

Christmas Eve 2008

*First Presbyterian Church
Spartanburg, SC*



“For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

7:30 and 11:00 p.m.

December 24, 2008

*Great God, as you came at night all was still, so enter our lives this night.
Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence
that we may clearly see the way before us,
the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.*

Music by the Eastside String Quartet begins thirty minutes prior to each service.

PRELUDE

“Coventry Carol”
“Noel Nouvelet”
Janet Kuntz, flute

Peter Crisafulli
Harald Rohlig

“Pastorale on Silent Night”

Thomas Geischen

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. David A. Renwick

One: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying,

**All: “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”**

One: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

**All: “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us.”**

One: So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.
Let us worship God together.

† PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!
2. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!
3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Reverend Susan E. Moorefield

(Please be seated)

God of glory and light,

You come to make your home among us, yet we try to keep you at a distance.

You have drawn near to us, but we have drawn away from you.

In mercy, forgive our resistance to you.

By your Spirit, revive our love for you, and grant us a willing spirit

that welcomes you and your purposes: in us, among us, and through us;

for the sake of Emmanuel, God with us.

Hear now the silent confessions of our hearts . . .

SILENT CONFESSION

† CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER FOR PARDON (sung)

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

INTRODUCTION

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

LIGHTING CEREMONY

(7:30) *Pat and John Tatham*
Pam, Jeff, Caroline, and Cadie Greissing
(11:00) *Mary and Bill Walter and family*

UNISON PRAYER

Lord, we rejoice that you have come among us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the Light of the World. Help us to remember that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Savior. Amen.

ANTHEM

“Away In a Manger”

arr. Mack Wilberg

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 1:18-25
(7:30) Scott J. Neely; (11:00) Dr. William L. Arthur

Pew Bible Page 835

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

ANTHEM

“In the Bleak Mid-Winter”
Soloists

Harold Darke

Soprano: *Valerie MacPhail* (7:30); *Carly Keiser* (11:00)
Tenor: *Reel Robertson* (7:30); *Christian Crocker* (11:00)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 6:1-8

Pew Bible Page 591

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

ANTHEM

“Unto Us is Born a Son”

arr. David Willcocks

SERMON

“Touched by An Angel”

Dr. David A. Renwick

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

PRESENTATION OF CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”
Paul MacPhail

Robert MacGimsey

† 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

† HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

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.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Kindly light your candle from your neighbor’s candle.

David Renwick

One: In Christ was life
All: and the life was the light of all.
One: The light shines in the darkness
All: and the darkness has not overcome it.
One: Let us spread the light.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

HYMN

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”
(Please remain seated.)

STILLE NACHT

1. Silent night! holy night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night! holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.”
3. Silent night! holy night! Son of God, love’s pure Light, Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.
4. Silent night! holy night! Wondrous Star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

† BENEDICTION

Please extinguish your candle and leave it at the door.

† POSTLUDE

“Fantasia on Adeste Fideles”

Geoffrey Shaw

† The congregation is asked to stand.

For our Christmas Eve offering, all non-designated gifts will be used to support the Winter Warmth Project, which provides winter coats for school-age children in Spartanburg County.

Poinsettia Remembrance Booklets with memorials/honors are available in the Tower Room, Narthex, and the church office.

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2009 Women's Retreat
January 9–11, 2009

“Finding God's Rest in a Restless World”
with speaker Nancy McGuirk,
Women's Community Bible Study of Atlanta

A few places are available.
Registration is still open.

For more detailed information,
download the brochure from our website at
www.fpcspartanburg.org.

New Welcome Class
Begins Sunday, January 11

- Interested in joining First Presbyterian?
- Already a member and interested in learning more about the Presbyterian Church?

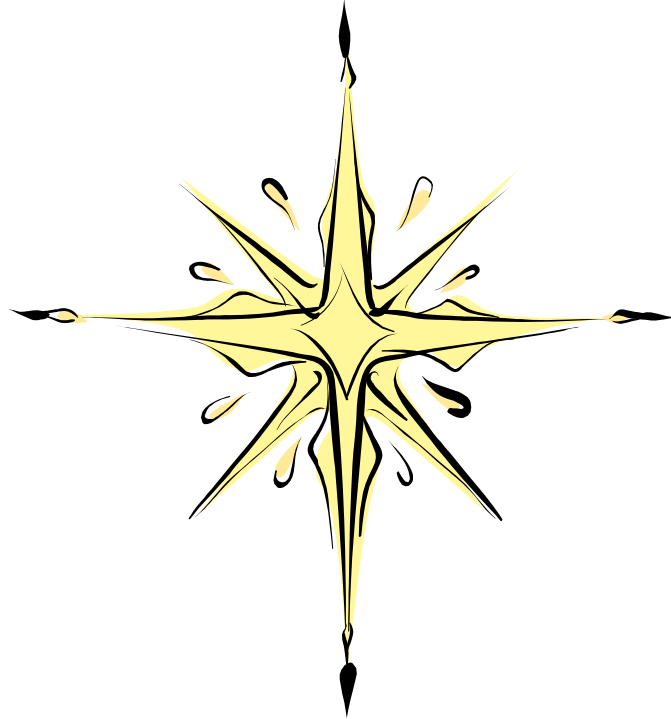
*You are warmly invited to a series of
Welcome Classes*
Sunday, January 11 – Sunday, February 22
9:45 – 10:45 a.m. in Room 2200

(Follow the signs from the
Chestnut Street entrance.)

This class is taught by Dr. David Renwick
and other church staff members.

*If you would like to join us,
please contact ShellyJo Cook*
(208-2121 / sjcook@fpcspartanburg.org)

First Presbyterian Church
Spartanburg, SC
864-583-4531
www.fpcspartanburg.org



STAFF

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

About our New Paraments...

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 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 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.*

Winter Warmth

Please help us keep the children of Spartanburg warm this winter. The fourteenth annual Winter Warmth Project of First Presbyterian Church was held on Saturday, November 15. We distributed over 1,100 coats to children from all seven Spartanburg County School Districts. We still need your help. For a gift of \$30.00, you can be a part of providing a new warm coat for a child in need.

We are pleased to offer this as a Christmas gift. You may give a coat in honor of another and we will acknowledge this gift with a beautifully illustrated card to the person named.

*Loving, Sharing, Giving, Caring
This is what the Lord meant Christians to be.*

"Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat? What good is there in your saying to them God bless you! Keep warm and eat well! - if you don't give them the necessities of life? So it is with faith; if it is alone and includes no action, then it is dead." James 2:15-17

Yes, I enclose \$_____ to buy_____ coat(s)
at \$30.00 each.

Name _____

Phone _____

My gift is made in honor of

Please send gift acknowledgement to

Name

Address

Mail or bring this form to First Presbyterian Church,
Attn. Shannon Stewart
393 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302-1917

Winter-Spring Study Opportunities

registration required for the following groups:

The following groups began in the fall and will continue in January.

- The BBC (Bill's Book Club) continues. Lists of the monthly book choices for winter and spring are available in the hall across from the Welcome Center for Visitors.
- The Christians in the Making study group for women will continue its Wednesday morning study of women in the Bible.
- Mom to Mom will continue its Wednesday evening study of *The Shack*. The group will resume on January 14.

required for the following groups:

Please use the registration form below to sign up for the following groups:

- Calm My Anxious Heart, a 12-week study for women of the book by the same name, scheduled for Tuesdays at noon from January 6 through March 24. (\$12.00) **Facilitator:** Carter Smith
- Tuesday Morning (9:15 a.m.) for Women will undertake an 11-week study of Beth Moore's *The Patriarchs* from January 13 through March 24. (\$15.00) **Facilitator:** Nancy Tiller
- A Study of Key Sayings of Jesus based on *That's What the Man Said: The Sayings of Jesus*, scheduled for the Tuesday Noon Group (noon, January 6-March 24), Dr. Renwick's Thursday morning group (9:30 a.m., January 15-March 19), and a Sunday evening group (5:00 p.m. from January 11-March 22). (\$10.00)
Facilitators: David Renwick, Nan and Tom McDaniel
- The Wednesday Morning (9:15 a.m.) Ongoing Journey for Women will focus on the 4th year of the *Call to Discipleship*, a study of the authentic Christian as described in 2 Peter. **Facilitator:** Martha Foster
- Fireproof Your Marriage, a 6-week study for couples during Wednesdays at First (6:15-7:30 p.m.), that begins on January 14. If you are interested in this study, try to see the movie of the same name while it is showing in town. (\$8.00 plus \$10.00 if you wish to purchase *The Love Dare*) **Facilitators:** Livia and Tim Cantrell
- The Men's Friday Earlybird (7:00-8:00 a.m.) Study Group will focus on a study of Christian character entitled *Who You Are (When No One's Looking)*. (\$11.00) **Facilitator:** John Verreault
- Follow-up seminars for participants in the *Experiencing God* study, who want to know more about how to study a passage of scripture, how to find quiet time for prayer and reflection, etc., are scheduled for Mondays at 9:15 a.m. beginning on February 2. **Facilitator:** Ginger Shuler

*If you have questions, please get in touch with either the group facilitator or
Jane Mullins (208-2139 / @fpcspartanburg.)*

REGISTRATION FORM FOR ADULT STUDY GROUPS

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Check the group(s) in which you wish to participate. *Please send this form to Jane Mullins at the church office.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Calm My Anxious Heart" | <input type="checkbox"/> The Wednesday Morning Ongoing Journey for Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Morning for Women | <input type="checkbox"/> "Fireproof Your Marriage" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>A Study of Key Sayings of Jesus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> The Men's Friday Earlybird (7:00-8:00 a.m.)
Study Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesdays at noon | <input type="checkbox"/> Follow-up seminars for <i>Experiencing God</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sundays at 5:00 p.m. | |

*Please send this registration form to Jane Mullins in the church office
or you may register online at [.fpcspartanburg](mailto:@fpcspartanburg).*