

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 1, 2019

10:30 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT /
COMMUNION SUNDAY

*Please sign the Welcome Pad and pass it along the pew.
Turn off all cell phones, and refrain from using cameras during worship.
Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.*

THE VISION OF GOD

VOLUNTARY: Choral Prelude on 'Wachet Auf' Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME, INVITATION, AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE..... Danny Massie

* CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATHAlexandra Mauney

One: We light this candle as a sign of the light of Christ. As the Lord
has promised, in days to come the nations shall beat their swords
into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

Many: **nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.**

One: We light this candle in Hope;

Many: **O Come, O Come Emmanuel!**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 93 – Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty GatesTRURO

* PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSIONAlexandra Mauney

God of forgiveness and mercy, hear our prayer as we confess our sin. With moments so critical we let time go by. With deliverance so near we linger in the darkness. With Christ as our armor, we yet fear the unknown foe. With the night having passed, we still hesitate to greet the new day. O God, lead us forth, that we may meet the moment you graciously give us. Dispel the shadows, so that your will may be clear. Clothed with light and new life in Christ, let us go forth as those awake to your will. 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.**

As you share the good news of forgiveness in Jesus Christ, please offer one another these words: "The peace of Christ be 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!

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE WORD READ: *Matthew 24:36-44*

Reader: Joyce D'Arconte

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDRENLisa Witherspoon

ANTHEM: 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

THE WORD READ: *Romans 13:11-14*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: "Wake Up! Dawn Is Breaking!".....Danny Massie

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Alexandra Mauney

The Lord's Supper is a celebration of the reconciliation of people with God and with one another, in which they joyfully eat and drink together at the table of their Savior. Jesus Christ gave his church this remembrance of his dying for the sinners so that by participation in it they have communion with him and with all who shall be gathered to him. Partaking in him as they eat the bread and drink the wine in accordance with Christ's appointment, they receive from the risen and living Lord the benefits of his death and resurrection. They rejoice in the foretaste of the kingdom which he will bring to consummation at his promised coming, and go out from the Lord's Table with courage and hope for the service to which he has called them.

* HYMN OF PREPARATION: No. 347 – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence PICARDY

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE Danny Massie

GREAT THANKSGIVING Keith Dove

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

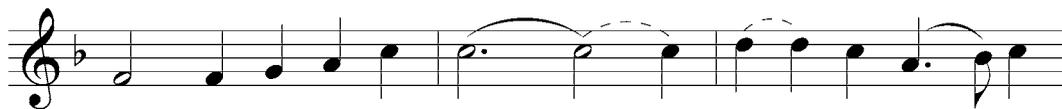
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: ... Therefore with all creation we sing your praise.



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
2. Bless - ed is he who comes



God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION Danny Massie, Alexandra Mauney and Keith Dove

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Meditation on ‘Picardy’ Leo Sowerby

John Alexander, organ

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNIONKeith Dove

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: E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly ComePaul O. Manz
Chancel Choir

Peace be to you and grace from Him Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood That we might saved be.
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; Sing Holy, Holy Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their All!

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

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in a single system. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: "All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,". The second staff contains: "Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing To th'e - ter - nal Three in One:". The third staff contains: "Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King!". The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

* HYMN OF SENDING: No. 104 – O Lord, How Shall I Meet YouVALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

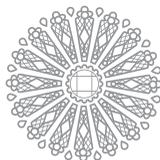
* BENEDICTION AND CHARGE Danny Massie

VOLUNTARY: Hyfrydol..... Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872- 1958)
John Alexander, organ

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Danny Massie, Interim Pastor
Alexandra Mauney, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident
Keith Dove, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident
Lisa Witherspoon, Associate Director of Children's Ministry |
Joyce D'Arconte, Lay Reader
John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist
Robert Wells, Director of Chancel Choir
Chancel Choir

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” Text: Georg Weisdel; Music: *Musica Sacra*.
“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Text: Latin, c. 12th century; Music: Thomas Helmore.
“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Text: From Liturgy of St. James; Music: French melody.
“Angels From the Realms of Glory” Text: Salisbury Hymnal Book; Music: Henry Thomas Smart.
“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” Text: Paul Gerhardt ; Music: Melchoir Teschner.



* Let us rise in body or spirit.

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

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.

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: January 5; March 22 & 29; May 17 & 24; June 28; July 26; August 23; September 20; November 22; December 20 & 27. Contact Carolyn Yow, 336-478-4768 or cyow@fpcgreensboro.org to learn more.

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.

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

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.

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).

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.)*

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 a short series of classes about our church and its ministries. The class will be offered again in January. To inquire about the next classes, or about transferring membership, contact our Matt Logan at mlogan@fpcgreensboro.com or 336.478.4741.

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.

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.

UPDATE FOR STOCK TRANSFER GIFTS: After six months of research by the Funds Management Team and the Finance Committee, the church's brokerage account has been moved to SunTrust Bank. All stock transfer gifts will now go through this account. Please contact Christine Ciaccio, Director of Finance, for information: 336.478.4750 or cciacchio@fpcgreensboro.org.

IN MEMORIAM

**Margaret Hart Albright
November 22, 2019**

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!"

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN: FPC welcomes children of all ages in worship and affirms that children are an integral part of our faith community. In order to ensure their safety, we ask that children be accompanied by an adult at all times inside and outside the Sanctuary, including restrooms and hallways.

Nursery care is available for children up to 6 years old on the first floor of the Mullin Life Center. They may stay in the nursery during the entire service or parents may walk children to the nursery after the children's message.

Children's worship bags are available on a cart in the Tower Room. Children may assemble a bag with crayons, coloring pages, small toys, and other items to help them engage in the worship service. Please return the bag and all items at the end of the worship service.

Restrooms, including a family room, are located off the hallway behind the Sanctuary. If you need to step out of the service temporarily with a child, the service can also be viewed via live stream in the Virginia Gilmer Room behind the Sanctuary,

Questions about FPC children's ministries?
Please contact Lisa Witherspoon,
lwitherspoon@fpcgreensboro.org.

NEXT WEEK IN CHURCH SCHOOL

December 8, 9:15 a.m.

- **TED Talks Faith** – Bring your coffee from fellowship time to watch & discuss a short talk, curated by our Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Residents and Discipleship director Matt Logan. All ages are welcome. Spencer Love Room, Memorial 200.
- Dolly Jacobs leads a discussion of *Every Parents Guide to Navigating Our Digital World* with "How can I supervise what my kids are saying and sharing without making them feel like they're under surveillance?" (Chapter 4). Memorial 304.
- Alexandra Mauney will lead a study of *Rise up, Shepherd! Advent Reflections on the Spirituals* by Rev. Luke Powery, our 2020 Mullin Forum speaker/preacher. Commitment Class, Home Builders and Faith Matters will meet together in the Blair Hagan Room, Memorial 100.
- **Advent wreath-making and other intergenerational activities** – K-fifth graders join with the Agape Class in Smith 124, the Garden Room. Led by Lisa Witherspoon.
- John Willett begins a two-part discussion, "**Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room,**" in YMBC. Class meets in Redhead Hall.
- **Exodus** – A deep study of the second book of the Bible, led by Gerard Davidson in the Seekers Class. Vaughn Conference Room, Main 125.

FELLOWSHIP IN CANNON'S SOLARIUM with coffee & snacks: 8:45-10:30 a.m., hosted by Patrice Newman, Kelly Seymour, John Vanderwerff, and Bet Vanderwerff.