



The Weekly Bulletin  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina  
Matt Drumheller, Pastor

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: [www.fpcalbemarle.org](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)

December 20, 2020

**GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

MORNING MEDITATION

*The caged bird sings with a fearful trill of things unknown but longed for still  
and his tune is heard on the distant hill for the caged bird sings of freedom.*

*Caged Bird*  
by Maya Angelou

PRELUDE

Arcangelo Corelli

*Christmas Concerto, Opus 6, No. 8 – Pastorale*  
The Piedmont Triad String Quartet and Organ

PEALING OF THE BELLS

OPENING SENTENCES

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.

**With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

Psalm 89:1

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Anna Wainwright, liturgist

I knew joy, but when I heard the laugh of a child,

**Suddenly, joy was overflowing.**

I knew love, but when you held my hand,

**Suddenly, love was overflowing.**

I knew God, but when you showed me grace, when you forgave me, when  
you loved me,

**Suddenly, God was overflowing.**

So let us worship God together as a reminder that God is here and we are  
never alone.

**Let us worship God.**

HYMN 140

*Once in Royal David's City*

Irby

First Presbyterian Church  
Worship Archive  
December 17, 2017

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 meek 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 heaven above;  
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

**Merciful God, you say to us, *You are highly favored*, but we refuse to see how that could be. You say to us, *Do not be afraid*, but we are afraid all the time. You say to us, *Even the impossible is possible*, but we allow hope to slip through our hands and allow the impossible to remain impossible. You call us to sing like Mary, to laugh like Elizabeth, to trust like the angels. Forgive us when we can only do one at a time or none at all.**

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

Debbie and John Hahn

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

Andy Cotton, Baritone

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.**

**Thou dark the winter and cheerless,**

**The rising sun shall crown you with light;**

**Be strong and loving and fearless.**

**Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;**

**May God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

*At the conclusion of Faith Sharing with Children, children in grades K-2<sup>nd</sup> are encouraged to join Emily Andrew for Children's Church via Zoom. The link for the Zoom call can be found in yesterday's worship email.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Angels Visit When We Sing*

**I. The Coming of God**

**Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7**

*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.

**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)*

On the fourth Sunday of  
Advent, the acolyte lights  
the candle of love.  
Today's acolyte is  
Merrin Kinley.

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Worship Archive  
December 22, 2019

## II. Mary

**Luke 1: 26-33**

### *Candlelight Carol*

John Rutter

How do you capture the wind on the water?  
How do you count all the stars in the sky?  
How can you measure the love of a mother,  
Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

#### ***Refrain:***

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star glow shine  
On his cradle till breaking of dawn.

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing: the Christ child is born.

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,  
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep;  
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour,  
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep. (*Refrain*)

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger,  
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.  
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:  
A child with his mother that first Christmas Day. (*Refrain*)

## III. Joseph

**Matthew 1:18-21**

### *The Hands that First Held Mary's Child* Dan Forrest

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.

## IV. The Son of God, Born in a Stable

**Luke 2:1-7**

### *Thou Who Wast Rich* Molly Ijames

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.

First Presbyterian Church  
Worship Archive  
December 17, 2017

First Presbyterian Church  
Worship Archive  
December 22, 2019

First Presbyterian Church  
Worship Archive  
December 22, 2019

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Worship Archive  
December 22, 2019

## V. Angels

**Luke 2:8-12**

*Angels Visit When We Sing*

Tom Trenney

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!

First Presbyterian Church  
Worship Archive  
December 17, 2017

## VI. Shepherds

**Luke 2:15-16**

*The First Noel*

Dan Forrest

**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*)

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

This is an excerpt from the  
*A Declaration of Faith*.  
While not a part of the  
PC(USA) Book of  
Confessions, this creed is  
Presbyterian by origin.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.**

## 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.**

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation

Offertory

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

David Lasky

Prayer of Dedication

### HYMN 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Adeste fideles

First Presbyterian Church  
Worship Archive  
December 17, 2017

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, a mortal he comes;

Very God, begotten, not created! (Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;

Sing all ye citizens of heaven 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 given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

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Worship Archive  
December 17, 2017

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.

### POSTLUDE

Arcangelo Corelli

*Christmas Concerto, Opus 6, No. 8 - Vivace*  
The Piedmont Triad String Quartet and Organ

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**Thank you to** Bob Johnston and Leah Kilde for helping to create this morning's video. Thank you to Debbie Hahn, John Hahn, and Anna Wainwright for participating in worship this morning.

**Thank you** to the Chancel Choir, Frank Poolos, Stan Scheer, and the Piedmont Triad String Quartet for their musical leadership in worship today. Instrumentalists of the quartet are: Sarah Womack (violin), Ruth Metheny (violin), Louise Campbell (viola on hymns and anthems), Dan Skidmore (viola on prelude and postlude), and Gayle Masarie (cello).

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

**The acolyte today is** Merrin Kinley.

**On Sunday, December 20**, First Presbyterian Church will celebrate the season with a choral presentation of music compiled from previous years.

**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Lindsey (Whitley) Harward (Myeloid Lukemia; admitted to Medical University of South Carolina-Charleston), Dick Liles, Bede Karr, Sandy Saunders, Ann Upchurch, Jean Rabe, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Jane Pickler. See newsletter for complete list.

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**Please stop by the church and sign a hymnal for Susan Pandich.** Call the church office before you to come to make sure someone is in the building (704-982-2722).

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**In an effort to keep the newsletter prayer list updated**, please notify the church office (704-982-2722 or pknighnten@fpcalbeamarle.org) or Martha Sue Hall (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com) of changes.

**Advent Drive-Thru on Sunday, December 20 following Worship...** You are invited to hop in your car and come drive thru the parking lot to receive sweet treats and a chance to see some familiar faces. We will be handing out candles for the Christmas Eve worship service, and you will have the opportunity to participate in our Alternative Gifts program and pick-up your 2021 offering envelopes. In addition, envelopes may be picked up at the church office on Monday mornings, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Please call the office (704-982-2722) to make sure someone is there before you come.

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**Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities**

**Christmas Eve Online Worship via YouTube on Thursday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m.**

At 5:30 p.m., a traditional Christmas Eve worship video will premiere on YouTube. Find a comfy place at home by the fire with your family to celebrate the birth of Christ and celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. If you would like communion elements delivered, please contact Matt at (mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org).

**Christmas Eve Worship at the Badin Road Drive-In on Thursday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m.**

At 5:30 p.m., you are alternatively invited to hop in your car and join us at the Badin Road Drive-In. We will project the same worship video on the big screen! We will have communion elements available as we worship together in our separate cars. If you'd like to join us for this worship service, sign-up through the weekly emails or call the church office (704-982-2722).

**Contemplative Christmas Eve Worship via YouTube on Thursday, December 24 at 11:00 p.m.**

At 11:00 p.m., a contemplative Christmas Eve worship video will premiere on YouTube. This worship service will be very similar to our regular 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship. Join us late on Christmas Eve to bring in the holiday!

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**Alternative Christmas Gifts Available thru Sunday, December 20**

Alternative Gifts will be available at the Advent Drive-Thru through Sunday, December 20. Also, you may purchase Alternative Gifts in the church office (please call 704-982-2722 to make sure staff is available to serve you). 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.**

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**Relief for Montaña de Luz**

On Sunday, December 20 at our Advent drive-thru, we will collect monetary donations to directly support Montaña de Luz recovery efforts from the 2020 hurricane season. Please give as you are called on Sunday at the advent drive-thru collection or to the church office. Thank you for showing love and concern for our neighbors in Christ.



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**The family of Lindsey (Whitley) Harward is requesting Christmas cards** to be sent to Lindsey to decorate her hospital room for the holiday season. Please mail cards to:

MUSC (Medical Univeristy of South Carolina)

Lindsey S. Harward

ART 7 - Hope Unit, Room 7019

25 Courtenay Drive

Charleston, SC 29425

## YEAR-END INFORMATION

### 2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Beginning December 6, offering envelopes for 2021 will be available for pick up in the common area right outside the church office. If your child would like envelopes, please let Kyle Know. NOTE: Envelope number change EVERY year. Remember...**DO NOT USE** these envelopes until January of 2021. If you have a bank draft and the bank has been instructed to put your envelope number on your check, be sure to update the new envelope number with your bank. If you have any questions, please contact Kyle at the church office, 704-982-2722.

### FINANCIAL YEAR END CLOSING

The church office will be closed December 23 through December 28. If you need any financial information, you can leave a message and name and number on the answering machine. The machine will be checked on Monday, Dec. 28 and someone will get back with you. There are four Sundays in December in which to pay up your 2020 pledge by December 31, 2020. The financial books will close on Thursday, December 31, 2020 at noon. Any contributions made after that time will be carried over to 2021. **IMPORTANT:** Due to the uncertainty of mail delivery during the holiday season the office suggests you mail your contribution no later than December 15. The mailing address is 126 W. North Street, PO Box 1578, Albemarle, NC 28002. If you are transferring stock, please do so by December 16 and be sure to notify Kyle when the transfer has been made.

### PLEDGE CARDS

If you have not yet turned in your 2021 pledge card, please do so immediately. It is important that our Stewardship Committee has the latest updated financial information to finalize the 2021 budget. If you need a pledge card, please let Kyle know.

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**DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER  
AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
(202 N. 2<sup>ND</sup> 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*).

**\*\*\*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 (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

**OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, December 20**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent/Chancel Choir Christmas Presentation*

- 8:30 am Session Meeting via Zoom
- 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

**Monday, December 21**

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 8:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study with Matt

**Wednesday, December 23**

*No Youth Club/Church Office Closed*

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast Zoom Meeting
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

**Thursday, December 24**

*Christmas Eve/Church Office Closed*

- 5:30 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Video via YouTube at your home with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- 5:30 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Video at the Badin Road Drive-In with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (2411 Badin Road, Albemarle)
- 11:00 pm Contemplative Christmas Eve Worship Video via YouTube

**Friday, December 25**

*Christmas Day/Church Office Closed*

- 11:00 am-1:00 pm Community Christmas Dinner Drive-Thru Event at First Baptist Church (202 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Albemarle)

**Sunday, December 27**

- 11:00 am Online Worship

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**  
**DECEMBER**

20- Virginia Currie  
Anna Henkenjohann  
Morgan Smet

21-Emily Andrew

22-Joe Snuggs

23-Bill Jolly

25-Gloria Bryson  
Bob Sasser

26-Connie Robinson

27-Duncan Bryson  
Claire George Drumheller

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**  
**DECEMBER**

27-Brad & Jane Boone

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**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.**

**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.**

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**All staff members are working at home whenever possible to limit the risk of COVID exposure.** While there is often someone present at the church, the building will be open sporadically. If you need to come by the church, please call first to make sure the building is open. The church's answering machine is being checked periodically; however, in case of an emergency, please contact Matt (540.449.5319) directly.