



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

9:00 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord of the morning, of dawn chorus, rising sun, mist on water,
Lord of the noontime, of chattering voices, laughter and fun,
sparkling water, everyone, Lord of the evening, of quiet breeze,
setting sun, gentle waters, day that's done.

Creative God, breath of all life through whom all things are
created and sustained... You walked this earth as child and
Creator. You touched the soil, quenched your thirst, embraced
this world, brought life and light, love and laughter into dark and
death-filled lives.

Creative God, breath of all life through whom all things are
created and sustained. May we rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall
come again and with us ever dwell!

– from "A Celtic Advent Liturgy" www.faithandworship.com

Please sign the online Welcome Pad.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

VOLUNTARY: Nun komm, der Heiden HeilandJohann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Dolly Jacobs

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATHAudrey Faucher

Leader: In the beginning, the very beginning, God spoke the world into being. God's Word called forth light and life, revealing that divine goodness resounds through all creation even now.

People: **When we fear that God's creative power to bring together all things for good is thwarted, we go back to the beginning, the very beginning and remember.**

Leader: On this first Sunday of Advent we return to the beginning to remember that God's Word calls forth light that reveals holy glory and embodies divine love.

People: **When we are tempted to forget the God-declared goodness of creation we look to the bright spots, those places and people that shine in the dark, pointing us to the presence of God in our midst.**

Leader: On this first Sunday of Advent we remember the stars of creation and the one that led to Bethlehem. May they remind us to look up in expectation of the new, good thing God is doing. As we light this first candle of Advent, we pray for the eyes to see the stars that point us to the Word made flesh, good news from the very beginning that still speaks today.

HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 84 – Creator of the Stars of Night..... CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you, hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION.....Neil Dunnivant

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

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.**

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE WORD READ: *Genesis 1:1-5*

Reader: Reece Medlin

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

BAPTISM OF THOMAS BRECKINRIDGE PUGH

Presentation

Profession of Faith

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Baptism

Prayer over the Baptized

Welcome

THE WORD READ: *John 1:1-5*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: The Gift of Darkness and LightDolly Jacobs

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 264 – At the Name of Jesus KING'S WESTON

Capo 5: (Am) (G) (Am) (C) (Am) (Dm) (Am)
 Dm C Dm F Dm Gm Dm

1 At the name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
 2 Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
 3 Bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
 4 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,

(C) (G) (Am) (C) (Dm)
 F C Dm F Gm

ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;

(G) (Em) (Am) (G) (D) (G)
 C Am Dm C G C

'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast,
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,

(Am) (G) (Em) (Dm) (C) (G) (Am)
 Dm C Am Gm F C Dm

who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;
 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE..... Donna Chase

followed by 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.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

*Please participate in the offering by giving online at fpcgreensboro.org/give
or by mailing your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401.*

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION: Comfort, Comfort arr. John Ferguson
Chancel Choir Ensemble

“Comfort, comfort now my people;
Tell of peace!” So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
Mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim
That God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald’s voice is crying
In the desert fast and near,
Calling us to true repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God away!
Let the valleys rise to meet him,
And the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
And the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord
Now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That God’s word is never broken.

COMMUNAL CHARGE AND BLESSING FOR THIS ADVENT SEASONDolly Jacobs

**What I'd really like to give you for Christmas
Is a Star . . .
Brilliance in a package,
Something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans
Or in the pocket of your being,
Something to take out in times of darkness,
Something that would never snuff out or tarnish,
Something you could hold in your hand,
Something for wonderment,
Something for pondering,
Something that would remind you of
What Christmas has always meant:
God's Advent Light into the Darkness of this world.**

**But Stars are only God's for giving,
And I must be content to give you words and wishes and packages
without Stars.
But I can wish you Life as radiant as the Star
That announced the Christ Child's coming,
And as filled with awe as the Shepherds who stood
Beneath its Light, And I can pass on to you the Love
That has been given to me,
Ignited countless time by others**

**Who have knelt in Bethlehem's Light.
Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a Star.**

– Ann Weems

CLOSING HYMN: No. 88 – O Come, O Come Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Em - man - - u - el, And ran - som
O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spi - rits

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
by thine ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloo - my clouds of

here Un - til the Son of God - ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
night, and death's dark sha - dows put to flight.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

VOLUNTARY: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

John Alexander, organ



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Dolly Jacobs, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Neil Dunnavant, Executive Pastor

Donna Chase, Director of Christian Formation

Audrey Faucher, FPC Child

Reece Medlin, Lay Reader

John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist

Robert Wells, Director of Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir Ensemble

“Creator of the Stars of Night” Text: Latin hymn; Music: Sarum plainsong.

“At the Name of Jesus” Text: Caroline Maria Noel; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams.

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

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

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.



Christmas always comes. Even if we are apart this year, we are together in the Light.

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.

PICK UP ADVENT & COMMUNION KITS today at 11:30 am, on Greene Street.

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.

Advent activities | outreach | honor gifts & more
at fpcgreensboro.org/advent

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered today during the 9 am service to Thomas Breckinridge Pugh, son of Tyson and Collins Pugh.

ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Perky (N. Perkinson Hayes, Jr.) by Nancy and his family.

A PEPPERMINT PARADE TO WELCOME JILL DUFFIELD! Our new pastor will be here next week! Join us for a drive-thru car parade with friends, fun & fellowship. Saturday, December 5, 10 am to noon, starting at Fisher & Greene at the Life Center. Decorate your car for the occasion – prizes awarded! Bring a welcome card! Include your picture with names – she has a lot of faces to learn! Pick up kits for Advent & Communion Sunday, and donate canned food for Urban Ministry and coats for Backpack Beginnings.

TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH FOR 2021 MINISTRY – Our campaign to support ministry in 2021 continues. You can [pledge online here](#), and be sure to check out the scrapbooklet, posted on the same page.

PRAYERS FOR PARENTS: Today on **Facebook** and **Instagram**, we pray for parents who need hope. Parents can also find support in our **Facebook group**, First Pres Parents. [More info here.](#)

NEXT SUNDAY – REV. DR. JILL DUFFIELD WILL BE PREACHING HER FIRST SERMON AS OUR 12TH SENIOR PASTOR

Second Sunday of Advent. 9 am livestream worship. Communion Sunday; pick up kit in advance. Read the Scriptures: Psalm 27 and John 8:12-20. Music from the Chancel Choir and Rejoice! Ensembles.

- Discuss the devotional by Jill Duffield. *Commitment class*, 9:30 am on Zoom, contact **Mary Eagle**. *Homebuilders*, 10 am on Zoom, contact **Doug Key**.
- *Family Zoom: Advent Wreath-making* – 10:15 am, led by Rev. Keith Dove. Supplies in the Advent kit. Zoom link will be in weekly family email or contact **Lisa Witherspoon**.
- *Christmas Stories Biblical & Beyond*, led by Rev. Neil Dunnavant. Adult class hosted by YMBC & Agape. Video link will be posted.

FPC'S COVID-19 GUIDELINES HAVE CHANGED

Because of the unexpected swift upward trend in Covid cases in Guilford County, *the church has moved back to Phase 0*. These policies are to support the safety and well-being of our FPC members, staff, and the larger community. Until further notice:

- Sunday worship will be livestream only.
- All church groups, Bible studies, committees, etc. must meet virtually.
- No outdoor gatherings or use of indoor rooms permitted.
- Drive-by events coordinated by staff may be held.
- Staff will work from home, with no in-person or indoor staff gatherings.
- Weekday Preschool remains open at this time.
- Hot Dish & Hope continues with take-out only, with volunteers following safety guidelines.
- Food Drive-by continues with proper safety precautions.

When metrics indicate we can move to Phase 1, we will return to in-person worship of no more than 100 with all safety precautions in place..

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 you elect each spring to help govern our church. You also have the opportunity to elect eight members of Nominating (another seven are selected by our governing Session).

The committee should reflect our congregation's gender, age and experience. SEND SUGGESTIONS TO THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20.

Mail this form to Debby Foster, FPC, 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401, **OR** email names to Debby Foster (dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org) or Tom Nelson, chair of the Appointments Committee (bankertom@gmail.com).

FIND THE LATEST FPC-RELATED COVID-19 INFO

at fpcgreensboro.org/together

WORSHIP AND STUDY DURING CAMPUS CLOSING: Our church campus remains closed. Our Sunday Livestream service is available on our home page, fpcgreensboro.org, and also on our live streaming page, fpcgreensboro.org/streaming-live.



WHILE THE CAMPUS IS CLOSED, PLEASE JOIN US FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION ONLINE

- ▷ On our **home page**, messages on our North Elm Notes blog from pastors and staff.
- ▷ On our **DIGITAL FORMATION** page, you will find the latest online ministry for all ages.
- ▷ Our **DIGITAL FORMATION LIBRARY** offers videos, special studies, children's programs, and more you may have missed.

We will continue to update you regularly and adapt as things change. Please keep in touch:

- **IF YOU HAVE A PASTORAL EMERGENCY**, contact the Pastor on Call at 336.908.8615. Leave a message with your phone number.
- **CHECK OUR MEMBER RESOURCES PAGE** for our online directory, staff list, and other information.
- **SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY E-NEWS AND OUR THURSDAY MORNING SUNDAY PREVIEW** on our **Connect** page.

- **SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS:** Text FPCGSO to 41411 and follow the instructions to opt in. (*Standard text rates may be applicable based on your individual carrier.*)

SECUREGIVE MOBILE APP – In addition to giving online (fpcgreensboro.org/give), you can download the SecureGive mobile giving app for **Apple**  or **Android**  (*scroll over for clickable links*). You can use the app as a guest or create an account. It's quick, easy, secure, and allows you to make a donation using a bank card.

TEXT-TO-GIVE: Give from your phone via text. [See full instructions here.](#)

FIND FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ON SOCIAL MEDIA –

Members are sharing great photos, comments and more! Follow and Like us on Facebook (search "First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro"), YouTube ("fpcgreensboro") and Instagram ("1stpresgso") to get more of our posts in your newsfeed. Click on these links:

