



**First Presbyterian Church**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2017

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mindy Douglas

Ritual of Friendship

**PRELUDE** (Handbell Choir)

*Sing We Now Noel*

French Carol, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 106**

*Prepare the Way O Zion*

*Bereden Väg För Herran*

*(Please be seated)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP AND**

Wil, Jenni, and Aiden James

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES**

Leader: We light this candle for all God's prophets, confronting justice and restoring the dream of a world of freedom and peace:

People: **God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.**

*(Lighting of the candles)*

Response (All sing, Hymn No. 88, verse 6)

*Veni Emmanuel*

***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.***

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 1:1-8

Mary Ellis Merritt

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN'S PROCESSIONAL**

Hymn No. 143, verses 1-3

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

*Regent Square*

*(Children will sing the verses; congregation joins in on the chorus)*

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
You who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth;*

***Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn king!***

*Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night.  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:*

***Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn king!***

*Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star:*

***Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn king!***

\*Those who are able, please stand.

## LITANY OF THE FRIENDLY BEASTS

*Who Is Coming to Our House?*

Participants: *Vanessa Armstrong, Sean Wehrman, Sheya Wehrman,  
David Armstrong, Noah Dillon, Thilo Fullenkamp, Gretchen Sims*

**Congregation: Who is coming to our house?**

Mouse: "Someone, someone," says the Mouse.

Lamb: "We must clean," says the Lamb.

Ram: "Dust the beams," says the Ram.

**Congregation: Who is coming to our house?**

Mouse: "Someone, someone," says the Mouse.

Horse: "Sweep the earth," the Horse did say.

Cow: "Be quick," says the cow, "and stack the hay."

**Congregation: Who is coming to our house?**

Mouse: "Someone, someone," says the Mouse.

Camel: "Someone's coming from afar."

Rabbit: "I will nose the door ajar."

Cat: "But it's dark," the Cat did say. "They'll never come, they'll be afraid."

Mouse: "Yes, they'll come," says the Mouse. "Someone's coming to this house."

**Congregation: Who is coming to our house?**

Mouse: "Mary and Joseph," whispers Mouse.

Congregation: **"Welcome, welcome to our house."**

## CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

*Jesus, Our Brother, Kind and Good*

*Orientis Partibus*

Soloists: *Sean and Sheya Wehrman, Noah Dillon*

## PROCESSION OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Heather Wallace and Michael Schultz

## MEDITATION

*"A Compassionate Herald"*

Marilyn Hedgpeth

## PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Come God. Come with the frightened. Come with the poor. Come with the children. Come with those who have always been your friends. Come and lead us to where you are living, and show us what you want us to do. Amen.**

## CONGREGATIONAL HYMN NO. 143 (verse 4)

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

*Regent Square*

*(Parents may retrieve children during the singing of the hymn. Children are welcome to remain in worship, or be taken to the nursery or playroom at this time. Please leave costumes in the foyer on your way out, or keep them to wear to the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service and then return them to the church after Christmas. Thank you.)*

## \*CONFESSION OF SIN *(please stand)*

Sam Miglarese

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**Comforter of the lost, you call out to us, but we are too busy to listen. We lose our way and fool ourselves into believing that many of our rough ways and crooked paths are justified. We tell ourselves that we don't have enough time to get everything done, but can't ever say "no." We scoff at people who can't seem to control themselves, but we indulge to fill the emptiness we feel. Lead us back to the level plains of your comfort, which provides us the space and time to change and be the people you call us to be.**

Silent Confession  
Assurance of Pardon

**\*THE PEACE**

Cheryl Henry

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you  
People: **And also with you.**

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

Cheryl Henry

**We believe in God, robed in splendor, veiled in mystery, ruler alike of darkness and light.**

**We encounter God in Jesus Christ, who was tortured and put to death, but whose radiance could not be quenched; whose touch brings a blaze of color to a dull, drab world, reviving the weary, healing the wounded, dazzling the satisfied.**

**We walk with God, guided by the light of God's loving spirit, who enters the shadowed places of our hearts and leads us into truth and life.**

**We wait for God, and for the fulfillment of God's promises, for the time when darkness will hold no fear and the light will no longer blind, but creation will be made whole once more and God's peace will reign forever.**

**COLLECT FOR THE DAY**

Torrell Armstrong

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **God, our Father, the one who comes in your name comes again with grace and power, with forgiveness and strength, with truth and imagination, with gentleness and love. May the coming one enter the hearts of those who wait with quiet expectation for all that is good and holy and just. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

(Pew Bible, OT Page 543)

Isaiah 40:1-11

(Pew Bible, OT Page 667)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN NO. 87**

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

*Genevan 42*

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Mindy Douglas

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Leader: "You are my servant. I have chosen you and not cast you off,"

People: **Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be afraid, for I am your God.**

Leader: Let us pray.

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

**... 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.**



## DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Offertory Anthem

*O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort*

Johann Franck

*O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort; O let me ne'er in sorrow pine,  
My heart and soul, yea, all my being, O Jesus, trust alone in thee.  
Thou Prince of Peace, thou Pearl from heaven, true God, true Man, My Morning Star!  
O, come thou precious Sun most radiant,  
Thy beams illumine my heart and soul.*

*O Jesus, with thy advent quiet my restless soul and anxious mind,  
In true humility I welcome thee, Jesus Christ, my Joy divine.  
My thoughts, desires, and all my longings I dedicate, O Christ, to thee.  
O come, thou precious Sun most radiant,  
Thy beams illumine my heart and soul.*

\*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.*

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Emily Wilkins

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

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

All: **Ever-present God, without your Word we have nothing to say; without your Spirit we are helpless. Give us your Holy Spirit, that we may lead your people in prayer, compassionately heralding the good news, and gratefully praising your name; through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.**

## \*HYMN NO. 140

*Once in Royal David's City*

*Irby*

## \*BENEDICTION

Marilyn Hedgpeth

## \*POSTLUDE

*Variations on "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"*

Pachelbel

*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. On Sunday, December 10, we welcomed 15 visitors to our worship service.

Later today . . .

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

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 stay to sing carols. If you play a musical instrument, bring it (and a music stand) to play along with the improvised orchestra.

*Participants in today's pageant: Heather Wallace and Michael Schultz*, our Holy Family, joined FPC in 2011, and were married here in October of 2016. They are expecting their first child in January. *Vern Neece* is playing the role of John the Baptist today. He and his wife, *Beth*, joined FPC in 1976, and have been actively involved in the church with the choir, as officers, in Sunday School, and in committee work. Special thanks to *Samantha Arten* and *Sheya Wehrman* for their leadership with the Children's Choir.

The *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.

*Hearing Assistance Receivers* are available from the ushers. Before you leave the sanctuary please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle or return to an usher.

*Nursery care* for infants to 6 years of age is provided during worship on the second floor of the Education Building. There is a changing table in the narthex, located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

*Worship bags and activity bulletins* are available in the foyer for children and youth. Books are on the pews in the narthex for young children to read and enjoy should they need a break from the service.

Portions of *today's worship texts* are taken from *Book of Common Worship, Feasting on the Word, Who Is Coming to Our House*, and *A Creed for Advent, Candles and Conifers*.

The *bulletin cover*, "*Animals on Christmas Eve*" by Stephanie Stouffer, can be found at the following link: <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/236x/70/29/dc/7029dc855f36748169af4d685a8cc7f0.jpg>

*Year-end Giving:* Timely payment of pledges by December 31 will allow First Presbyterian to pay year-end bills promptly and to meet its benevolence obligations for 2017. Please remember that the church must receive your charitable contributions by the end of the day (4:30 p.m.) on Friday, December 29, 2017, or postmarked by December 31, 2017, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2017 taxes. If you wish to make a donation through a gift of stock, please notify *Tom Bloom*, Business Administrator ([t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org)) in advance.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Congratulations to *John and Betsy Robinson* on the birth of a granddaughter. *Lyla Josephine Olimpo* was born December 4<sup>th</sup> to *Emma and Michael*.

We extend sympathies to *Marcia, Stephen and David Lorimer* on the death of *William (Bill) Lorimer* (husband, father), FPC member who died December 7; and to *Melinda Ruley, Stewart Fisher and family* on the death of Melinda's mom. Please keep these families in your prayers.

**Added this week:** *Brooks Mikkelsen* (and family), sister of Lucie House, as well as others harmed and displaced by the California wildfires

*Julie Maxwell    Kristin Meade    Ruth and Russell Roberson    Rosemary Seve*

**Atria Senior Living:** *Peggy Mordecai*, mother of Beth Eisenson

**Brookdale Senior Living (Durham):** *Julian Boswell*

**Croasdaile Village:** *Bette Conroy, Bob Keever, Bob Rankin, Florence Shackelford*

**Pruitt Health at Carolina Point (Durham):** *Helen Garrison*

**The Forest at Duke:** *Fran Bryant, Peaches McPherson*

**Family and Friends of Members and Staff:**

*Claiborne Clark*, son of Arthur and Mary Clark

*Marc Crawford*, friend of Brianna and Ricky Bennett

*Kim Cummings*, father of Drew Cummings

*Lindsay Efland*, friend of Cherrie Henry

*Rev. Ben Johnston-Krase*, pastor of Durham's Farm Church

*Wagner family*, friends of Kerry Holbrook

*Vickie Tobey*, niece of Mickey Velkey and cousin of Beth Brockman

*Jerry Walter*, friend of Brian and Jeanette Castle

*Wintermute/Littles families*, friends of Kerry Holbrook

*Christina Z.*, mother of Franzi Rokoske



## Our 2017 Christmas Concerns

During Advent, share Christmas wishes with friends in the FPC congregation by making a donation to Christmas Concerns. Proceeds will be given to **Meals on Wheels and Partners for Youth Opportunity**. To participate in Christmas Concerns, write a check to FPC, earmarked "Christmas Concerns," and put it in the offering plate. Then sign an ornament and hang it on the Christmas Concerns "Giving Tree" located in the foyer. The names of those who share greetings via *The Giving Tree* will be listed in the December 19<sup>th</sup> newsletter.

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## ADVENT MIDWEEK CAROLING AND HOLY COMMUNION

**Wednesday, December 13**

Meditation by **Alex Stayer-Brewington**

**Wednesday, December 20**

Meditation by **Mary Berry**

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 where worship with Holy Communion will begin at 6:00 p.m. A light supper will be provided at 6:30 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall. Donations will be received to offset meal costs.

**Sunday, December 17**

**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 service held annually on Christmas Eve at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England, using Scripture readings that recount the loving purposes of God for Christ's Incarnation, with corresponding Christmas carols. The *PCUSA Joy Gift Offering* will be received. This offering assists current and retired church workers in need and helps support our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

**Youth Groups Dinner and Christmas Party from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE - Sunday, December 24**

**No Sunday School**

**11:00 a.m. - Worship (Advent 4)**

The *Hunger for Change Offering* will be received.

**5:00 p.m. - Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion**

The **Christmas Eve offering** will be given to the following organizations: Welcome Baby, the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, and Senior PharmAssist. Please give generously. Thank you.

**First Sunday After Christmas**

**Sunday, December 31**

*Happy 146<sup>th</sup> Birthday to FPC!*

**No Sunday School**

**11:00 a.m. – Worship**

**Robert Brawley, preaching**

## The Week at a Glance!

<p><b>Later Today</b></p> <p><b>After Worship:</b> McPherson Lectureship Sub-Committee (East Parlor)</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Ministry (chapel)</p> <p><b>2:00 – 4:00 PM</b> Shape Note Choir</p> <p><b>5:30 PM</b> Annual Christmas Potluck and Carols Sing</p> <p><b>(No evening youth groups)</b></p>	<p><b>Monday, December 11</b></p> <p><b>5:30 PM</b> Worship and Arts Committee</p> <p><b>6:30 PM</b> Service and Mission Committee</p> <p>The Christian Education and Property Committees are not meeting in December</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, December 12</b></p> <p><b>11:30 AM</b> Daytimers Luncheon at Croasdaile Village</p> <p><b>1:30 PM</b> Plan Worship</p> <p><b>2:30 PM</b> FPC Staff</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, December 13</b></p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b> Bell Choir</p> <p><b>5:45 PM</b> Carol Singing (sanctuary porch steps)</p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b> Worship with Communion (sanctuary)</p> <p><b>6:30 PM</b> Light Supper (Watts-Hill Hall)</p> <p><b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir</p>
<p><b>Thursday, December 14</b></p> <p>FPC serves dinner/provides childcare at Families Moving Forward</p>	<p><b>Friday, December 15</b></p> <p><b>7:00 – 9:00 AM</b> FPC serving breakfast at UMD</p> <p><b>9:30 – 11:00 AM</b> FPC preparing lunch bags at UMD</p> <p><b>3:00 PM</b> Day School Winter Pageant and Auction</p> <p>Deadline for newsletter and worship bulletin information through January 8, 2018</p>	<p><b>Saturday, December 16</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM – 1:00 PM</b> FPC interior workday</p> <p><i>Decorate the sanctuary for Christmas</i></p>	<p><b>Sunday, December 17</b></p> <p><b>9:45 Sunday School</b></p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b> “A Service of Lessons &amp; Carols” (The Christmas Joy Offering will be received)</p> <p><b>5:30 - 8:00 PM</b> Youth Dinner and Christmas Party</p>

~ *Serving Today* ~

Acolytes: *Webb Cummings, Jack Williamson*      Crucifer: *Sophie Wilkins*

Liturgist: *Torrell Armstrong*

Narthex Greeter: *Maxie Honeycutt*

After Worship Greeters: *Caroline Rourk* (narthex/rear); *Eric Wiebe* (side/font)

Ushers: *Emily Wilkins* (head), *Christy Gudaitis, Dale Gaddis, Amy Sanchez, Amy Dillon, Kathy Krahenbuhl*

### CHURCH STAFF

*Tom Bloom*, Business Administrator  
*Robert Daye*, Sexton  
*Mindy Douglas*, Pastor/Head of Staff  
*Susan Dunlap*, Parish Associate  
*Sarah Finbow*, Youth Minister



*Marilyn Hedgpeth*, Associate Pastor  
*Cheryl Henry*, Parish Associate  
*Valerie McMillian*, Parish Administrator  
*Sam Miglarese*, Associate Pastor  
*Kathy Parkins*, Minister of Music

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