



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

*(As we prepare to worship, please silence all cell phones.)*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mindy Douglas

Ritual of Friendship

**PRELUDE** *(with handbells)*

*Two Carols for piano and handbells*

arr. Douglas Wagner

*O Come, Little Children*

*What Is this Lovely Fragrance?*

**INTROIT**

*Hark the Herald*

Cookham, Harmonia Sacra, 1760

*Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."*

*See he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die;  
Born to raise the souls of earth; born to give them second birth.*

*Hail, the holy Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness;  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.*

*Let us then with angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"*

**LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**

Chris Williams and Matt Cline

**AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We light this candle for all God-bearers, saying "yes" to God's challenge,  
accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future.

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

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 102**

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

*Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland*

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

Sam Miglarese

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, always with us, always coming:**

**We confess that we do not know how to live into your Advent.**

**We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom.**

**We get distracted by all the busyness of this season.**

**Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

\* Those who are able, please stand.

**COLLECT FOR THE DAY**

Torrell and Vanessa Armstrong

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lord Christ, born in Bethlehem, give us grace to live the generosity of your humility.  
With great joy,

People: **We celebrate your birth.**

Leader: Lord Christ, Lord of all creation, give us grace to live the compassion of your justice.  
With great joy,

People: **We wait for your coming.**

Leader: Lord Christ, whose Spirit is active in your Church and your whole world,  
give us grace to live the calling to be your body. With great joy,

People: **We proclaim your presence. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 11:1-4b

(Pew Bible, OT page 640)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 129**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*Es Ist Ein' Ros'*

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 1:26-38

(Pew Bible, NT Page 56)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE (see Page 6)**

*The Angel Gabriel*

*Basque Carol*

**SERMON**

*"Favor"*

Marilyn Hedgpeth

**CANTICLE**

*"Magnificat"*

Luke 1:47-55

Leslie Curtis, soloist

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*(from Candles and Conifers)*

Sarah Finbow

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

**We encounter God in Jesus Christ, who was scorned and put to death, but whose radiance could not be quenched; whose touch brings new life, 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 the darkness will hold no fear and the light will no longer blind, but when creation will be made whole once more and God's peace will reign forever. Amen.**

**\*THE PEACE**

Sarah Finbow

*Let us pause and pray that there may be peace not only in our church but in the whole world.*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*(Children through 1<sup>st</sup> grade enter worship during "The Peace.")*

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

Marilyn Hedgpeth

*The children may return to the nursery or join their parents in the pews for the remainder of the service.*

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

Leader: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, Sun of justice:  
Come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

People: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

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

Anthem *Ave Maria* Sergei Rachmaninoff  
*Ave Maria, Blessed Mother of God. Hail, thou Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee:  
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb;  
For thou has brought forth the Savior, to redeem us all.*

*(The Hunger for Change Offering will be received following the anthem.)*

\*Doxology *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!*

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**  
All: **Lord God, what a risk there was in your becoming flesh! What a depth of self-giving love for your world! What a power bent by such love to accept humiliation for us. Your suffering love is the power above all power, the power which transforms the universe and wins its freedom. We bless and adore our incarnate Lord, God most high, who was brought low for our sakes. Amen**

\*HYMN NO. 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* *Adeste Fideles*

\*BENEDICTION *Marilyn Hedgpeth*

\*POSTLUDE *I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In* *Richard Proulx*

*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 17 we welcomed 37 visitors to our worship service.

The *poinsettias* are given to the glory of God and are a gift to the congregation from *Arthur and Mary Clark*. *Special thanks* to *Alice Raney, Dale Georgiade, Brent Curtis, and Robert Daye* for decorating the sanctuary for the season.

The striking *Advent paraments*, a gift from Anne St. Clair Williams, were designed and created in 2012 by Laurie Wohl, a fiber-artist internationally known for her “Unweavings.”

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

*Nursery care* for infants–children 6 years of age is provided during worship on the second floor of the Christian Education Building. After the sermon is delivered, the 3-6 year old children join worship for the remainder of service or return to the nursery. There is an *infant changing table* in the narthex, located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

*Large print worship bulletins* along with *children’s worship / activity bulletins* are available from the ushers. You are invited and encouraged to use these during worship.

*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 near the baptism font.

Portions of *today’s texts* were reprinted from *Candles and Conifers: Resources for All Saints’ and Advent* and *Book of Common Worship*.

*Year-End Giving Reminders:* Timely payment of pledges by December 31<sup>st</sup> will allow First Presbyterian to pay its end-of-year bills promptly and to meet its benevolence obligations for 2017. The church office must receive your charitable contributions by the end of the day (4:30 p.m.) on **Friday, December 29**, or the gift must be 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) as soon as possible.

*These Days* devotional books for the first quarter 2018 have arrived. Pick up a copy (regular or large print) from the table in the church foyer while supplies last.

### ~ Serving Today ~

Acolytes: *Charlie Kelley, Maddie Brigman*

Crucifer: *Sam Henry*

Liturgist: *Torrell and Vanessa Armstrong*

Narthex Greeter: *Mickey Velkey*

After Worship Greeters: *Miriam Morey* (side/font); *Alice Raney* (rear / narthex)

Ushers: *Emily Wilkins* (head), *Alissa Miles, Michael Honeycutt, Amy Sanchez, Mickey Velkey, Christy Gudaitis*



**This evening at 5:00 p.m.**

**Holy Communion and Candle Lighting Service**

**Mindy Douglas, preaching**

Childcare provided for younger children

The recipients of the Christmas Eve offering will be Welcome Baby of Durham, the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, and Senior PharmAssist.

Please give generously!

## ~ Our Joys and Concerns ~

Congratulations to *Mac and Wendy McCorkle* upon the birth of their first grandchild, *Lucy McCorkle*, born to *Chip and Allison McCorkle*, in New York on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is doing well.

Condolences to *Susan Dunlap, Prasad and Anna Kasibhatla* and family on the death of Prasad's mother, *Dr. K. Sita*, on December 16<sup>th</sup> in London.

Added this week: *Heath Huberg*, recovering from brain surgery, along with his wife, *Rebecca*, and their new born baby, *Julia*, from Iowa. Heath is receiving care at Duke Hospital.

*The Lorimer Family   Julie Maxwell   Ruth and Russell Roberson   Rosemary Seve* (in Kenya)

*Individuals and families displaced by the California wildfires*

**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 Church 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

*Brooks Mikkelsen* (and her family), sister of Lucie House

*Wagner family* and *Wintermute/Littles families*, friends of Kerry Holbrook

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

*Jerry Walter*, friend of Brian and Jeanette Castle

*Christina Z.*, mother of Franzi Rokoske

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## Sunday, December 31

*First Sunday after Christmas*

*Celebration of FPC's 146<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

**No Sunday School**

Worship at 11:00 a.m. - Robert Brawley, preaching



**SONAM presents its Winter Concert**

**“Music of gifts and light for Epiphany”**

**Saturday, January 6, 2018**

7:00 pm in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church

Singers of New and Ancient Music (SONAM) is a local chorus committed to creating high-quality sacred and secular music and giving back to the community. The concert includes music in celebration of Epiphany and the end of the Christmas season, featuring works by Whitaker, Victoria, Poulenc, Sametz, and more. A suggested \$10 donation will benefit Gigi's Playhouse of Raleigh, an achievement center for individuals with Down Syndrome that offers education, therapeutic, and career-building programs. All are welcome.

## The Angel Gabriel

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
 2 "For now a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,  
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,  
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say -

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - al  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - al  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - al  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - al

## The Week at a Glance!

<p><b>Later Today</b></p> <p><b>5:00 PM</b>                  Christmas Eve                  Worship with Holy                  Communion and a                  Candle Lighting                  Service</p>	<p><b>Monday,                  December 25</b>                  Nativity of Jesus                  Christ / Christmas</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><b>The Church Office                  is CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>Tuesday,                  December 26</b></p> <p><b>The Church Office                  is CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>Wednesday,                  December 27</b></p> <p><b>The Church Office is                  CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>No Chancel Choir</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday,                  December 28</b></p> <p><b>The Church Office                  is CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>9:30 – 11:00 AM</b>                  FPC preparing lunch                  bags at Urban                  Ministries</p>	<p><b>Friday,                  December 29</b></p> <p><b>The Church Office                  is CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>7:00 – 9:00 AM</b>                  FPC serving                  breakfast                  Urban Ministries</p> <p><b>No Men of Faith                  Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>9:30 – 11:00 AM</b>                  FPC preparing lunch                  bags at Urban                  Ministries</p>	<p><b>Saturday,                  December 30</b></p>	<p><b>Sunday,                  December 31</b></p> <p><i>First Sunday After Christmas                  Happy 146<sup>th</sup> Birthday to FPC!</i></p> <p><b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b></p> <p><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship                  (Robert Brawley,                  preaching)</p> <p><b>After Worship:</b>                  Church League Basketball                  Team Interest Meeting</p> <p>No Evening Youth Groups</p>

*The bulletin cover image is by Father George Saget. "Annunciation to Mary," from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56338> [retrieved December 18, 2017].*

### 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*

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:  
[info@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:info@firstpres-durham.org) or visit our website: <http://firstpres-durham.org>

**305 EAST MAIN STREET**

**DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701**  
**ORGANIZED 1871**

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