

The Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2008

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

One: The grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE "O Come, Little Children" arr. Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME
Please sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship Pad.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (Advent Candle: Love)

INTRODUCTION Reverend Susan E. Moorefield

CONGREGATIONAL SONG "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
(please join in singing)

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!

LIGHTING CEREMONY
(8:45) *Jo and Harold Nixon*
(11:00) *Betsy Cox and Michael Curtis*

UNISON PRAYER
Almighty God, we thank you for your gift of love, shown perfectly in Jesus Christ. Your love never fails, and transforms all those who give and receive it. Help us to share your great love with each other. Amen.

† **HYMN 156:** (Red) "The First Nowell" THE FIRST NOWELL
Vs. 1, 2: All; Vs. 3: Women and Girls; Vs. 4: Men and Boys;
Vs. 5: Choir; Vs. 6: All

† **ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)
God of Advent: You have never ceased coming to live within us and among us!
Yet we have often lived as if this were not true:
as if Jesus were far away;
or as if the still, small voice of your Spirit had nothing of importance to say to us.
Forgive us, we pray: for you are Emmanuel, God with us, now and always.
Pardon our feeble trust and renew our faith
So that we would discern your vital and empowering presence in our daily lives day by day.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
hear now the silent confessions of our hearts . . .

SILENT CONFESSION

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear this Good News – Through the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has given us the gift of reconciliation!

All: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE TO PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

(11:00 only)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*William Wallace Lancaster
Son of Elizabeth Farmer and William Andrew Wallace Lancaster*

HYMN 462: (Red) "Once in Royal David's City" IRBY
(remain seated)
(Vs. 1, 2)

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:6-7 Pew Bible Page 593

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE "Christ! What's in a Name?" Dr. David A. Renwick
Apostles' Creed III:
"I believe in Jesus Christ"

HYMN 462: (Red) "Once in Royal David's City" IRBY
(remain seated)
(8:45 – Vs. 1, 2; 11:00 – Vs. 3, 4)
(Children come forward during singing of the hymn)

A TIME FOR YOUNG BELIEVERS

Scene I The Wise Men Hymn 157: (Red) "Away in a Manger," v. 1
Scene II The Wise Men and Herod "Away in a Manger," v. 2
Scene III The Shepherds "Away in a Manger," v. 3
Scene IV The Stable "Away in a Manger," v. 1

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison) Dr. William L. Arthur
The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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, for ever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY

(8:45) "O Thou, That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" G. F. Handel
Genesis Choir; Lisa Cunningham, solo

*O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain!
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem,
lift up thy voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid!
Say unto the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"
O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine, for thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.*

(11:00) "African Noel" André Thomas
Chancel Choir; Rafe Andrews, Djembe Drum

*Sing Noel, sing Noel, Noel, Noel, Sing we all Noel.
O come, ye people, gather here to hear the news of good cheer.
The King of Kings, the Lamb of God is born today in Bethlehem.
Sing Noel, sing Noel, Oh sing Noel.*

† **ADVENT DOXOLOGY** REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal, Three in One;
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the new-born King!**

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

† **HYMN 158:** (Red) "Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA

† **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

† **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!"

POSTLUDE "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" Raymond H. Haan

† Congregation will stand.
**** Ushers will seat latecomers.

Nursery care is available on the first floor of the Clark Building for all services for children six weeks through three years old. Silent pagers are provided to parents in case one of our nursery staff needs to reach you. **If your child becomes restless or needs to leave the sanctuary for any reason, an usher can direct you to the Church Parlor as a place to stay with your child and still hear the worship service through our sound system.**

If you are visiting our church and would like more information about the life and ministry of First Presbyterian, please come by the **Welcome Center for Visitors** in the hallway just beyond the Tower Room. Not sure how to get there? At the conclusion of the 8:45 and the 11:00 services, our Elders are available at the Communion table to answer any questions and to guide you to the Welcome Center. If you desire a call from a staff person, please leave contact information in the Friendship Pad.

Hearing devices are available for your use. Please ask an usher for assistance before the service.

As a courtesy to those around you, kindly turn off cell phones, beepers, and wristwatch alarms during worship.

Rainbow worship bags are provided at the doors of the Sanctuary for your child to use during worship. Please return the crayons, book, and bag to the baskets at the conclusion of worship. The papers or leaflets are for your child to keep.

Please contact the church or your P.A.C.E. leader if a member of your family or you are admitted to the hospital.

The 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. services are broadcast over our Internet site, www.fpcspartanburg.org, by clicking on "Radio and Web Cast". The 11:00 a.m. service is broadcast over radio station WOLT 103.3-FM.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Sunday, December 21

SPIHN Guests Arrive
8:45 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School (for all ages)
10:00 a.m. College Christmas Brunch
11:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Moravian Love Feast
7:00 p.m. Moravian Love Feast

Monday, December 22

SPIHN Guests
11:00 a.m. Church Staff Meeting
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 23

SPIHN Guests

Wednesday, December 24

SPIHN Guests
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service
7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thursday, December 25

SPIHN Guests
Christmas Day
Church Facilities Closed

Friday, December 26

SPIHN Guests
Christmas Holiday
Church Facilities Closed

Moravian Love Feast and Madrigal Singers

Today
5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

The Moravian Love Feast is a lovely Christmas service of music, candle lighting, and the serving of the "feast" of special Moravian buns and coffee. It is a joint effort between First Presbyterian Church and the Palmetto Moravian Fellowship here in Spartanburg, who will serve the feast dressed in period costumes. Set in the beauty of our exquisite Chapel, this is a service you will not want to miss! This service lasts for approximately one hour. A nursery will be provided.

Would you like to join the Christmas Eve Choir?

Anyone high-school age and above is welcome to be a part of the Christmas Eve Choir, which sings at the 7:30 and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Services. There is one rehearsal, tomorrow evening, December 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. The music is lovely and manageable, there are strong singers in every section, and you will have the best seat in the house for the candle lighting! Adults, college students home for the holidays, and high school singers are warmly invited.

Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, December 24

Family Service – 5:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Come all you angels, shepherds, and kings, join us on Christmas Eve for our children's nativity pageant. Any child may come dressed as the part he or she wants to play.

Candlelight Services – 7:30 and 11:00 p.m.

These services, a tradition in our church, feature music by The Christmas Eve Choir. A special message will be delivered and the services will conclude with the Sanctuary bathed in candlelight. *Invite a friend!*

Please note that a nursery will be provided at 5:00 p.m. only.

First Presbyterian Church

393 East Main Street
Spartanburg, SC

864/583-4531
www.fpcspartanburg.org

December 21, 2008



Dr. David A. Renwick
Pastor/Head of Staff

Reverend Susan E. Moorefield
Associate Pastor of Congregational Care and Deacons

Scott J. Neely
Director of Mission

Marcia C. Andrews
Organist

Jeffrey S. Smith
Director of Youth

Bethany S. Cecil
Parish Nurse

Patricia L. Webster
Church Hostess

Dr. William L. Arthur
Parish Associate

R. Holt Andrews
Director of Music

Nan McDaniel

Interim Director of Education and Discipleship

Lisa C. Cunningham and Leigha M. Pace
Youth Music Associates

Carrie D. Williamson
Assistant Director of Youth

Charles H. Gnerlich
Business Administrator

J. Robert Bannan
Director of Recreation

Salvador and Irma de la Torre, Kenya – John S. McCall, Taiwan
Frank and Nancy Dimmock, Lesotho – Darren and Elizabeth Kennedy, Egypt
Mission Co-Workers Serving with Kurds
Missionaries

Sunday School December 21, 2008

NURSERY and PRESCHOOL - First Floor Clark Building

Infants - C108

Toddlers - C105

Twos - C106

Preschool: 3K - C111, 4K - C110, 5K - C112

ELEMENTARY (1st - 5th Grades)

Pathway 2 Truth - Second Floor Clark Building

Gift of Jesus

1st Grade - Art / Red Door - Cindy Britton and Kelly Johnson

2nd Grade - Cooking / Yellow Door - Mary McAbee and Cheryl Reynolds

3rd Grade - Science / Green Door - Eunice Knouse and Bill Carry

4th Grade - Storytelling / Purple Door - Anne-Marie Glover and Suzan Mason

5th Grade - Games / Blue Door - Donna Thornton

YOUTH - Second Floor Family Life Center

6th-7th - Jr. High Room (F207) - Karen and Kelly Edwards

How does Jesus serve? - Jesus serves by forgiving sins.

8th - 9th - 9th Grade Room (F205) - Nick Wildrick

Matthew - Does God really have a plan for my life? - In which book, chapter, and verse of the Bible will I find God's plan for my life?

10th - 12th - Sr. High Room (F202) - Scott and Pamela Heath

Matthew - Does God really have a plan for my life? - In which book, chapter, and verse of the Bible will I find God's plan for my life?

ADULT

Agnus Dei - Room 2210

Shepherds Glorify God - Bill Burns

Christian Perspectives

Fellowship Class

Horizons

(Joining *Come One Come All* class in Fogartie Hall)

Come One Come All - Fogartie Hall

Singing our Way into Christmas: Songs, Carols, and Stories with Bill Arthur at the piano.

Faith Builders

Are you a Christmas whiz? - Lynn Edwards

Ladies' Chapel Class - Chapel

Shepherds Glorify God - George Moseley

Men's Bible Class - Purnell Room

Shepherds Glorify God - Lynn Parker

OPEN Class - Room 2216

"Dickens' Christmas Carol"

- Denise Stevens and Kamran Popkin

Spiritual Life Class - Room 2201

Christmas Fact and Fiction and Christmas Quiz

- David Tate

Truth Seekers - Room 2208

A Study in Ephesians: Alive in Christ - Art McQueen

The Advent Parament

The Christian year begins with the season of Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas. Advent is the preparatory season, a period of expectant preparation for the coming of Christ. It is followed by the festival season, Christmas, the period from sunset December 24 through January 6, Epiphany. It is a time of hope and expectancy as the birth of Christ is celebrated. Enhancing the sanctuary this year are two new paraments.

In the center of the Advent parament is the four-pointed star, recognized also as the star of Bethlehem and the natal star. The cross shape reminds us of Jesus' birth and the purpose for which He was born. In the center is the sacred monogram, IHS, alternative form for IHC, the first three letters for the Greek spelling of Jesus. The border consists of pine, an evergreen symbolizing eternal life and God's everlasting love. Each corner medallion is a Christmas rose, a symbol used to represent the Messianic promise, the nativity of Christ, and the Virgin Mary.

The liturgical color of Advent is purple.

*The Advent parament is the gift of
Dr. and Mrs. Donald Hutson McClure*

*Julia Bowling Burnett and Lacy Dennis Chapman
stitched this parament.*

The Christmas Parament

In the center of the Christmas parament is the babe lying in a manger, as described in the second chapter of St. Luke's gospel, a familiar passage read every Christmas season. Notice that Christ's manger is the Chi Rho, a sacred monogram using the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ. As recorded in the second chapter of St. Matthew's gospel, the wise men "have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." Here is the four-pointed, natal star to guide their way. The triangular pattern in the border of the sanctuary's stained glass windows inspired its repetition in the border of this parament. The corner medallions reflect the rose window in our chapel. Shown in a stylized form, the rose has been a common Christian symbol since the 1200s and is often found in Gothic architecture.

The liturgical color for Christmas is white.

*The Christmas parament is the gift of
John Franklin Floyd, John Warren Floyd,
and Larkin Floyd Dobson
in honor of
Minta Warren Floyd*

*Minta Warren Floyd, Jean Cecil Frick,
Selma Falls Moody, Robin Colyer New,
Elizabeth Blackford Refshauge,
and Patricia Lee Webster
stitched this parament.*