

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 29, 2019

10:30 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

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

John Alexander, organ

WELCOME, CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & EXTENDING HOSPITALITYNeil Dunnavant

* CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: **those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined.**

Leader: For unto us a child is born, a son is given.

People: **Authority rests on his shoulders, and he is named wonderful
counselor, mighty God, prince of peace.**

Leader: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.

All: **We light the Christmas candle as we sing glory to God in the
highest and peace to God's people on earth.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 29 – Go, Tell It on the Mountain GO TELL IT

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Almighty God,
you wonderfully created,
and yet more wonderfully restored,
the dignity of human nature.
In your mercy,
let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ
who came to share our humanity,
and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

A brief period of silence is reserved for personal confession

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA



Come to Beth-le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



Come, a - dore on bend-ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o;



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex-cel - sis De - o.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE WORD READ: *John 12:1-8*

Reader: Neil Dunnivant

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

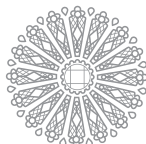
A TIME FOR CHILDRENNeil Dunnivant

THE WORD READ: *Deuteronomy 24:17-22*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: The Hospitality of GodMary Ellen Poe



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 56 – The First NowellTHE FIRST NOWELL

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITHNeil Dunnivant

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

– The Apostles' Creed

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

John Alexander, organ

* 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

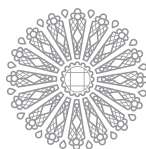
* BENEDICTION Mary Ellen Poe

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Joy to the World! ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let us our
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re peat the sound - ing



VOLUNTARY: Toccata on 'Joy to the World!'.....Craig Philips
John Alexander, organ



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor and Associate for Outreach Ministry
Mary Ellen Poe, Development Coordinator at Church World Service Greensboro
John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Text: Text: John W. Work; Music: African American Spiritual.
"Angels We Have Heard on High" Text: French carol; Music: French carol.
"The First Nowell" Text: English carol; Music: English carol.
"Angels from the Realms of Glory" Text: Salisbury Hymnal Book; Music: Henry Thomas Smart.
"Joy to the World!" Text: Isaac Watts; Music: Geroge Frederick Handel .

* Let us rise in body or spirit.

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

THIS MORNING, WE WELCOME MARY ELLEN POE TO

THE PULPIT: Mary Ellen Poe works as the Development Coordinator at Church World Service Greensboro. Before moving to Greensboro in July 2018, Mary Ellen completed her Master of Divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary. Her M. Div. degree combined with a background in History and Economics informs her perspective on how communities develop and change, and how faith plays a role in this transformation. She is passionate about encouraging people to engage in and strengthen the best aspects of their local community. Mary Ellen has served in non-profits in the United States, Nicaragua, and South Africa, but is proud to call Greensboro—a city with a 40-year history of welcoming refugees—home.

ABOUT THIS MORNING'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Seaman III Devon D. Deaton aboard aircraft carrier *Abraham Lincoln* in the Persian Gulf by the Wyatt H. McNairy family.

THE LITURGICAL COLOR *WHITE* seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors' stoles signifies the special days of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

FLOWER DATES AVAILABLE – You can honor or remember a friend or family member by donating flowers for our Sunday morning worship service in the Sanctuary. The flowers are accompanied by a note in the bulletin explaining their significance. The following dates are open for 2020: March 22 & 29; May 17 & 24; June 28; July 26; August 23; December 20 & 27. Contact Carolyn Yow, 336-478-4768 or cyow@fpcgreensboro.org to learn more.

THE PARKING ASSISTANCE MINISTRY TEAM (PAM) has spaces on both sides of Greene Street reserved for our members and visitors with special needs. PAM volunteers can assist with guiding you to appropriate parking. If you are being driven to church, you may be dropped off at the Greene Street entrance while your driver parks.

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.

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NEWS: You can sign up for our weekly E-News and our Thursday morning Sunday Preview at the link at fpcgreensboro.org/connect/our-media

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.

FPC 101: If you are thinking about exploring your faith with us, attend this four-week series on what it means to be a disciple of Christ in our faith community. Sundays, January 19 & 26 and February 2 & 9, 9:15-10:15 am, in Cannon's Solarium. RSVP: 336.478.4799 or receptionist@fpcgreensboro.org. *Note: Emails from @bellsouth, @yahoo, or @att will not reach our email server; please call instead.*

OUR 10:30 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP SERVICE IS LIVE-STREAMED on the web, and can be accessed at fpcgreensboro.org/streaming-live, or via our Facebook page. 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).

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. You'll find nominating forms & envelopes in the Welcome pads. Suggestions are due January 5, 2020.

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.)*

NEXT SUNDAY IS COMMUNION SUNDAY: 8:30 service in Memorial Chapel, and 10:30 worship in Sanctuary and Rejoice! 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.

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

January 5, 9:15 a.m.

- Mary Ellen Poe will lead a discussion on **refugee resettlement in Greensboro** and the impact of the current expectation of only 18,000 planned arrivals for 2020. The Commitment Class meets in Memorial 100, the Blair Hagan Room.
- **TED Talks Faith** meets in Spencer Love Room, Memorial 200. Bring your coffee from fellowship time to watch & discuss a short talk.
- **YMBC** meets in Redhead Hall.
- **Seekers Class** continues a study of Exodus in Vaughn Conference Room, Main 125.

FELLOWSHIP IN CANNON'S

SOLARIUM with coffee & snacks:

8:45-10:30 a.m.