



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 9, 2018

10:30 a.m.

SECOND 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.

VOLUNTARY: Chorale Prelude on "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

John Alexander, organ

WELCOME, CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & EXTENDING HOSPITALITY Danny Massie

* CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Anne Lewis and Philip Lopp (8:30 a.m.)

Mary Lovelady (10:30 a.m.)

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 second Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Peace.

People: **Peace is found in God and God's son Jesus Christ.**

Leader: We light this candle today to remind us that Christ is the peace we need and long for.

People: **Give us peace as we wait for Christ's birth.**

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

All: **Let us worship God.**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 93 – Life Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates.....TRURO

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSIONNeil Dunnivant

Eternal God,

We come before you as a people waiting. We are waiting for things to be better. We wait until we think we cannot wait any more. We think that we are at the end of our rope. We complain that we are not needed, that no one cares for the things we do and the way that we love others.

But you brought your son into this world to rid us of our impatience. He came to show us how to get over ourselves. Forgive us for the things we have done. Forgive us for what we have left undone. Jesus came so that we may have life and have it abundantly. Let us remember what a wonderful gift life is. 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.**

CHORAL RESPONSE: Creator of the Stars of Night CONDITUOR ALME SIDERUM
Chancel Choir Men

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (10:30 a.m. only): *Luke 1:67-80*(PEW BIBLE, PAGE 58)

Reader: Eva Engebretson

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN (*10:30 a.m. only*)..... Donna Chase
(*Children ages 4 to 7 are invited to Worship Enrichment*)

ANTHEM (*10:30 a.m. only*): Comfort, Comfort..... arr. John Ferguson
Chancel Choir

“Comfort, comfort now my people;
Tell of peace!” So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
Mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim
That God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald’s voice is crying
In the desert fast and near,
Calling us to true repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God away!
Let the valleys rise to meet him,
And the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
And the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord
Now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That God’s word is never broken.

SECOND LESSON: *Luke 3:1-18*.....(PEW BIBLE, PAGE 60)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord –

2. The Christmas IntruderDanny Massie

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 96 – On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry.....WINCHESTER NEW

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*10:30 a.m. only*)..... Donna Chase

**We believe that God sends us to tell all nations
that Christ calls everyone to repentance, faith and obedience.
We are to proclaim by word and deed that Christ gave himself
to set people free from sin and self-hatred,
from ignorance and disease,
from all forms of oppression
and even from death.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH continues, over

**We are to offer them in Christ's name
 fullness of life now and forever.
 We must not distort the gospel
 by weakening its promises and demands,
 by identifying it with oppressive structures,
 by pointing to ourselves instead of Christ.
 We must not restrict our proclamation to persons just like ourselves.
 We invite people everywhere to believe in Christ
 and become his followers. Amen.**

– from A Declaration of Faith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE..... Neil Dunnivant (8:30 a.m.)
 Donna Chase (10:30 a.m.)

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: And the Glory of the Lord from *Messiah* G. F. Handel (1685-1759)
Chancel Choir

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it
 together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

– Isaiah 40:5

* 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 (8:30 a.m.)
 Donna Chase (10:30 a.m.)

* CHARGE AND BLESSING

* 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: Magnificat primi toni, BuxWV 203 Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
John Alexander, organ



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Danny Massie, Interim Pastor | *Neil Dunnivant*, Executive Pastor and Associate for Outreach Ministry
Donna Chase, Director of Christian Formation (10:30 a.m.)
Anne Lewis and Philip Lopp, FPC Members (8:30 a.m.) | *Mary Lovelady*, FPC Member (10:30 a.m.)
Eva Engebretson, Lay Reader | *Evelyn Hare and Nick VanGorden*, Acolytes
John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist
Robert Wells, Director of Chancel Choir | *Chancel Choir*

THIS MORNING IN REJOICE!

Rejoice!, our non-traditional service, takes place Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in Mullin Life Center, receiving the sermon via video link. Also leading Rejoice! today are:

Dolly Jacobs, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Nate Sell, Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident | *Emily Scott*, Lay Reader
Harrison and Morgan Morisette, Advent Wreath Lighters
James Keith, Associate Director of Music Ministry for Rejoice! | *Rejoice! Band*

"Life Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" Text: Georg Weissel; Music: Thomas Williams.
"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" Text: Charles Coffin; Music: *Musikalisches Handbuch*.
"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Text: Thomas Ken; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*.
"Jesus Come with Clouds Ascending" Text: Charles Wesley; Music: Thomas Oliver.

* Please stand as you are able.

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WE CONTINUE THE SEASON OF ADVENT, a time of preparation for God's gift of Christ to our world, as we light the second candle of Advent – the candle of Peace – 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 and in memory of William D. Snyder, Jr., on his birthday, by his family.

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.

KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN SPOT A LEADER? The Appointments Committee needs your help. Who would you like to see on your next Nominating Committee? Nominating creates the slate of elders elected each spring. You have the opportunity to elect eight members of Nominating (another seven are selected by Session). The committee should reflect our church's gender, age and experience. Look for nominating forms & envelopes in the Welcome notebooks. Suggestions are due January 6, 2019.

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.

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

**Shirley Turner Archibald
December 5, 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.

- **Nate Sell** leads a discussion on **Advent** in the Agape Class, meeting in the Garden Room.
- **Mary Ellen Poe** from Church World Services (CWS) will be speaking in the Commitment Class about refugee resettlement in Greensboro. 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.
- **Seekers Class** meets in the Vaughn Conference Room, Main 125, for a study of *Exodus*, led by Gerard Davidson.