

# *Christmas Eve 2009*

*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, 2009

*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

"A Little Shepherd's Music"  
Janet Kuntz, flute

Harold Rohlig

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

## WELCOME

Dr. David A. Renwick

Visitors and members, please sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship Pad.

## † CALL TO WORSHIP

The Reverend Susan E. Moorefield

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)

(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**

The Reverend L. Craig Foster

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG**

W ZLOBIE LEZY

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging Angels singing, Noels ringing,  
Tidings bringing: Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

**LIGHTING CEREMONY**

(7:30) Susan and Ralph Polson, Megan and Ralph  
(11:00) Caroline and Jim Thomas, John and Stephen

**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”  
Christmas Eve Choir

Mack Wilberg

**PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 9:1-7

The Reverend L. Craig Foster  
Pew Bible Page 593

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

**ANTHEM**

“What Child”

Paul W. Lohman

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Matthew 1:18-25

Pew Bible Page 835

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

**SERMON**

“Coming To Save”

Dr. David A. Renwick

**GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

**PRESENTATION OF CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

(7:30) The Reverend Susan E. Moorefield  
(11:00) Dr. William L. Arthur

**OFFERTORY**

“Before the Marvel of This Night”

Carl Schalk

† **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**

(7:30) The Reverend Susan E. Moorefield  
(11:00) Dr. William L. Arthur

**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**

Dr. David A. 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.

Kindly light your candle from your neighbor’s candle.

Please keep your lit candle upright while you light your neighbor’s candle.

# 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**

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

arr. Robert Powell

† The congregation is asked to stand.

**The Advent greens** in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Minnie Sangster Duck and Susie Auten West by Jack and Linda Sangster West.

*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.*

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## Mark Your Calendar!

*New Welcome Class Begins January 10*

Are you interested in

- joining First Presbyterian Church
- learning more about the Presbyterian Church
- starting the new year afresh after being away for a while?

You are warmly invited to a series of Welcome Classes beginning on Sunday, January 10, 2010 through February 28, 2010.

*If you would like more information, please contact Cheryl Regets at 208-2129 [cregets@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:cregets@fpcspartanburg.org).*

## Register Now!

### 2010 Women's Retreat

January 22-24

at The Cove in Asheville, NC

Meet Esther, Abigail, Ruth and the Shunammite Woman and how they learned to “grow up” in Christ through it all – the best and the worst, the daily and the mundane. God uses all seasons and circumstances of our lives to help us grow up in Christ.

December 31 is the deadline for early-bird prices!

**For details** contact Jane Mullins

(208-2139 or [jmullins@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:jmullins@fpcspartanburg.org)).