



*The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,
and from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word.
The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift
and use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift.
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today,
but, charged with faith, may we be bold to follow in His way.*

(Text: The Hands That First Held Mary's Child
by Thomas Troeger © by Oxford University Press, Inc.)
(Music: © 2011 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc.; CCLI 1638406)

Prelude: *Manger Medley*.....Rebecca K. Owens

Welcome

***Processional Hymn:** *Angels We Have Heard on High*No. 113

Lighting of the Advent Candle

8:30 a.m. Lucas, Susan & Matthew DeLano
11:00 a.m. Carol, Lisa, Cate & Callie Hayes

Prayer of Adoration

Congregational Response:
*O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

Journey to Bethlehem

Congregational Response:
*O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

Time with Children (11:00 a.m.)

Congregational Response:
*Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*
After *Time with the Children*, children are invited to Children's Church.

Anthem: *The Hands That First Held Mary's Child* Words by Thomas Troeger
Music by Dan Forrest

Joseph Harvey, *cello* ~ Sanctuary Choir
*The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood,
From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood.
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,
but cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.
When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,
and gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name,
the angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height,
and like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.
"This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,
but God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone."*

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:26-38Page 835 & 887
Sermon:

"The Journey to Bethlehem: The Journey of Love"Dr. Douglas K. Fletcher

***Hymn:** *Love Has Come*No. 110

Invitation to Prayer

*O holy child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin, and enter in; Be born in us today.*

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer Deacon Cheryl Barthelman
**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.**

The Life of the Church

(Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad.)

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory: *Angels We Have Heard on High*.....Rebecca K. Owens
Congregational Response:
*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 my heart.*

Prayer of Dedication

***Hymn:** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*No. 119

***Charge & Benediction**

Benediction Response:
Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love Words: Randy Edwards & Sherry Upshaw
Music: Randy Edwards
*Hope, peace, joy, and love!
These are gifts You bring from above.
Jesus, Emmanuel, come to be light of Your love, reflected in me.*
(Text and Music © 1999 by Birnamwood Publications)

***Postlude:** *From Heaven on High to Earth I Came*Johann Walther
*congregation standing as able



Join us for worship on December 30.

Rev. Lisa M. Schrott preaching: "A Journey of Remembrance"
Scripture: Matthew 1:1-17

**For pastoral care needs, Pastor Lisa Schrott may be reached
on her cell phone at 318-286-3816.**

Feed My Sheep Sunday: First Sunday (January 6) to benefit the Sandalwood Community Food Pantry, neighbors helping neighbors. Please donate your non-perishable food items to help nourish the bodies and the souls of those less fortunate. Paper products are much appreciated!

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS, hearing devices and children's bulletins are available from the ushers, as well as nursery care throughout the morning.

Love Letters: Look for new "love letters" in the Gathering Space this Sunday morning, extending blessings from our membership to others who are in need of support.

Connection Card: Connections with our members and visitors are important to us. Please complete a Connection Card located in the pew so that we may connect with you. Drop your completed card in the offering plate during worship or leave it at the Welcome Center in the narthex after worship.

If You See Something, Say Something! FPC's Safety & Security Committee asks that if any concerns arise within the church facility or on campus that you kindly notify one of the ushers and/or staff immediately. Ushers may be found in the rear of the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall each Sunday.



In the Life of the Church

Welcome Visitors! Whether this is your first visit or you have been here many times, we are happy to have you with us! Please come into the Gathering Space following worship for coffee and fellowship and stop by the welcome table to say hello, and find out what is happening here at First Presbyterian Church.

Name Tags: The Membership + Evangelism Committee has a special offer now through the end of the year. They will replace your misplaced name tag at no charge, so give the church office a call. If you are a regular visitor to FPC and would like a name tag, let us know. We'll provide a name tag at no charge for you, as well.

Offering Envelopes: Offering envelopes are available for you to pick up in the Gathering Space hallway behind the fireplace. Picking up your box of envelopes will save the church in postage expense. Thanks for your help.

Weekly Happenings & Sunday Offerings: Please see FPC's "Weekly Happenings" found at the Welcome Center and on the information rack outside Fellowship Hall to learn about the many FPC activities scheduled during the week, as well as Sunday offerings.



AN EVENING WITH NATASHA BOYD AUTHOR OF "THE INDIGO GIRL"

January 13, 2019, at 5:00-6:30 p.m.

FPC in the sanctuary ~ Free & open to the public

Natasha Boyd is a USA Today bestselling and award-winning author of contemporary romance and historical fiction. She has lived on three continents, and currently lives and writes full-time in the Southeast USA.



Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! Listen—there's a better way! Join Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University group or invite others you believe can benefit from these practical life lessons, and we'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future!

The nine-week class starts on January 16, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

Cost is \$110 for the curriculum.

Feel free to message Pastor Joel your questions or call the church office at 843-681-3696 to sign up!



Christmas at FPC

Journey to Bethlehem

Today, December 23, at 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Join us for an interactive walk through the streets of Bethlehem to visit the manger and baby Jesus.

Christmas Eve Services - Monday, December 24

4:00 - 8:30 p.m. — Live nativity

5:00 p.m. — Family candlelight worship service

8:00 p.m. — Candlelight worship service

**with thirty minutes of Christmas music
preceding the service**

10:00 p.m. — Candlelight & Communion worship service

Chrismon Tree ~ Representing aspects of the person, life or ministry of Jesus and the life, ministry or history of the Christian church, the Chrismon Tree will be on display in the South Wing during the month of December. The Chrismons were made with loving hands by the First Friends Small Group.

Advent Memorial Tree ~ On display in the narthex during the month of December as FPC's gift of remembrance to families who have lost a loved one during the past year. Sponsored by the Memorials and Gifts of Honor Committee

Angel Tree Benefiting Thornwell Home for Children ~ Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, SC, is a covenant ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that provides a nurturing home for children whose parents are unable to care for them. Thanks to all who so generously gave gifts giving the children and youth of Thornwell a happier Christmas.

Sunday School: Please note the following schedule:

- Will meet on December 23: Lowcountry Lessons; children's Sunday school; Children's Church and Living in the Word;
- Will meet on December 30: Lowcountry Lessons; children's Sunday school and Children's Church;
- The following will not meet on December 23 or 30: "Bridge" class, 8th-12th grade class, Family Faith, Work in Progress, Joy Class, Seekers.



8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

December 23, 2018 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent



Come, let us adore Him!

Our Mission:
Changing Lives . . . Making Disciples

Our Vision:
Every Member in Ministry

Our Values of Ministry:
Joyful Worship, Gracious Invitation, Prayerful Study,
Sacrificial Service & Caring Connections

Dr. Douglas K. Fletcher ~ Pastor
Rev. Joel M. Wood ~ Associate Pastor of Discipleship
Rev. Lisa M. Schrott ~ Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care
Dr. S. Russell Floyd, III ~ Minister of Music; Charles D. Frost ~ Organist

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