

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 8, 2019 10:30 a.m.

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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.

#### Prayer of Preparation

God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin.

Keep our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.

We ask this through him, whose coming is certain, whose days draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## THE VISION OF GOD

VOLUNTARY:	Nun komm der Heiden Heiland	Johann Sebastian	Bach (1685-1750)
John Alexander, organ			
		, 8	
Welcome, I	NVITATION, AND CONGREGATIONAL	Life	Danny Massie

\* CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH ...... Vivian Guthrie

One: We light this candle as a sign of the light of Christ. As the Lord

has promised, God will give you a sign. Look, the young woman

is with child.

Many: She shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel: "God is with us."

One: We light this candle in Peace; Many: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

# THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious God, we come to confess that our lives too often fail to reflect the justice and peace described in your word. We harbor desires to get even with those who wrong us, and we are quick to lash out with our tongues at those who displease us. We turn away from those in need, often blaming the poor for their poverty and victims of racism for their discontent and anger. We go along with politics that favor the rich and those that use fear to turn us against members of other nations and religions. Open our eyes and help us accept the vision of the prophet so that we will follow our Master in working for a world of justice and peace. We ask this in the name of the One who is the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A brief period of silence is reserved for personal confession.

# \* 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."

<sup>\*</sup> Processional Hymn: No. 82 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus...... (SEE PAGE 10)

<sup>\*</sup> Prayer of Adoration

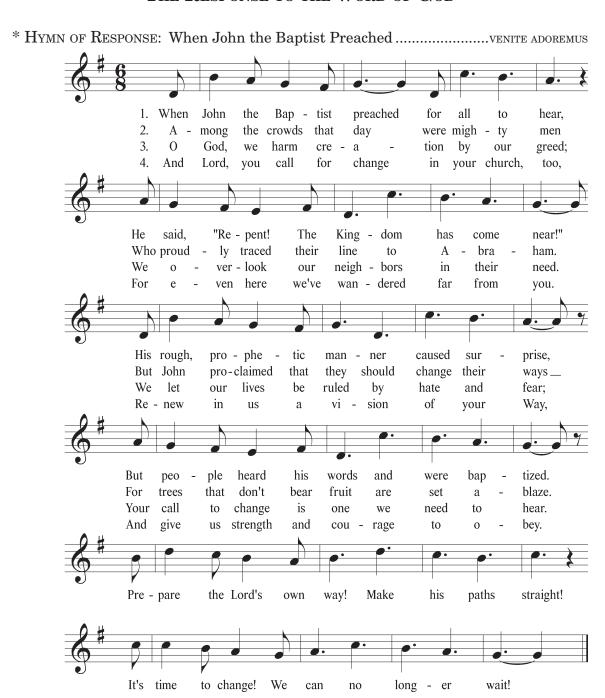
<sup>\*</sup> Assurance of Pardon

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.

# THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination				
The Word Read: Isaiah 11:1-9(See page 9)  Reader: Erwin Fuller				
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.  Congregation: Thanks be to God.				
A Time for Children	Matt Logan			
Anthem: A Spotless Rose				
Sprung from a tender root, Of ancient seers' foreshowing, Of Jesse promised fruit; Its fairest bud unfolds to light  Whereof Isaial Is from its sween In Mary, pures For through ou	et root springing t Maid; ir God's great love and might, abe she bare us			
The Word Read: Matthew 3:1-12(See page 9)				
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.  Congregation: Thanks be to God.				
THE WORD PROCLAIMED: More Than A Vision				
(SEE PAGE 12)				

# THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD



\* Affirmation of Faith......Alexandra Mauney

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, traditional

#### 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.

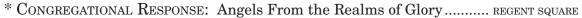
#### OFFERING

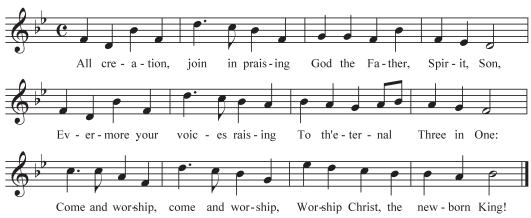
OFFERTORY: "For Unto Us a Child Is Born" from Messiah .... G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Chancel Choir

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, And the government shall be upon his shoulder: And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah 9:5





- \* Prayer of Dedication......Alexandra Mauney
- \* Hymn of Sending: No. 87 Comfort, Comfort Now My People ...... (SEE PAGE 11)

As we bear the Word into the world, we turn to face the back doors of the church as we hear the charge & benediction

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} Voluntary: "The World Awaiting the Savior" from $Symphonie-Passion \\ & Marcel Dupr\'e~(1886-1971) \\ \end{tabular}$ 

John Alexander, organ

### Today's Worship Leaders

Danny Massie, Interim Pastor | Alexandra Mauney, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident Matt Logan, Director of Young Adult Ministry and Discipleship | Erwin Fuller, Lay Reader Vivian Guthrie, Advent Wreath Lighter | Evelyn Hare and Mary Katherine Faucher, Acolytes John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist | Robert Wells, Director of Chancel Choir Lane Ridenhour, Baritone | Chancel Choir

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Text: Charles Wesley; Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard.

"When John the Baptist Preached" Text: *Matthew 3:1-12*; Music: English melody.

"Angels From the Realms of Glory" Text: Salisbury Hymnal Book; Music: Henry Thomas Smart.

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

\* Let us rise in body or spirit. 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 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.

THE ROSEBUD IN THE SERVICE TODAY celebrates the birth of Doxa Ndayisenga, who was born December 2, 2019. Doxa is the daughter of Angel and Felix Ndayisenga, and joins siblings Daniel, Gretchen, Deborah, and Davet. The family resides at 411 Montrose Dr. Apt. B, Greensboro, NC 27407.

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.

**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.)

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 today's bulletin. Suggestions are due January 5, 2020.

**REVIVE US AGAIN!** Last year our average worship attendance, from October through December, was 395. Our revival attendance goal is 650, which includes all three Sunday services and Wednesday night Vespers. Last week's attendance: 611. Average revival season attendance: 554.

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).

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.

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!"

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 15, 9:15 a.m.

- TED Talks Faith Bring your coffee from fellowship time to watch & discuss a short talk. Matt Logan will lead a discussion on "Why Language is Humanity's Greatest Invention." by David Peterson. The class will talk about how our speech affects the way we think about and worship God. All ages are welcome. Spencer Love Room, Memorial 200.
- Donna Chase leads a discussion of Every Parents Guide to Navigating Our Digital World with "How can I help my kids become good digital citizens?" (Chapter 5). Memorial 304.
- Chip Bristol 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.
- Pastor Neil Dunnavant leads a discussion of the timeline of Jesus' life in the Agape Class, meeting in Smith 124, the Garden Room.
- John Willett concludes 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 Phyllis Parker and Paula Pile.

#### Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.r."

#### Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

# Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1–5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.



# Peaceable Kingdom

by Edward Hicks (1780 - 1849) c. 1834 oil on canvas National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC Measures 29 5/16 x 35 1/2 in.

Quaker minister and painter Edward Hicks is best known for his Peaceable Kingdom pictures, of which sixty-two exist. The paintings represent a messianic prophecy in the book of *Isaiah* (11:6): "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."

- from metmuseum.org, nga.gov, and wikipedia.org



ATFIRSTPRESBYTERIAN

**DECEMBER 8 - DECEMBER 15, 2019 • MORE AT FPCGREENSBORO.ORG** 

# **TODAY IN THE WELCOME CENTER**

**REVIVE! MINISTRY FAIR** – Stop by to pick up a ministry booklet and for more info on ways to grow & serve.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES pop-up store.

**BOOKSIGNING** by members Kelly Seymour & Sudie White. FINDING JOY is perfect for kids on your list, and we need 22 more donated copies for Hot Dish & Hope children's Christmas bags. \$8 each or 3 for \$20.



WORSHIP

Grow

**FPC ADVENT DEVOTIONALS,** written by staff and coordinated by Pastoral Resident Alexandra Mauney, and Children's Advent calendars.

**ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO GIVE** – Hymnal dedication forms (\$50); Hot Dish & Hope honor cards (\$5 each).

# **AND LATER TODAY**

KIDS DISCIPLE CLUB (grades 3-5), creates Christmas cards for Hot Dish & Hope gift bags and plays Christmas games, 3:30-5 pm, Life Center.

A LITTLE ADVENT MUSIC SERIES CONTINUES: Messiah Sing-a-long with orchestra and soloists, 3:45 pm rehearsal; 5 pm sing, Sanctuary.



**PW LUNCHEON** with children's Christmas program.

PLEASE DROP OFF any remaining filled Hot Dish & Hope Christmas bags in Mullin Life Center, 5:30-7 pm.

## **WEDNESDAY**

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER – Fried chicken, chocolate cake.
Children's option available. 5-6:30 pm, Mullin Life Center. TICKETS:
Receptionist@fpcgreensboro.org



**VESPERS** – 6 pm, Memorial Chapel.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – Keith Dove leads a study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *The Cost of Discipleship*. 6:30-7:30 pm, Blair Hagan Room.

# ADUENT CONTINUES

#### **NEXT SUNDAY:**

- Dolly Jacobs preaches in First Light & Sanctuary, and Danny Massie preaches in Rejoice!
- Faith Friends Christmas Party 3-5 pm (K/1st & 9th graders)
- A LITTLE ADVENT MUSIC: A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS with Chancel Choir, orchestra, handbells & children's choir.
   5 pm, Sanctuary. Handbell prelude at 4:30 pm.

#### **DECEMBER 22:**

- Danny Massie preaches in First Light & Sanctuary, and Alexandra Mauney preaches in Rejoice!
- A LITTLE ADVENT MUSIC: LA NATIVITÉ BY OLIVER MESSIAEN, organ recital by John Alexander. 5 pm, Sanctuary.

#### CHRISTMAS EVE:

- FAMILY NATIVITY SERVICE, 10:30 am
- CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION SERVICES:
  - 5:30 pm, led by Chancel Choir and Rejoice! Ensemble
  - 11 pm, led by youth

**DROP OFF NEW OR GENTLY USED COATS** for girls and boys, ages preschool to teen, in the red wagons around campus, through December 22. We will give the coats to Guilford County Schools students who need them.



# IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

**DECEMBER 16:** UNC SCHOOL OF THE ARTS ORGAN RECITAL, 7 pm, Sanctuary. Free.

#### **DECEMBER 18:**

- PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS CHAPEL, nativity presented by the five-year-old class, 9:45 am, Sanctuary.
- BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS at Wednesday Fellowship Supper. Crafts & activities for children with special story & birthday cake at 6 pm. Get tickets for dinner at the Welcome Center.

**DECEMBER 20:** YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY, 10:45 pm-midnight, Memorial 300; Broomball, 12:30-2 am, Greensboro Ice House. Contact: Kevin Murray, 336.478.4727 or kmurray@fpcgreensboro.org

FPC 101 in 2020 - 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.