

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 16, 2018

10:30 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT /
BAPTISM SUNDAY

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: Christmas Carillon.....Margaret R. Tucker
Westminster Ringers

WELCOME, CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & EXTENDING HOSPITALITYDanny Massie

* CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

McWhorter Family: Dan and Laura Ann, Carter and Warren (8:30 a.m.)

George Nick Johnson (10:30 a.m.)

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

People: **Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

Leader: We light this candle to prepare for Christ.
We light this candle for joy!

People: **Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 88 – O Come, O Come, EmmanuelVENI EMMANUEL
(verses 1-4)

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Nate Sell (8:30 a.m.)
Donna Chase (10:30 a.m.)

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. 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: Comfort, Comfort Now My People.....GENEVAN



Com-fort, com-fort you my peo-ple, Tell of peace, thus says our God;



Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness Mourn ing 'neath their sor-row's load.



Speak you to Je-ru-sa-lem Of the peace that waits for them;



Tell them that their sins I cov-er, And their war-fare now is o-ver.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (10:30 a.m. only): *Philippians 4:4-7* (PEW BIBLE, PAGE 198)

Reader: Jack Hicks

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (10:30 a.m. only)

Introduction of Family

Leader: We come to the font to baptize four of our children and to remember that we are the baptized children of God.

Baptism is a special act of Christian worship that uses visible signs to present God's grace for us in Jesus Christ.

People: We baptize because Jesus instructed his disciples to baptize and to celebrate this sacrament among God's people, the Church.

Leader: Through baptism we are adopted and welcomed into God's family, and we are named and claimed as God's own. Parents, relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach that faith to your child?

Parents: We do.

Leader to the young children of the church:

Do you promise to pray for Louise, Wells, Jack and Betsy, to be a Christian friend and to tell them of the love of Jesus?

Children: We do.

Elder to congregation:

Do we as members of the church of Jesus Christ promise to guide and nurture Louise, Wells, Jack, Betsy and their parents, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his Church?

Congregation: We do.

Baptism

Words of Reflection on Baptism

Prayer

Presentation

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (10:30 a.m. only): Child of God, I Now Have Chosen

FISHER PARK



Child of God, I here sur-round you With this fam-i-ly
Sis-ters, bro-thers who will love and Tend you faith-ful-ly.

ANTHEM (10:30 a.m. only): The Friendly Beastsarr. Joel Martinson
Credo and Cherub Choirs

Jesus our brother, strong and good,
Was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus our brother, strong and good.

“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
“I carried his mother up hill and down;
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town.”
“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

“I,” said the cow, all white and red,
“I gave him my manger for his bed;
I gave him my hay to pillow his head.”
“I,” said the cow, all white and red.

“I,” said the sheep with curly horn,
“I gave him my wool for his blanket warm;
He wore my coat on Christmas morn.”
“I,” said the sheep with curly horn.

– *Suffan Stevens*

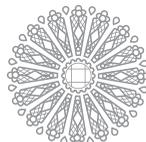
SECOND LESSON: *Zephaniah 3:14-20*..... (PEW BIBLE, PAGE 877)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord –

3. Rejoice! The Lord Is in Your Midst.....Danny Massie



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 144 – In the Bleak Midwinter CRANHAM

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE Mark Yarbrough (8:30 a.m.)
Kate Pierce (10:30 a.m.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE..... Nate Sell (8:30 a.m.)
Neil Dunnivant (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: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
Westminster Ringers

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Angels from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE

All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,
Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing To th'e - ter - nal Three in One:
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION.....Nate Sell (8:30 a.m.)
Eli Davis (10:30 a.m.)

* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP Danny Massie (8:30 a.m.)
Neil Dunnivant (10:30 a.m.)

* 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!

The image shows a musical score for a congregational response. It consists of seven staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some phrases being repeated. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

VOLUNTARY: “Dieu parmi nous” (God among us) from *La Nativité du Seigneur*
Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

John Alexander, organ



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Danny Massie, Interim Pastor

Nate Sell, Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident (8:30 a.m.)

Donna Chase, Director of Christian Formation (10:30 a.m.)

Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor and Associate for Outreach Ministry (10:30 a.m.)

The McWhorter Family, FPC Family (8:30 a.m.)

George Nick Johnson, FPC Member (10:30 a.m.)

Jack Hicks, Lay Reader

Emma Ballenger and Sarah Parrish, Acolytes

Eli Davis, FPC Child (10:30 a.m.)

Mark Yarbrough, Transition Team (8:30 a.m.)

Kate Pierce, Transition Team (10:30 a.m.)

John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist

Robert Wells, Director of Chancel Choir

Anne Albert, Worship and Music Coordinator

Westminster Ringers

Chancel Choir

Cherub and Credo Choirs

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:

Nate Sell, Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident

Matt Logan, Director of Young Adult Ministry

Lisa Witherspoon, Associate Director of Children's Ministry

John Atkinson, Transition Team

Mac Faircloth, Lay Reader

Frances Davis, FPC Child

James Keith, Associate Director of Music Ministry for Rejoice!

Rejoice! Band

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Text: Latin prose; Music: Plainsong.

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People” Text: Johannes Olearius; Music: Genevan Psalter.

“Child of God, I Now Have Chosen” Text: Herman Stuempfle; Music: Sally Ann Morris.

“In the Bleak Midwinter” Text: Christina Rossetti; Music: Gustav Holst.

“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.

Music reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net A-707283.

WE CONTINUE THE SEASON OF ADVENT, a time of preparation for God's gift of Christ to our world, as we light the third candle of Advent – the candle of Joy – 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 THIS MORNING'S POINSETTIAS: The poinsettias that adorn the sanctuary are to the glory of God and to honor or memorialize family, friends and loved ones as we celebrate Advent. All of these memorials and honor gifts are acknowledged in a Christmas Memorial and Honor Booklet, available at Sanctuary and Life Center entrances today.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered today during the 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary service to Louise Harding Bostian, daughter of Sam and Elizabeth Bostian; Wellington Napp (Wells) Brantley and Jackson King (Jack) Brantley, twin sons of Cooper and Whitney Brantley; and Elizabeth Anne (Betsy) King, daughter of Matt and Sally King.

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.

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 child-care 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 UPON US! 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.)

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.

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.

- **Lane Ridenhour's music program** in YMBC, meeting in Redhead Hall. Agape Class will join as well.
- **"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.
- **Seekers Class** meets in the Vaughn Conference Room, Main 125, for a study of *Exodus*, led by Gerard Davidson.

DECEMBER 30—YMBC is the only church school class scheduled to meet on December 30, Seminary Student Sunday.

The vision of First Presbyterian Church

FPC's vision is to be a vibrant regional church of **growing disciples** through a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ, with a passion for welcoming all people who seek a life of meaning and purpose, with a special focus on churchless young adults. Relying on God's grace, FPC will be this church through:

- Worship that is relevant, spiritual, welcoming, vibrant, mysterious and majestic
- Living as an inclusive community of faith within the Reformed tradition of head, heart and hands
- A faithful commitment for excellence in children's and youth ministry
- Pastoral care that is responsive and proactive
- Outreach that makes a significant difference in the community, the world and in the lives of members
- Engaging, transformative education for all generations
- Connecting relationships within this faith community
- Facilities that are welcoming, inviting and user-friendly
- A staff that models collaborative leadership
- A session that governs with a focus on growing disciples.

IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 – 8:30 and 10:30 am, Sanctuary; and 10:30 am, Rejoice! Danny Massie is our preacher. Sermon: "Why Mary Matters." Scriptures: Luke 1:26-56 and Micah 5:2-5a.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 – Three Christmas Eve services:

- Family Nativity at 10:30 am
- Candlelight Communion at 5:30 pm. Danny Massie preaches, "Home for the Holidays" from Luke 2:1-20
- Candlelight Communion with youth leadership, 11 pm. Danny Massie preaches, "In the Still of the Night" from John 1:1-14 and Isaiah 9:2-7.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 – Seminary Student Sunday. One service, 10:30 am, Sanctuary. Nick Demuyneck our former interim director of youth ministry, is our preacher.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 – Communion Sunday. 8:30 and 10:30 am, Sanctuary; and 10:30 am, Rejoice! Danny Massie is our preacher. After worship, elders will take communion to church members in care communities and private homes who are unable to attend services. For information, contact Debby Foster, 336.478.4702 or dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org.



617 N. Elm Street
Greensboro, NC 27401
(336) 373-0445
Fax (336) 275-9398
www.fpcgreensboro.org

Danny W. Massie,
Interim Pastor
pastor@fpcgreensboro.org

Neil W. Dunnivant,
Executive Pastor and Associate
Pastor for Outreach Ministry
ndunnivant@fpcgreensboro.org

Dorothy C. Jacobs,
Associate Pastor for
Pastoral Care
djacobs@fpcgreensboro.org