

Lord's Day Worship
Second Sunday in Advent
December 4, 2022
10:30 AM

Prelude: *Savior of the Nations, Come* J. S. Bach

Welcome

***Call to Worship** (based on Isaiah 9:6)

Leader: For a child has been born for us,

All: a Son given to us.

Leader: Authority rests on his shoulders,

All: and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

Leader: The Prince of Peace is coming! In gratitude and joy, let us worship God!

***Hymn:** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* No. 107

Advent Candle Lighting: *Peace* Ernie and Pat Myers

Response: *A Candle Is Burning*

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace;
A candle to signal that conflict must cease:
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

Prayer of Confession (in unison) Rev. Diane Knauf

Ever-patient and forgiving God, You know how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love. You know how often we let fear eclipse logic. You know how often we forget Your words, "Do not be afraid," and lose sight of Your presence. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone in our lives. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame and rejection, which ignite and fuel so much of our fear. Help us instead to hear the voice of Your Spirit within us and in Your church. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Family of Faith, hear the Good News: Even when we fall short, make mistakes and miss the mark, God *forgives* us in His Son, our Savior.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Response:** *He Came Down* Cameroon Melody

**He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
Hallelujah forevermore.**

***Passing the Peace**

Music Offering: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Mark Hayes

Laura Floyd, solo; Mark Hayes, piano

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Sermon: *God Meets Us in Our Fear* Rev. Dr. Will Robinson

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in a God who knows our fears. We believe in a God who says, "Do not be afraid." We believe in a God who became one of us in Jesus Christ to be with us. We believe in a God who is with us always through the Holy Spirit, who comforts us and encourages us. We believe in a God who is a beacon in our dark, fearful nights and

who provides us friends with open doors and open arms. We believe in a God who will *never* leave us and *never* forsake us. This we believe. Amen.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer Deacon Debbie Berling

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Life of the Church

Offering

Offertory: *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*..... arr. Mark Hayes
Mark Hayes, piano

***Response:**

In the Bleak Midwinter..... Gustav Holst/Christina Rossetti

**What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give Him: I give Him my heart.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn:** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* No. 87

*Charge and Benediction

***Choral Response:** *Hope, Peace, Joy and Love*

Randy Edwards

*Hope, peace, joy, and love!
These are gifts You bring from above.
Jesus, Emmanuel, come to be
light of Your peace, reflected in me.*

***Postlude:** *Awake, Awake, for the Night is Flying* Robert A. Hobby
(You're invited to remain in worship through the Postlude.)

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (FPC)!

Whether you're a visitor or longtime member, we're glad you're here. We don't look or act alike. God knows we don't think alike. We come with questions, burdens and joys. But every Sunday we worship as one. We pray you'll experience God's presence and foster your faith through today's service.

So we can greet one another by name, complete the fellowship register at the end of each pew and wear your name tag if you're a member. (If you need a new one, just contact the church.) If you're a visitor, please click on "Sundays @ FPC" (under the "Worship and Music" tab) on our website and complete the brief pop-up form, or complete a Connection Card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate during the Offering or in the basket at the Connection Center in the narthex. **After worship, we invite everyone to enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the Gathering Space.**

"LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME."

Children are welcome to sit with their parents in worship or to use the Family Worship Center, a space here in the Sanctuary that helps engage children in worship. It has a bookcase of supplies, a learning table and a Faith Formation staff or volunteer guide. We also provide a Bible lesson for children from 10-10:30 AM in Creation Station (upstairs in Room 216), followed by crafts and music. After the crafts and music in Creation Station, children return with FPC staff to the Sanctuary. Child care for infants and toddlers in

available from 8:45-11:45 AM in Room 109. If you need to leave with a child, you can listen to this service in the narthex (just outside the Sanctuary's front doors). To learn more about our children's ministry, contact Jodi Gregg Krivda at jkrivda@fpchhi.org.

THESE MAY HELP

Large-print bulletins are available; just ask an usher. Hearing devices are available as well. FPC also has a smartphone option that may work with your hearing aid. To use it, go to the App store (iPhone) or Google Play (Android) and download WaveCAST Receiver by Williams Sound. Then log into the FPC Member wifi network (password firstpres [case sensitive]); open WaveCAST; click on FPC Sanctuary; adjust the volume and enjoy the service. Need help? Ask an usher!

ABOUT WORSHIP

Join us every Sunday in person at this 10:30 AM traditional service here in the Sanctuary or at our 9 AM CrossRoads contemporary service in Fellowship Hall. **For those unable to attend in person and as an expression of our mission, we provide a livestream of both worship services.** On your electronic device or smart TV, go to our website (fpchhi.org) and click on "9:00 Livestream" or "10:30 Livestream," or go to our YouTube channel. To worship later, a recording of each service is available after 2 PM today.

We welcome Mark Hayes as guest conductor this morning! An award-winning concert pianist, composer, arranger and conductor, he's conducted the Southwestern American Choral Directors Association and Missouri Choral Directors Association Community and Church Honor Choir and served as guest conductor at Carnegie Hall, featuring his *Te Deum* and *Magnificat*. In 2010 Baylor University's Center for Christian Music Studies awarded Mark the Award for Exemplary Leadership in Christian Music. In addition to his involvement in the sacred and secular choral music fields, he's an accomplished orchestrator and record producer. Whether concertizing on the other side of the globe or composing at his home in Kansas City, MO, Mark is blessed to live out his mission "to create beautiful music for the world." *International Carol Suites* (see insert) was commissioned by the Music Ministry of this congregation.

Based on CDC metrics for COVID-19 in our county and Session-approved guidelines, wearing a mask in worship is optional at this time.

FPC staff leading in worship today: Dr. S. Russell Floyd, III, Minister of Music; Charles D. Frost, Organist; Jane Jude, AV/Tech Coordinator; Rev. Diane E. Knauf, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care and Connection; Rev. Dr. William E. W. Robinson, Senior Pastor

"YOU'RE INVITED!"

You're invited to join this family of faith at a new member class on DECEMBER 18 AT 11:45 AM IN THE GATHERING SPACE!

IN THE LIFE OF FPC

PRAYERFUL STUDY

To help us prepare to celebrate anew our Lord's birth, Advent devotionals are available in our narthex and in the church office. There's also an e-reader version you can access on your computer and mobile devices. For that link, email Jackie Wilhelm at jwilhelm@fpchhi.org.

Digging Deeper Bible Study! Thursdays in Advent (December 8, 15, 22) at 10 AM in person in the Library and via Zoom. Pastor Will will help us dig deeper into the Biblical texts that are the basis of Sunday's sermon and worship, learning more about the history behind these texts, including key words and metaphors, and applying them to our lives today. To join us, contact the church.

To learn more about our children's ministry, email Jodi Gregg Krivda at jkrivda@fpchhi.org. To learn more about our youth ministry, email Jackie Wilhelm at jwilhelm@fpchhi.org. Adult Ministry classes and small groups meet on Sundays and throughout the week. To learn more, see "THIS WEEK @ FPC!" in this bulletin and go to fpchhi.org/adult-ministry/ or contact the church.

SACRIFICIAL SERVICE

Stop by the Volunteer Center Ministry Table in the Gathering Space to learn more about our People in Need (PIN) Ministry (see next announcement) and how you can be part of it!

People In Need (PIN) is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 AM-noon to help people with utility bills, rent and food/supplies from our pantry. The pantry is currently in need of canned meats, pasta and vegetables.

Help us change lives and make disciples by giving via 1) mailing a check to 540 William Hilton Parkway, HHI, SC 29928, 2) the GIVE button at fpchhi.org or 3) texting "FPCHHI" to 77977. Need help setting up a recurring gift? Email info@fpchhi.org.

CARING CONNECTIONS

"Say Cheese!" Andrea Siebold, our Volunteer Director of Volunteer Ministry, will be in the Gathering Space to take your picture for our online directory from 10-10:30 AM and from 11:30-11:45 AM TODAY and on December 18.

We partner with Antioch Educational Center to collect new, unwrapped toys for children in need in Jasper County (newborn-12 years old). You may drop-off toys at the church office through December 13.

FPC's new website *homepage* is live! With the help of an outside consultant, we've redesigned the homepage, and by early in the new year the *entire* website will be redesigned.

Prayer boxes are located in Fellowship Hall and in the narthex. If you complete a prayer request card (beside the box) and drop it in the box, we'll include your prayer in our staff prayers on Tuesdays and on our confidential prayer chain.

If you or a family member will be in the hospital, had a recent hospitalization or would benefit from pastoral care or like communion, contact Rev. Diane Knauf (919-909-2660) or the church (843-681-3696, ext. 245).

THIS WEEK @ FPC!

For more information about the ministries listed below, go to fpchhi.org or contact the church.

- December 5:** Sarah Circle at 12:30 PM (Library)
- December 6:** Knitting Ministry at 1:30 PM (Library)
- December 7:** Men's Bible Study at 9:00 AM via Zoom
Women's Spiritual Exercise Group at 10 AM (Library) and via Zoom
FPC Bridge Brigade at 1 PM (Gathering Space)
FPC Kids program from 3-7 PM (Rooms on the second floor)
AiM Youth Choir rehearsal at 4:15 PM (Choir Room)
Lowcountry Lessons class at 4:30 PM via Zoom
- December 8:** Digging Deeper Bible Study at 10 AM (Library) and via Zoom
Chair Yoga at 11 AM (Fellowship Hall)
CrossRoads music rehearsal at 1:30 PM (Fellowship Hall)
Meditation group at 4:30 PM (South Room)
Carillon Bell rehearsal at 5:30 PM (Bell Choir Room)
Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 7 PM (Choir Room)
- December 11: **Third Sunday in Advent****
Nursery open from 8:45-11:45 AM (Room 109)
CrossRoads worship service at 9 AM (Fellowship Hall) and via livestream
Seekers Sunday School class at 9 AM (Honey Horn Chapel) and via Zoom
Living in the Word Sunday School class at 9 AM (Room 202) and via Zoom
Work in Progress Sunday School class at 9 AM (Library) and via Zoom
Fellowship time at 10 AM (Gathering Space)
Traditional worship at 10:30 AM (Sanctuary) and via livestream
JOY Group Sunday School class at 11:30 AM via Zoom
Middle and High School Youth Group at 5 PM (Youth Space)

Christmas Poinsettias

At Christmas we remember loved ones in God's nearer presence and honor special moments in the lives of our families and friends.
Please return this form to the church by December 16. Poinsettias may be picked up after December 26.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
(please print)

I would like to purchase _____ poinsettia(s).

Attached is my check for \$_____ (\$20/poinsettia). Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and note poinsettia on the memo line.

Choose one or more of these options:

In memory of: _____ In honor of: _____

In celebration of the Christmas season _____

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