



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2015

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Sarah J. Finbow

Ritual of Friendship

PRELUDE

Variations on Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Johann Pachelbel

INTROIT

Dearest Lord Jesus, Oh, Why Dost Thou Tarry?

J.S. Bach

*Dearest Lord Jesus, oh, why dost Thou tarry? Come, for with waiting my heart is so weary!
Come if it please Thee and grant me relief, Take me away from the world's sin and grief.
Come dearest Jesus! Oh why dost Thou tarry? Come, for with waiting my heart is so weary!*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

Torrell, Laura, Vanessa and David Armstrong

AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Doug and Marsha Butler *(Laura's parents)*

Leader: We gather in preparation . . .
People: **For the good news is about to be proclaimed.**
Leader: We gather in expectation . . .
People: **For joy is about to explode in our midst.**
Leader: We gather in celebration . . .
People: **For we are those people who have said
yes to the manger,
yes to love enfleshed,
yes to the one incarnate for others,
yes to the wholeness of God.**

(Lighting of the candle)

Response (Hymn No. 85, verse 2)

Tif in Veldele

Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:
let the light ban-ish dark - ness. He_ shall feed the
flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead_ them home - ward.

* Those who are able, please stand.

Leader: With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

All: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Berden Väg För Herran

***CONFESSION OF SIN** (remain standing)

Alex Stayer Brewington

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O Lord, darkness surrounds us like a cold stone tomb, until your light bursts into our lives like a clear, bright dawn. We cover our eyes; we're so unprepared for your coming. Your light blazes forth like a white-hot fire, consuming all that it touches. How can we stand before you, Lord? The road that we thought was straight and wide is now exposed as a twisted, crooked path, blocked by a mountain of sin. Where can we turn? Who will guide us back to the way of peace – the way that leads to you?

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Response (Hymn No. 92, verse 2)

Waiting (Cason)

*With power and glory, come;
With power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.*

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Alex Stayer Brewington

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Holy God, you are just in all your ways and your commandments are the greatest of treasures. Give us an understanding of your law and direct us according to your will, that we may be faithful in serving you for the sake of Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4

(Pew Bible, OT Page 355)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

(Pew Bible, NT Page 60)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Prepare Ye"

Marilyn T. Hedgpeth

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (in unison)

Sarah J. Finbow

In the words of the prophets, God comforted his people with the promise of the Redeemer, and gave hope for the day when justice shall roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Because God sent his Son to save us, the day of deliverance has dawned. We rejoice that in Christ, God will make all things new when Christ comes again in power and great glory to claim his kingdom.

***HYMN NO. 109**

Blest Be the God of Israel

Merle's Tune

(Children through 1st grade enter worship during hymn.)

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Marilyn T. Hedgpeth

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem

The Morning Star

*Southern Hymn Tune,
arr. Virgil Thomson*

*How splendid shines the morning star, God's gracious light from darkness far,
The root of Jesse blessed. Thou David's son of Jacob's stem.
My bridegroom, king and wond'rous Lamb, Thou hast my heart possessed.
Sweetly, friendly, O, thou handsome precious ransom,
Full of graces, set and kept in heav'nly places.*

*Doxology (Hymn No. 108, verse 6)

Divinum Mysterium

*Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore! Amen.*

(As the symbolic gifts of the people are brought to the table, the elders will take their place for the communion.)

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Marilyn T. Hedgpeth

*The Lord is coming. Prepare the way! Prepare to welcome the Messiah!
Welcome the Redeemer with your very lives. Know the Lord's tender mercy.
Let all that you are become an offering pleasing to God.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Robert L. Yoder and Marilyn T. Hedgpeth

Leader 1: God is with us.

People: **We are not alone.**

Leader 1: Christ is present here.

People: **The Spirit moves within us.**

Leader 1: Let us give thanks to God

People: **In memory and in hope.**

Leader 1: Blessings be to you, Creator God, who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

People: **Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages, your ancient promise still brings us hope.**

Leader 1: Over the ages you have called people to embrace your hope and share your love. You sent prophets and messengers to your people, reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice that would surround the world.

People: **They came in the middle of our despair and filled us with hope.**

Leader 1: And now as we prepare for that child to be born, we echo the ancient cry:

All (sing):

Sung to Kingsfold

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes and bears Your name always.

Leader 1: Yet even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, we remember the life that this baby will live.

People: **We remember how he broke the bonds of human tradition to show all what the Banquet of Hope could be as he ate openly with the despised and the outcasts of his world.**

Leader 1: And we remember one special meal, foretaste of the banquet that is to come, that he ate with his closest friends.

People: **Gathering them together in an upper room to share the story of liberation, he prepared them for liberation.**

Leader 2: At the end of the meal he took bread, blessed and broke it, then passed it to them saying:
 People: **Take and eat. This bread is the body of Life, broken by the world. Eat it in remembrance and in hope.**

Leader 2: After that he took the cup, blessed it and passed it to them saying:
 People: **This cup is the sign of the New Covenant. Whenever you drink it remember me, for I shall not eat or drink again until the time of the heavenly banquet.**

Leader 2: Remembering the birth of the child in the stable, we remember also his life, his death and his resurrection.
 People 2: **We remember how he poured his love out to all he met and we look forward to his return and the coming reign of peace, love, and justice.**
(prayers of intercession)

Leader 2: And now, as beloved children of a loving Parent, we pray:
 All: **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.**

Leader 2: The Bread we break is the Bread of Life. The Cup we share is the Cup of Promise. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
 People: **Thanks be to God.**
 Leader 2: Come and eat, the banquet awaits.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Note: Gluten-free / peanut-free bread is served at the station closest to the baptismal font.

Communion Hymn (all sing)

Agnus Dei

Communion Hymn No. 103 (all sing)

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

O-So-So

*Leader 1: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

*People: **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Robert L. Yoder

Leader 1: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

All: **We delight in your love and salvation, Lord. There can be no greater gifts than these.**

We gladly serve you in holiness and righteousness. We offer ourselves.

We offer all that you have provided us. May it be used to bring your light to those who dwell in darkness. Prepare us and complete us, Lord. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

*BENEDICTION

Marilyn T. Hedgpeth

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on Wachet Auf (Wake, Awake)

Martha Sobaje

Following worship today, you are invited to pick up purple Advent candles and an Advent wreath in the foyer for use in celebrating Advent at home.

The Advent Festival / Alternative Gifts Fair

Everyone is invited to Watts-Hill Hall following worship to enjoy some refreshments, make crafts and support community organizations. See the enclosed pamphlet for the numerous alternative giving options available after worship today.

FPC Commemorative Tiles

One of the items the Youth will be selling this year at the Alternative Giving Fair is First Presbyterian Church Commemorative Tiles, celebrating our upcoming Centennial Celebration in 2016. The tiles are beautifully crafted by local artist Elise Atkins, at a cost of \$10 each. Proceeds will go to the Youth Group. The tiles will make a perfect gift for yourself or someone else.

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship here. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. So that we may better know each other, please sign the ***Ritual of Friendship pad***, pass it along the center pew across to the shorter side pew, and then **return it to the starting point**, noting the names of those sitting near you. We welcomed 19 visitors and their children to our worship service on Sunday, November 29.

The ***sanctuary table*** upon which the Advent wreath sits was handcrafted by George Danser and is given to the church by him and his wife, Jean Cary.

The ***Advent paraments***, a gift from ***Anne St. Clair Williams***, were designed and created in 2012 by Laurie Wohl, an internationally known fiber-artist.

Portions of ***today's worship texts*** are taken from *Book of Common Worship, The Worship Sourcebook*, and online resource *Worship Offerings: The Banquet of Hopeful Expectation*.

The ***bulletin cover image*** is a photographic reproduction (public domain) of an oil painting by Pieter Paul Brueghel II (1564/5-1637/8), entitled: "The Preaching of St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness."

Christmas Concerns: As an alternative to sending Christmas cards to your First Presbyterian friends, we invite you to make a donation to our ***Christmas Concerns*** fund and then write your Christmas wishes on a card here at church during Advent for display in the foyer. Donations will be allocated to Durham's Emergency Energy Fund and the Religious Coalition for a Non-Violent Durham.

Pledge Forms for 2016 re available in the narthex and foyer. You may place your pledge form in the offering plate, mail it to Tom Bloom at the church, or pledge online via the church's website using this link: <http://firstpres-durham.org/stewardship-pledge/>. Once you hit the send button, please wait for the message "Your pledge has been submitted."

Year-end Giving: Timely payment of pledges by December 31 will allow First Presbyterian to pay its end-of-year bills promptly and to meet its benevolence obligations for 2015. Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions by the end of the day (4:30 p.m.) on Wednesday, December 30, 2015, or the gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2015, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2015 taxes. If you wish to make a donation through a gift of stock, please notify Tom Bloom, Business Administrator (t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org) as soon as possible.

~ Our Joys and Concerns ~

Congratulations to *Katherine Higgins and John Brantly* on the birth of a daughter. *Sara Elizabeth Brantly* arrived November 27th.

Congratulations to *Brian Knowles* who will be commissioned a Lieutenant in the US Air Force on Friday, December 11 in Montgomery, Alabama. Brian is the son of *Sheila and Sam Miglarese*.

Added this week:

Anne Turlington, aunt of Jack Kost

Traveling mercies for *Susan Dunlap* who is in El Salvador for a week, teaching lay pastors with Duke Divinity School

Jinhwa Jeong (Kim), a patient at UNC Hospital

Jean Cary *Mary Clark* *Paul Cornsweet* *Creadick Family*
Sarah & Pete Finbow *Kerry Holbrook* *Dewey Lawson* *Snell Family*

Brookdale Senior Living: *Julian Boswell*

Brookdale of Chapel Hill: *Helen Garrison*

Croasdaile Village:

Friendship Hall: *Bob Keever*

Pavilion: *Anne Davis, Jean Moore,*
Bob Rankin, Jerry Tyren

Hillcrest: *Randall McLeod*

Forest at Duke:

Fran Bryant

Joan Englund

Ken Goldner

Peaches McPherson

Roy Blackwell, father of Sheila Miglarese

Anna Brawley, daughter of Jane and Robert Brawley

Ron Brewington, uncle of Alex Stayer Brewington

Parker Brown, nephew of Neal Wilkins

Russell & Peggy Cockerell, great uncle and aunt of Abi Bissette

Roger Durham, father of Emily Durham

Helene Johnson, mother of Jim Johnson

Genie V. Martin, cousin of Emily Wilkins

Brooks Minks, grandmother of Lucie House

Lindsay Morris, sister of Emily McClure

Aquiles Navarro, friend of Robin Morey

Edward Robinson, brother of Joe Robinson

Ryan Schlecht, grandson of Ken and Mary Jo Schlecht

Judy and Chris Wood, mother and stepfather of Sharon Hirsch

Please remember to keep the pastoral staff updated on the progress of your loved ones.

ADVENT MIDWEEK COMMUNION



All are welcome to gather on the Main Street steps for candlelight caroling at 5:45 p.m. followed by a procession of light into the sanctuary.

Worship with Communion begin at 6:00 in the sanctuary,

A light supper will be provided at 6:30 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall.

All are welcome. Donations will be received to offset the cost of the meal.

Wednesday, December 9

Meditation by Alex Stayer Brewington

Wednesday, December 16

Meditation by Mary Dance Berry

Cookie exchange

Saturday, December 12

10:30 A.M. – 12 noon in Watts-Hill Hall

Families with young children are invited to bring cookies to share, exchange, and put in blessing bags for our neighbors. RSVP by email to **Chris Brown** at jamesbro@gmail.com if you will be participating.

ADVENT LESSONS CAROLS

Sunday, December 13

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - A Service of Lessons and Carols

“Lessons and Carols” is a service patterned after the Lessons and Carols service held annually on Christmas Eve at King’s College Chapel in Cambridge, England. Our service will feature some of the Scripture readings that recount the loving purposes of God for Christ’s Incarnation, with corresponding Christmas carols. The PCUSA Joy Gift Offering will also be received.

5:30 p.m. - Christmas Potluck and Carols Sing-Along

Everyone is invited back to the annual Christmas potluck supper and carols sing around the Chrismon Tree. Families are asked to bring their favorite seasonal dish (vegetable, casserole, or dessert). We will enjoy a fellowship meal in Watts-Hill Hall. After we eat, everyone is invited to gather around the Chrismon tree to sing carols. If you play a musical instrument, bring it (and music stand) to play along with the improvised orchestra. If you will need sheet music for your instrument, please contact Kathy Parkins as soon as possible.

VOCAL ARTS ENSEMBLE *of Durham*

Christmas Concert

(Carols and choral music for the season)

Rodney Wynkoop, conductor

Friday, December 18

8:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church sanctuary

Free Admission. The public is invited!



Sunday, December 20

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Advent wreath candle lighting and seasonal music
*(Children's Advent Tableaux practice in the sanctuary
at 10:00 a.m. with costume distribution)*

Worship and **Children's Advent Tableaux** at 11:00 a.m.

Youth Christmas Party at 5:00 p.m.

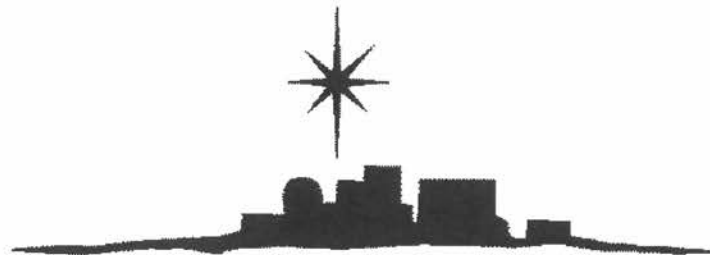


A Program of Seasonal Music and Poetry

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

4:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church
1200 West Cornwallis, Durham

Join Lesley Curtis, soprano and Deborah Coclanis, piano, for a program of Christmas musical offerings and poetry. The program will feature Morten Lauridsen's "O Magnum Mysterium," poems by Dorothy Parker and Langston Hughes, and Christmas hymns.



CHRISTMAS EVE- DECEMBER 24

A live stream of King's College Lessons and Carols
10:00 a.m. in the FPC Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
5:00 P.M. in the FPC Sanctuary

All are welcome. Children are invited to wear costumes and turn them in following the service. Childcare is available for young children. Our Christmas Eve offering will benefit **Welcome Baby of Durham** and **PC(USA)'s Refugee Resettlement Assistance**.

The Week at a Glance!

<p>After Worship: Youth Handbells Children's Choir (TBA)</p> <p>No Bible Study at Croasdaile Village</p> <p>5:00 – 8:00 PM Youth Groups</p>	<p>Monday, December 7</p> <p>10:30 AM Presbyterian Women Circle and Bible Study</p>	<p>Tuesday, December 8</p> <p>1:00 PM Worship Planning</p> <p>2:00 PM FPC Staff</p>	<p>Wednesday, December 9</p> <p>5:45 PM Candlelight Caroling on the Sanctuary Portico</p> <p>6:00 PM Advent Worship & Communion (Meditation: Alex Stayer Brewington) A light supper follows at 6:30 PM</p> <p>7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>
<p>Thursday, December 10</p>	<p>Friday, December 11</p> <p>No Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Primetimers' Christmas Gathering and Covered Dish Supper at the Gerwes' home</p>	<p>Saturday, December 12</p> <p>10:30 AM Christmas Cookie Exchange</p>	<p>Sunday, December 13</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM A Service of Lessons & Carols</p> <p>After Worship: Children's Choir (TBA) Youth Handbells (TBA)</p> <p>5:30 – 8:00 PM Christmas Potluck and Carols Sing-along (No evening Youth Groups)</p>

~ Serving Today ~

Crucifer: *Nathan Creadick*

Acolytes: *Ana Profeta, Laura McDow*

Croasdaile Driver: *Miriam Morey*

Narthex Greeter: *Delia Kwon*

After Worship Greeters: *Miriam Morey* (rear/narthex), *Michael Schultz* (side/font)

Ushers: *Julie Whiddon* (head), *Lucie House* (no flower delivery),

Tim Strauman, Keith Merritt, Carl Rist, Susan Seahorn

Communion Elders:

Miriam Morey (head/replenish elements), *Wes Carson* (Bread 1/process), *Will McDow* (Bread 2),
Michael Schultz (Bread 3), *Barbara Gerwe* (Bread 4), *Eric Wiebe* (Cup 1), *Talitha Kwon* (Cup 2/process),
Aurelia Klinck (Cup 3), *Jerry Postema* (Cup 4), *Bob Breitweiser* (Shepherd pulpit),
Laura Hanson (Shepherd center), *Marie Sappenfield* (Shepherd font)

