



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2, 2018

10:30 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Please sign the Welcome Pad and pass it along the pew.

Turn off all cell phones, and refrain from using cameras during worship.

PRELUDE: Three Settings of 'Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland'

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

John Alexander, organ

The words for this Bach setting can be found in Hymn 102 in our hymnal.

INTROIT: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord from Godspell... Stephen Schwartz (b. 1948)

Rejoice! Ensemble

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord.

WELCOME, CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & EXTENDING HOSPITALITYNeil Dunnivant

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF DANNY MASSIE

* CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Matt, Annie, Callum and Lakelan Logan

Leader: Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God.

People: **Let us prepare the way for Jesus, O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Leader: Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Hope.

People: **Our hope is in God and God's son, Jesus Christ.**

Leader: We light this candle today to remind us that Christ is our hope and the hope of the world.

People: **Renew us in Hope, so that we may be alert for Christ's coming.**

CALL TO WORSHIP continues, over

Leader: Let us watch and wait for Christ, the hope of the world.

All: Let us worship God.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 97 – Watchmen, Tell Us of the NightABERYSTWYTH

* CALL TO CONFESSION and PRAYER OF CONFESSIONNeil Dunnivant

Eternal God, we confess that we are not very good at waiting. We are not good at living in the present. We constantly fixate on the one thing we do not have and miss the blessings all around us. We act as if our problems are more important than the needs of others. We act as if our salvation is in our own hands. Remind us, O God, that you are in charge, that you are making all things new. Help us to look outside ourselves. Help us to look to You. Help us to wait on you. Amen.

A brief period of silence is reserved for personal confession

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* THE PEACE

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: O Come, O Come Emmanuel..... VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Em - man - - u - el, And ran - som
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
here Un - til the Son of God - ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Josh Shoemaker

FIRST LESSON: *Jeremiah 33:14-16*..... (PEW BIBLE, PAGE 738)

Reader: Josh Shoemaker

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN Lisa Witherspoon

(Children ages 4 to 7 are invited to Worship Enrichment)

ANTHEM: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL

Rejoice! Ensemble

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts along;
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

SECOND LESSON: *Luke 21:25-36*..... (PEW BIBLE, PAGES 85 AND 86)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord –

1. On Watching and Waiting.....Danny Massie

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 106 – Prepare the Way, O ZionBEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITHDolly Jacobs

As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there will be a day of judgment, both to deter all from sin, and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity: so will he have that day unknown to all, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come, and may be ever prepared to say, “Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.”

– from the Westminster Confession of Faith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

concluding with 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: There shall a star come out of JacobFelix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Chancel Choir

There shall a star come out of Jacob,
And a scepter shall rise out of Israel.
With might destroying, princes and cities!
There shall a star come out of Jacob.
As bright the star of morning gleams.

So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams,
Of light and consolation.
Thy Word, O Lord, Radiance darting,
Truth imparting, Gives salvation;
Thine be praise and adoration!

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise
God, all crea - tures here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; Praise

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP Danny Massie

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Jesus Come with Clouds Ascending..... HELMSLEY

Yes, A - men! Let all a - dore You
 high on your e - ter - nal throne;
 Crowns and em - pires fall be - fore You,
 claim the king - dom for Your own:
 Come, Lord Je - sus, come, Lord Je - sus,

come, Lord Je - sus, ev - er - last - ing
Christ, come down!

VOLUNTARY: Toccata on ‘Veni Emmanuel’Andrew Carter (b. 1939)
John Alexander, organ



TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

Danny Massie, Interim Pastor
Dolly Jacobs, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor and Associate for Outreach Ministry
Lisa Witherspoon, Associate Director of Children’s Ministry
Matt, Annie, Callum and Lakelan Logan, FPC Members
Josh Shoemaker, Lay Reader
Turner Pierce and Lucy Shoemaker, Acolytes
John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist
Robert Wells, Director of Chancel Choir
James Keith, Associate Director of Music Ministry for Rejoice!
Chancel Choir
Rejoice! Ensemble

“Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night” Text: John Bowring; Music: Joseph Parry.
 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Text: Latin, c. 12th century; Music: Thomas Helmore.
 “Prepare the Way, O Zion” Words: Frans Mikael Franzen; Music: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*.
 “Angels From the Realms of Glory” Text: Salisbury Hymnal Book; Music: Henry Thomas Smart.
 “Jesus Come with Clouds Ascending” Text: Charles Wesley; Music: Thomas Oliver.

* Please stand as you are able.

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THIS MORNING WE BEGIN THE SEASON OF ADVENT, a time of preparation for God's gift of Christ to our world. We light the first candle of Advent – the candle of Hope – at the beginning of this morning's service. During Advent we actively prepare for and anticipate the coming of Jesus into our world. While the culture busies itself for Christmas, we as Christians reflect upon the need for the Christ child in our lives as we anticipate Christ's birth with excitement and awareness anew.

OUR ADVENT SYMBOLS INCLUDE:

- *The color **blue*** of the paraments and pastors' stoles reminds us of our joyful anticipation as we sing songs of waiting, hear stories and scriptures of preparation, and ready ourselves for the birth of the One who was sent to give us the gift of new life.
- *The advent wreath*: its greenery symbolizing eternal life;
- *The four blue candles* that are lit symbolizing the hope, peace, joy and love that is Christ-given;
- *The white Christ candle* that is lit on Christmas eve is a reminder that Christ is the light to the world.

ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Bob and Jean Rapp in memory of his parents, Robert C. and Eunice Jerome Rapp.

PASTOR ON CALL: When church offices are closed and you have an emergency, call 336.908.8615. Leave a message with your phone number and the pastor on call will be in touch with you.

OUR 10:30 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP SERVICE IS LIVE-STREAMED on the web, and can be accessed at fpcgreensboro.org/streaming-live, or livestream.com/fpcgreensboro/fpclivestreaming. You can also sign up for reminders and alerts at livestream.com/fpcgreensboro, and you can stream the service on mobile devices by installing the Livestream app (free account sign-in required).

DON'T ASSUME ... that the pastors know that you or other members are in the hospital or home with a lengthy illness. Please call the church offices at 336.373.0445 and let us know so that we can extend a hand in prayer and care.

WHAT'S GOING ON: Connect with our media to keep in touch with upcoming programs and events. Start at fpcgreensboro.org/connect/our-media.

THE SAFETY OF FPC members and visitors is a priority for our ushers and greeters, who receive training in Session-adopted procedures. Please let them know if you observe anything that might require their attention.

SEEKING SMILING FACES AND HELPING HANDS:

Worshippers with mobility challenges are met on Greene Street by volunteers with our Parking Assistance Ministry. If you can help greet these folks and give them a hand into the Sanctuary once a month, please contact Jerry Leimenstoll, jleimenstoll@triad.rr.com or 336.209.2834..

BECOMING A MEMBER: We welcome anyone who trusts in Jesus Christ to join our community of growing disciples. Those interested in membership who have an active membership at another Christian church can transfer their membership to FPC. New believers who are making a first time profession of faith or people who have been confirmed and would like to make a reaffirmation of faith are received after completing Explore FPC, a class about our church and its ministries. The class will be offered again Sunday, January 27, 8:30 -10:15 a.m. in Cannon's Solarium. To RSVP to the class (including childcare requests) or to inquire about a member transfer, contact our receptionist at receptionist@fpcgreensboro.org or 336.478.4799.

CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING AS AN USHER: We need additional door keepers to God's House. Do you want to see old friends and meet new people? Easy and fun experience only once a month with great benefits. Nice way to get involved at FPC. We would love to have your warm friendly smile to usher in God's presence. Info: Anne Albert, 336.478.4722 or aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org.

OVERFLOW PARKING: Our neighbor Hanes Lineberry allows us to use its parking lot for overflow on Sunday mornings and other occasions. Please do not park there if you see yellow "Funeral Parking" signs at the access points; that means a service or event is scheduled at the funeral home.

WINTER IS COMING! To begin receiving FPC alerts for weather and closings, text FPCGSO to 41411 and follow the instructions to opt in. (Standard text rates may be applicable based on your individual carrier.)

IN MEMORIAM

James T. "Jim" Morrison, Jr.
November 21, 2018

Jean Troyke King
November 29, 2018

WE WELCOME YOU to the worship of God and to our community of faith. We are a church of growing disciples believing that worship is at the center of all we are and do as Christians.

IF YOU ARE A VISITOR, we encourage you to wear a name tag, available in the blue Welcome notebooks on your pew.

VISITORS AND MEMBERS, please sign the attendance pad in the Welcome notebooks. We care about how folks are doing and try to pay attention when our members haven't worshiped with us in a while. And please note the names of others on your pew and say "Hello!"

FAMILIES can find comfortable seating, a nursing screen, and a live feed of the service in the Myers Loyalty Room behind the Sanctuary. Parents must supervise children.

IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN, we offer ways to make worship meaningful for them:

Nursery care is provided for infants through age 4 on the **first floor of Mullin Life Center**. Our Child Protection Policy helps ensure our care is safe, loving and appropriate.

Children in Worship bags: Young children are invited to choose from an assortment of crayons, coloring books, and other activities to create their own worship bag for the service. These items are located on a cart in the Tower Room. Please ask an usher for assistance, if needed. Bags should be returned to the cart after the service.

Worship Enrichment: After the children's message, ages 4 to 7 are invited to follow adult leaders to the Children's Space in the Welcome Center for Worship Enrichment. Children will return to the sanctuary after the sermon.

Restrooms, including a family room, are located off the hallway behind the pulpit and chancel. We encourage young children to be accompanied by parents any time they leave the Sanctuary.

NEXT WEEK IN CHURCH

SCHOOL 9:30 a.m.

- **Wreath making** with church school children ages K-5th grade in the Agape Class, meeting in the Garden Room.
- **Holly Sienkiewicz** from The Center for New North Carolinians is the guest speaker in the Commitment Class. Meets in Memorial 100, the Blair Hagan Room.
- **"Preparing, not waiting: Christ is Born, Christ has Risen, Christ will come again"** in the Soularium class. Matt Logan & Nate Sell lead a discussion on Advent as a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. Class meets in Cannon's Solarium.
- **"Preparing for Christmas"** in the Homebuilders and Faith Matters classes, meeting in Smith 239, Myers Loyalty Room.
- **Rev. Dr. Charles Howell** is the guest speaker in YMBC, meeting in Redhead Hall. Dr. Howell will lead the class through Dec. 16.
- **Seekers Class** meets in the Vaughn Conference Room, Main 125, for a study of *Exodus*, led by Gerard Davidson.