



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro
November 28, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*We invite you to light a candle on the screen as you enter the worship space
to prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

Gathering Music: *Days of Elijah*

Robin Mark

Please join us in singing together.

**These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the word of the Lord
And these are the days of Your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored**

**And though these are days of great trial
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying
“Prepare ye the way of the Lord!”**

**Behold, He comes riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call
Lift your voice, it’s the year of jubilee
And out of Bethlehem, salvation comes**

**These are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days of Your servant David
Rebuilding a temple of praise**

**And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are as white in the world
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard
Declaring the word of the Lord**

**We give our best praise to Thee
We give our best praise to Thee
We pour out the oil of our love and adoration
We give our best praise to Thee**

**Hosanna Hosanna
Lift your voice and sing
Sing praises to the King
Hosanna Hosanna
Lift your voices high
Every nation every tribe**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
We welcome You Jesus we welcome You Jesus
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
We honor You Jesus we honor You Jesus**

Welcome & Announcements

Neil Dunnivant

Call to Worship and the Lighting of Advent Candle

The Duffield Family

Leader: We gather here to be alert and
on guard for God's near and coming kingdom.

People: We come seeking signs of the power and glory of God.

Leader: We light the first Advent candle to remind us to be on watch
for Christ's light breaking into the world.

People: We give thanks for the light that no darkness can overcome.

* Song of Praise: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

Neil Dunnivant

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

– Book of Common Worship

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.

* Response to the Peace: *Peace Peace*

Rick and Sylvia Powell

**Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all
This is a time for joy
This is a time for love
Now let us all sing together
Of peace, peace, peace on earth**

THE WORD OF GOD

The Word Read: *Psalm 25:1-10*

Homer Wade

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Scripture continues, over

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Time for Children

Neil Dunnivant

Prayer for Illumination

Rachel Fitch

Guide us, O God,
by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Word Read: *Luke 21:25-36*

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So

also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Word Proclaimed: *The End of the World as They Knew It:*

1. The People in the Pews

Rachel Fitch

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

Doug McLeroy

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

Affirmation of Faith continues, over

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

– The Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People

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

*You may also 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.*

Offertory: *I Wait*

David Leonard/Leslie Jordan/Thomas Jordan

Rejoice! Ensemble

O restless heart do not grow weary
Hold on to faith and wait
The God of love He will not tarry
No He is never late
So I wait in the promise I wait in the hope
Yes I wait in the power of God's unending love
Be still and rest secure my soul
He knows what's best for me

Here in my patience lies the goal
To wait and trust in Thee
Even through my imperfections
His light is shining through
Though dim I am still a reflection
Of His mercy and His truth

* Song of Response: *Doxology*

Please join us in singing together.

**Praise for the Father
Praise for the Father
Praise for the Son and Holy Ghost
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host**

* Prayer of Dedication

Doug McLeroy

* Benediction

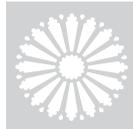
Rachel Fitch

* Song of Sending: *Days of Elijah*

Robin Mark

Please join us in singing together.

**Behold, He comes riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee
And out of Bethlehem, salvation comes**



Today's Worship Leaders

Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor

Rachel Fitch, Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident

Doug McLeroy, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Homer Wade, Lay Reader

Betsy Hyslop, Interim Associate Director of Music for Rejoice!

Rejoice! Ensemble

** Let us rise in body or spirit*

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We seek to serve as the hands of Christ in the world. Our creation care and hunger ministries have been recognized by the Presbyterian Church USA



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.

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.

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.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to participating in the in-person offering, you may also give by web, app, or text. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text to download the SecureGive mobile app (Apple  or Android ) and for full instructions for giving via text. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give for more ways to give.



TAKING ATTENDANCE: The QR code to the left directs you to an online form; just open your smartphone camera, hold it over the code, and follow the prompts. If you do not have access to a smartphone, you can pick up a physical copy of an

attendance card as you enter the Life Center or Sanctuary. If using the paper form, place it in the offering at the end of the service. On the back of the card is a prayer request form. Your submitted prayers will be prayed for by staff members and kept in strict confidence.

UPDATES ON OUR COVID GUIDELINES are posted at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/TOGETHER](https://fpcgreensboro.org/together).

MASKING IS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES on campus and indoors, including small groups and church school classes. Please maintain social distancing for the health and safety of our most vulnerable siblings in Christ.

USHERS AND ACOLYTES NEEDED: contact Anne Albert, aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org or 336.478.4711.

NEXT SUNDAY: *Second Sunday of Advent*. Rejoice! at 9 am in Mullin Life Center, Sanctuary service at 11 am. Senior Pastor Jill Duffield continues our Advent sermon series with "The Man from the Wild" The 11 am service will be livestreamed at fpcgreensboro.org.

- Families with children & youth are invited to coffee and fellowship, 9:45-10:05 am in the Solarium courtyard.
- Family Advent Wreaths – Families with children 5th grade & under are invited to make a wreath to take home! Meet in the back of the Life Center at 10 am. Supplies provided; please sign up today (fpcgreensboro.org/signup) so we can accurately gauge supplies.
- *Wacky Advent Words*, led by Matt Logan and Kevin Murray, continues in Memorial 304.
- *Celebrating Advent through Christmas with Scripture and Art*: Think about the Christmas story in fresh ways by seeing how artists have interpreted it through the ages. Led by Rev. Dr. Jerry Beavers, hosted by the Commitment Class. Focus: the Holy Family. Meets Main 125.
- In the Agape class, "A Shepherd's Psalm" led by Erwin Fuller. Garden Room.
- John Willet leads a discussion of *The Road to Bethlehem* in YMBC, Redhead Hall.
- *Parables of Jesus* – Seekers class meets in the Bride's Room, with conference call option. Contact Gerard Davidon, [gdavidson@wardblacklaw.com](mailto:g davidson@wardblacklaw.com).

IN MEMORIAM

Claire Giddeons Brown
November 18, 2021

COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

NOVEMBER 28, 2021 • FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

ADVENT BEGINS TODAY

• Pick up adult & children's **Advent devotionals** at all entrances.

• **Week-by-week Advent guide:**

FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/ADVENT.

- A small group study of Jill Duffield's new devotional, *Advent in Plain Sight*, begins this Wednesday, December 1, at noon in the Garden Room. Register with Yolanda Baxter (YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG) *today*. The book is available (\$10; check, credit card, or exact cash) at the Welcome Center reception desk.
- **Hot Dish & Hope card has gone multimedia!** A QR code, printed on this year's honor card, will take your recipient to a video with a special greeting from HDH volunteers & guests. Available at the reception desk, suggested donation \$5 per card.
- Honor family and friends with a **contribution to Hot Dish & Hope or a poinsettia for our Sanctuary**. Forms available online (FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/ADVENT-GIFTS) and at the reception desk. *Deadline is Monday, December 6.*



LATER TODAY

- **9-10TH GRADE BOYS' BASKETBALL & DEVO** – 1:30-2:30 pm, Life Center. Contact Kevin Murray (KMURRAY@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG) for more info.
- **11-12TH GRADE CO-ED SMALL GROUP**, noon-1 pm. Contact Kevin Murray (KMURRAY@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).
- **9TH GRADE GIRLS' SMALL GROUP**, 7-8 pm, Bible study at the Bristols! Contact Kevin Murray (KMURRAY@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG) for more.

THIS WEEK

WED, DECEMBER 1

- **SMALL GROUP STUDY OF ADVENT IN PLAIN SIGHT:** led by Jill Duffield, noon in the Garden Room. Zoom option available, contact Yolanda Baxter (YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).
- **FAMILY PROJECT:** Gifts for 40 immigrant/refugee children through FaithAction. Deadline to deliver wrapped toys to the church. Info: Lisa Witherspoon (LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).

THURS, DECEMBER 2

- **A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**, noon in the sanctuary. As a community of faith, we remember those we have lost. *All are welcome*. Pastors will be available following the service to offer prayer and a time of listening.



NEXT SUNDAY

IN WORSHIP

Jill Duffield continues our Advent series with "The Man from the Wild." John the Baptist's world as he knew it ends as he fulfills the call he was born to fulfill. *Scripture: Luke 3:1-18.*

FILL OUR NATIVITY STABLE in the Life Center hallway – this week with canned goods.

FAMILY ADVENT WREATHS – Families with children 5th grade & under are invited to make a wreath to take home! Meet in the back of the Life Center at 10 am. Sign up now (FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP) so we can gauge supplies.

ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL, 10 am

Celebrating Advent with Scripture and Art: Led by Rev. Dr. Jerry Beavers, hosted by Commitment Class. Continues with works on The Holy Family. Main 125.

Wacky Advent Words, led by Matt Logan and Kevin Murray, Memorial 304 though December 19.

A Shepherd's Psalm: Led by Erwin Fuller in the Agape Class, Garden Room.

John Willet leads *The Road to Bethlehem* in YMBC, Redhead Hall.

Seekers: Gerard Davidson leads on the *Parables of Jesus*. Bride's Room.

A LITTLE ADVENT MUSIC 1, 7 pm, sanctuary: UNCG Brass & John Alexander

LOOKING AHEAD THIS SEASON

RING THE BELL FOR THE SALVATION ARMY! December 16-18 at DSW at Friendly Center. A great family & friends activity! Sign up now for a two-hour shift; link at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP.

HOT DISH & HOPE GIFT BAGS for men, women & children. Return items to the church by December 13. SEE THE LIST AT FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/ADVENT-OUTREACH.

DECORATE THE GINGERBREAD CHURCH, December 12. Preschool-grade 2, Life Center, 10 am, then head to Corl 301 for Advent games. Grades 3-5, 10 am in Corl 303, at 10:25 head to the Life Center to finish the gingerbread church! Face coverings required. Children receive a treat bag to take home!



A LITTLE ADVENT MUSIC 2:
December 12 – Robert Wells, baritone and Anne Albert, soprano. 5 pm, sanctuary.

A LITTLE ADVENT MUSIC 3:
December 19 – A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols. 5 pm, sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

- *10 am:* Family Service
- *5 & 8 pm:* Candlelight and Communion Services
- *11 pm:* Candlelight, Communion and Contemplative Service