

The Service for the Lord's Day

First Sunday of Advent

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

November 27, 2011

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 *Sleepers Awake!* J. S. Bach
Rafe Andrews, trumpet

WELCOME
Please sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship Pad.

MOMENT FOR MISSION *Stephen Ministry* Sheree Ansley

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

CALL TO WORSHIP (Please remain seated to sing.)
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus STUTTGART

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY
(8:45) Hollie and Kevin Marsh, Ella Grace, Alle Marie, and Olivia Joy
(11:00) Mary and Bill Thompson, Mary Lorick Thompson,
Martha and Budge Bean

UNISON PRAYER
Almighty God, we thank you for the hope you give us in Jesus Christ.
As we begin our Advent journey, may your hope live in us. As we watch
and wait, awaken us to live today as children of the light. Release us
from all our fears and sins, and help us find our rest in You. Amen.

† **HYMN 9:** (Blue) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) Dr. William L. Arthur
Merciful God, in this season of Advent we come to you in confession of
our sin. We have preferred darkness to light, violence to peace, and the
turmoil in our lives and in our world condemns us. Forgive our sin.
Forgive our self centeredness and our indifference to those around us.
Cleanse us by the power of your grace that we may love you and our
neighbors as ourselves. In Christ's name we pray. . .

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-6 Pew Bible Page 593

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

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

† **HYMN 44:** (Blue) *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS
(verses 1-3)

SECOND READING Matthew 2:16-23 Pew Bible Page 836

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

SERMON *The Dark Side of Christmas* Dr. William P. Wood

*Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men,
was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem
and in all that region who were two years old or under,
according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men.*
(Matthew 2:16)

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison)
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 Reverend Laura E. Palmer

The Lord's Prayer

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 TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

(8:45) *Come, Thou Dear Redeemer* Cesar Franck
Rafe Andrews, solo

*Come Thou dear Redeemer. Come Lord Jesus to set us free.
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee.
Hope of all the earth Thou art, Joy of every longing heart.*

*Come Thou dear Redeemer Born a Child, yet Thou art a King.
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
Rule in all our hearts alone. Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

(11:00) *Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes* Hal H. Hopson
Chancel Choir

*Thou shalt know Him when He comes, not by any din of drums,
Nor the manner of His airs, Nor by anything He wears;
Thou shalt know Him when He comes, Not by His crown or His gown,
But His coming known shall be by the holy harmony
which His coming makes in Thee. Thou shalt know Him when He comes.*

† **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 coming King.**

† **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Unison)
Almighty God, we acknowledge you as the giver of every good gift,
Above all, we acknowledge the great gifts of life and light
that you have given to us through Jesus your Son.
Use these gifts that we now offer in your service,
and help us to reflect your life and light
in all we think and say and do. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

† **HYMN 13:** (Blue) *Prepare the Way* BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN

† **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

† **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** (please join in singing) VENI EMMANUEL
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

POSTLUDE *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* Johann Pachelbel

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



The Advent Greens in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and
in memory of John Edward "John John" Costanza by Mom, Dad, Travis,
Brandon, and Grandma.

PARENTS . . .

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 share in the worship service through our live video and audio.**

For Nursing Mothers: There are two locations that nursing mothers can use while they are here on Sunday mornings. The nursery in the Family Life Center (off the gym playroom) is open before and during MorningSong for nursing mothers. Room C103 on the first floor of the Clark Building is open from 8:15 a.m. through the end of the 11:00 service. Please follow the instructions in the room with respect to use of the changing tables and disposal of diapers. **NOTE: C-103 is a food-free room. Please do not take any food into the room with you.**

Rainbow worship bags are provided at the doors of the Sanctuary for your child to use during worship. Please return the crayons, book, puzzle game, bookmarks, and bag to the baskets at the conclusion of worship. The papers or leaflets are for your child to keep as a reminder of today's scripture and message.

Advent Celebration, Sunday, December 4

*Kick off the Advent season with this special evening for all ages.
You will not want to miss it!*

3:30 – 6:30 p.m. Fair Trade Gift Shop by Ten Thousand Villages ~ Gym

4:00-4:30 p.m. Merge Youth-Led Worship for All ~ Chapel

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Music and Caroling ~ FLC Lobby

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Advent Activities for All Ages ~ Gym

- Crafts for families (Children will need an adult for assistance.)
- Advent Wreath Making (If you have the wire wreath forms from previous years, please bring them in to use again. Additional wreath forms will be available at the event.)

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Nativity Display ~ FLC Lobby

- Contact Winnie Walsh (winwalsh@bellsouth.net / 579-1002) to have your nativity set included in the display.

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Dinner ~ Fogartie Hall

- Join us for a family-friendly meal of chicken and wild rice soup, salad bar, and a macaroni and cheese station with chocolate chip cookies for dessert.

6:30 p.m. Shuttle Service to Chapman Cultural Center

7:00 p.m. Chamber Singers Christmas Concert

First Presbyterian Church

Chamber Singers

Present

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Sunday, December 4

7:00 p.m.

Chapman Cultural Center



Tickets \$15
available this morning
in the church office.

To purchase online visit

www.mobile-meals.org or

contact Mobile Meals (573-7684) or
First Presbyterian Church (583-4531).

*A Christmas Concert to benefit
Mobile Meals of Spartanburg*

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to order poinsettias in memory of or in honor of loved ones for use in the Sanctuary during the Christmas season, order forms are available in the Narthex, Tower Room, and office area.



*Cut-off date for ordering:
Friday, December 9.*

Staff

Dr. William P. Wood, Interim Senior Pastor; **Reverend L. Craig Foster**, Associate Pastor, Education/Discipleship; **Dr. William L. Arthur**, Supply Pastor; **Reverend Ansley B. Page**, Supply Pastor; **Reverend Laura E. Palmer**, Interim Associate Pastor; **R. Holt Andrews**, Director of Music; **Marcia C. Andrews**, Assistant Director of Music and Organist; **Beth Burris**, Director of Children's Ministries; **Scott J. Neely**, Pastoral Executive; **Carrie D. Williamson**, Director of Youth Ministry; **Michael W. Koster**, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry; **Bethany S. Cecil**, Parish Nurse; **J. Robert Bannan**, Director of Recreation; **Patricia L. Webster**, Church Hostess

Missionaries: *Frank and Nancy Dimmock, Lesotho; Jo Ella Holman, Cuba and Dominican Republic; Mark Hare, Haiti; Mission Co-Workers Serving with Kurds; Mission Co-Workers Serving in the Middle East.*

First Presbyterian Church

November 27, 2011

Hope



Welcome!

First Presbyterian Church
is a community of believers committed to
*"Glorifying God and Sharing Christ Together
through Word and Deed."*

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