



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 23, 2018

8:30 a.m and 10:30 a.m.

FOURTH 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: La vierge et l'enfant from *La Nativité du seigneur*

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

John Alexander, organ

WELCOME, CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & EXTENDING HOSPITALITY Danny Massie

* CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Rob Smith (8:30 a.m.)

John and Frances Ganem (10:30 a.m.)

Leader: We sing of God's mercy and grace shown to all generations.

People: **We praise God's constant and never-ending love and faithfulness.**

Leader: We rejoice that God's promise of an anointed one – the Messiah – is about to be fulfilled.

People: **O come, O come, Emmanuel – God with us – forever!**

*– Call to Worship, Advent 4B by Moira Laidlaw,
posted on www.liturgiesonline.com.au*

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 119 – Hark the Herald, Angels Sing! MENDELSSOHN

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSIONDolly Jacobs
God of the poor and lowly, your power is revealed to us through weakness. You come to us in quiet, unexpected ways. You chose a humble servant girl and a crude manger and outcast shepherds. Holy Lord, we confess that there are many times when we shun what is weak and lowly and humble. We lust for power. We savor prestige. We glory in the honors we receive. God of mercy, forgive our foolish pride. Grant us humble hearts, and help us to love the way that you love. In the name of Jesus we pray. 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: On This Day, Earth Shall Ring.....PERSONENT HODIE



1. On this day earth shall ring With the song chil-dren sing To the Lord,



Christ our King, Born on earth to save us; Him the Fa-ther gave us.



Id-e-o - o - o, Id-e-o - o - o, Id-e-o glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De - ol

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (10:30 a.m. only): *Micah 5:2-5a* (PEW BIBLE, PAGE 865)

Reader: *Catherine Johns*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN (10:30 a.m. only) *Lisa Witherspoon*

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

ANTHEM (10:30 a.m. only): *O magnum mysterium*

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1540-1611)

Chancel Choir Ensemble

*O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
jacentem in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum.
Alleluia.*

O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord,
lying in a manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear
Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

SECOND LESSON: *Luke 1:26-55* (PEW BIBLE, PAGES 56 AND 57)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: *Why Mary Matters* *Danny Massie*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 146 – *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* *TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDIUM*

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (10:30 a.m. only) *Neil Dunnivant*

**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.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH continues, over

**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.**

– from A Declaration of Faith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE..... Dolly Jacobs (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: A Maiden Most Gentle French traditional melody
arranged by Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

Chancel Choir

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing: Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.
How bless'd is the birth of her heavenly child, Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.
The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call The Lord of creation, and Saviour of all.
Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare,
And marveled in awe at the babe in her care.
Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray;
Sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless 'Ave.'
Ave Maria.

* 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 worship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Jesus Comes 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 | *Dolly Jacobs*, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care
Neil Dunnavant, Executive Pastor and Associate for Outreach Ministry (10:30 a.m.)
Lisa Witherspoon, Associate Director of Children's Ministry (10:30 a.m.)
Rob Smith, FPC Member (8:30 a.m.) | *John and Frances Ganem*, FPC Members (10:30 a.m.)
Catherine Johns, Lay Reader | *Henry Chase and Turner Pierce*, 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:

Nate Sell, Cynthia Price Pastoral Resident | *Donna Chase*, Director of Christian Formation
Hilda Courter, Lay Reader | *James Keith*, Associate Director of Music Ministry for Rejoice!
Rejoice! Band

"Hark the Herald, Angels Sing!" Text: Charles Wesley; Music: Felix Mendelssohn.
 "On This Day, Earth Shall Ring" Text: *Piae Cantiones*; Music: arr. Gustav Theodore Holst.
 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" Text: Joseph Simpson Cook; Music: *Piae Cantiones*.
 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" Text: Salisbury Hymnal Book; Music: Henry Thomas Smart.
 "Jesus Comes 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 fourth candle of Advent – the candle of Love – 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.

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).

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.

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.

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 child-care requests) or to inquire about a member transfer, contact our receptionist at receptionist@fpcgreensboro.org or 336.478.4799.

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.

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.)

IN MEMORIAM

Mose Kiser, Jr.
December 18, 2018

Dr. Joseph "Joe" B. Mullin
December 19, 2018

NEXT SUNDAY IS SEMINARY STUDENT SUNDAY:

one service, 10:30 a.m., in the sanctuary. Seminary Student Sunday, held the first Sunday after Christmas, allows students the opportunity to lead worship. Next Sunday will be led by Nick Demuyne, our former interim director of youth ministry, who is a student at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

EXTENDING COMMUNION: Our next Communion Sunday is January 6, and FPC's Pastoral Care team is working to offer communion to church members who live in care communities and private homes, who are unable to attend services. For information, contact Debby Foster, 336.478.4702 or dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org

CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, December 24-26, 2018; and on Tuesday, January 1, 2019, for the Christmas and New Year's holidays, and there will be no activities on campus those days. Pastors on call can be reached during the holiday break.

COMING UP IN CHURCH SCHOOL

Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 30 – YMBC is the only church school class scheduled to meet next Sunday. Meets in Redhead Hall, with guest speaker Rev. Dr. Charles Howell.

JANUARY 6 – *New classes begin:*

- Sandie Gravett teaches "Reconsidering the Parables of Jesus" in Agape, meeting in the Garden Room.
- Neil Dunning leads a discussion on Old Testament Bible Characters, starting with Moses, in the Homebuilders & Faith Matters classes, meeting in the Myers Loyalty Room.
- "100 Things to Know About Being a Christian" begins in Soularium, meeting in Bible Max Theater, 3rd floor Corl.
- "Big God, Big Questions for Parents", a class designed for Confirmand parents but open to all, begins in the Memorial Youth Room.

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.