gift order(s). A minimum donation of \$10.00 per card is requested.



The charities benefitting are: The Community Care Clinic, Homes of Hope/The Community Inn, Stanly Community Christian Ministry (SCCM), and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). **In lieu of poinsettias in the church sanctuary, please consider giving an Alternative Gift.**



DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

(202 N. 2ND STREEET, ALBEMARLE)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 FROM 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. OR

UNTIL ALL BOXED MEALS ARE GONE

For a successful Community Christmas Dinner to happen, each downtown church is responsible for \$450.00 and Christmas Cards. Please help us meet this goal by:

❖ **Giving Generously to the Community Christmas Dinner
(in the memo of your check designate “Community Christmas Dinner”)
&**

❖ **Returning colored Christmas Cards at the First Family Drive-Thru on Wednesday, December 2**

*****UPDATE*****

The Albemarle Sweet Shop is donating all cakes needed for the Community Christmas Dinner, therefore, we are not requesting cakes from the downtown church community.

CONTACT MARTHA SUE HALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

(704-985-5821 OR HALLMSH@HOTMAIL.COM)

Backpack Food Program Donations Needed:

Oatmeal Packets, Breakfast Cookies,

Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup, Saltine Crackers, Tuna Helper,

Snack Crackers, Pineapple, or Fruit Cocktail Cups

Donations may be dropped off at the church.

Packing Date: Wednesday, December 9 at 10:30 a.m.





**Christmas Kitchen
Drive-Thru Event
Sunday, December 13
following worship**

There are several important dates for this year's Christmas Kitchen event. If you will be contributing an item, such as casseroles, soups, cookies, cakes, pies, and other sweets, let Dorothy know what you will be making by **Sunday, December 6**. You can do that by filling out this google form: <https://tinyurl.com/y2nhb3p7>

On Wednesday, **December 9 at 6:00 p.m.**, we will open up the selection process for those who would like to purchase items. A list of all items will be sent out in advance, and then at 5:00 p.m. on December 9, you may email Dorothy (dhart@fpcalbemarle.org) and let her know which items you would like to purchase. This will be done on a first come first serve basis, so be ready at 5:00 p.m.! Dorothy will send you a confirmation email.

Then on **Sunday, December 13 after worship**, you will be able to drive through the church parking lot and pick up your items. If there are any items left over at that point, those will be available for purchase as well. Please try to bring a check or correct change if possible.

Don't forget to mark these dates on your calendar. Proceeds from the Christmas Kitchen will go toward our youth program. Thank you for your support!

**Faith on the Fifth Offering
Sunday, November 29**

The Faith on the Fifth Offering will be received on Sunday, November 29 and will be donated to The Bridge to Recovery (BTR). BTR provides low cost and free assistance to women and men seeking treatment for addiction problems whether it be alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both. Funded by donations from churches, individuals, and foundations, the theme of BTR is to remove barriers and form a *bridge* to recovery for individuals who desperately want help. Please donate generously to this Faith on the Fifth Offering.



Angel Tree 2020

Angel Tree gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 6. Please help make this Christmas special for our community.

This week's worship video will become available at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. To access the worship video, go to the church's website (www.fpcalbemarle.org) and click on the worship banner or search for the church on *YouTube* and click on the appropriate video.

Online Community Advent Devotionals

We are unable to gather each week during Advent on Wednesday at Christ Episcopal Church. In lieu of our tradition of ecumenical worship services and lunch during Advent, pastors from local churches are going to create video devotionals each week. These will be posted on our YouTube account and our Facebook page.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 29

*First Sunday of Advent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Faith on the Fifth Offering for Bridge to Recovery/Alternative Gifts
Advent for All Drive-Thru Event*

- 9:45 am-10:30 am Adult Sunday School via Zoom
- 10:15 am Children & Youth Sunday School via Zoom
- 11:00 am Online Worship followed by Advent for All Drive-Thru Event

Monday, November 30

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 8:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study with Matt
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study with Debby Johnston & Jack Morton at the home of Debby & Bob Johnston (1212 Heritage Drive, Albemarle)

Tuesday, December 1

- 7:00 pm Education & Conversation via Zoom

Wednesday, December 2

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast Zoom Meeting
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Pit Stop)
- 3:30 pm-4:00 pm Youth Club Trusty Travelers (K-3rd graders) via Zoom
- 4:00 pm-4:30 pm Youth Club Faith Explorers (4th & 5th graders) via Zoom
- 5:00 pm-6:00 pm First Family Meal Pick-Up & Return of Community Christmas Dinner Coloring Cards

Thursday, December 3

- 4:00 pm-5:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

Sunday, December 6

*Second Sunday of Advent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Alternative Gifts/Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger
Deadline for Angel Tree Gifts/Offering Envelopes Available*

- 9:45 am-10:30 am Adult Sunday School via Zoom
- 10:15 am Children & Youth Sunday School via Zoom
- 11:00 am Online Worship followed by Advent Drive-Thru
- 5:00 pm Youth Group

All staff members are working at home whenever possible, and the church building is closed most of the time. The church's answering machine is being checked periodically; however, in case of an emergency, please contact Matt (540.449.5319) directly.

**Your on-going support of First Presbyterian Church is essential to the mission and ministry of the church and to the well-being of our ministry partners, locally and globally.
Thank you for your generosity.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
NOVEMBER**
29-Janice Abernathy
Matt Drumheller
30-Bill Hall
Diane Stevenson

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
NOVEMBER**
29-Skeet & Elizabeth Ayscue

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
DECEMBER**
01-Steve Cumming
Ruth Goodwin
Catherine Moeller
02-Taylor Barbee
Don Stewart
Lynn White
03-Glenn Miller
Tammy Ocampo
04-Kate Gibson
05-Thora Kilde
Nathan Sanges
06-Scott Bullard

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
DECEMBER**
04-Jack & Penny Morton

**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.**