

The Service for the Lord's Day

Christmas Day

11:00 a.m.
December 25, 2011

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Minister: The grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
Congregation: And also with you.
Minister: Let us prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE *Variations on Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* Raymond Haan

WELCOME Dr. William L. Arthur
Please sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship Pad.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: All God's people— Boys and girls, women, men:
Congregation: Come and worship!
Minister: Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels:
Congregation: Come and worship! Come and worship!
Minister: All who need the Savior, all who long for comfort:
Congregation: Come and worship, come and worship Christ, the newborn King!

† **HYMN 57:** (Blue) *The Snow Lay on the Ground* VENI ADOREMUS
Vs. 1 All Singing
Vs. 2 Women and girls
Vs. 3 Men and boys
Vs. 4 All voices – *joyfully!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) Reverend Ansley B. Page

God of love, all year long we pursue power and money,
yet you come in weakness.
All season long we covet great material gifts,
when you alone offer what is lasting.
Through the work of this Lord Jesus,
who comes among us full of grace and truth,
forgive us, heal us, correct us.
Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels,
and remake our lives, that we may be a witness to your transforming love.
As you have come to us, grant now that we may come to you
with hearts open to your gift of life that is abundant and eternal. . .

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister: Good Christian friends, rejoice!
Today our Lord comes in love and power, in grace and truth,
offering hope and peace.
Congregation: Christ is born today! Alleluia!
Minister: This promised one, mighty, though small, is our hope,
our strength, and our life,
our grace and our forgiveness.
Congregation: Christ is born to save! Alleluia! Amen.

† RESPONSE OF PRAISE

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow, And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7 Reverend L. Craig Foster
Pew Bible Page 593

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

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

† **HYMN 25:** (Blue) *Away in a Manger* MUELLER
(vs. 1)

SECOND LESSON Luke 2:1-20 Pew Bible Page 889

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

SERMON *Say It with Music* Dr. William L. Arthur

- I. *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* Hymn 38 (Blue)
“Peace ... beside the weary road ...”
- II. *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Hymn 31 (Blue)
“Join the triumph of the skies ...”
- III. *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* Hymn 22 (Blue)
“sages, leave your contemplation ...”

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

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

Jesus, the long expected Savior,
came into the world as a child,
descended from David,
conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of Mary, a virgin.
He lived as a Jew among Jews.
He announced to his people
the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.
We affirm that Jesus was born of woman
as is every child,
yet born of God's power
as was no other child.
In the person and work of Jesus,
God himself and a human life
are united but not confused,
distinguished but not separated.
The coming of Jesus was itself
the coming of God's promised rule.
Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship between God and humanity
that God always intended.

A Declaration of Faith – 1976 PCUS

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 TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SOLO *Mary's Little Boy Child* TRADITIONAL CARIBBEAN
Lisa Cunningham

† **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 newborn King.**

† PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GO IN GOD'S NAME

† **HYMN 29:** (Blue) *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* GO TELL IT

† CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* Wilbur Held

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

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.

For Nursing Mothers: There are two locations that nursing mothers can use while they are here on Sunday mornings. Room C103 on the first floor of the Clark Building is open today from 10:45 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.

Rainbow worship bags are provided at the doors of Fogartie Hall 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.

A hearing loop has been installed in the Sanctuary. If your hearing aid or cochlear device is equipped with T-coil technology, please switch it to the "T", T-Coil, or telephone position for improved hearing during the service. Thank you!

First Presbyterian Church

December 25, 2011

REGISTER BY JANUARY 5

TO AVOID LATE-REGISTRATION FEE!

Women's Retreat at the Cove

January 20-22, 2012

"A Message of Grace"

From speaker, Reverend Kristin Huffman

Friday, January 20, 5:30-9:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 22, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For details, contact Jane Mullins

(208-2139 or jmullins@fpcspartanburg.org).

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

Sunday, December 25

Merry Christmas

11:00 a.m. Worship ~ Sanctuary
With Children's Worship

Monday, December 27

Church Facilities Closed
Christmas Holiday

Tuesday, December 27

Church Facilities Closed
Christmas Holiday

Friday, December 30

6:30 a.m. Men's Study Group:

1st - 2nd Samuel

7:00 a.m. AA Group Meeting

7:00 a.m. Men's Study Group: *Joseph*

Mark Your Calendar!

A New Welcome Class Begins January 22

Are you interested in

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

You are warmly invited to a five-week series of Welcome Classes beginning on Sunday, January 22, 2012.

If you would like more information, please contact Cheryl Regets at 208-2129
cregets@fpcspartanburg.org.

Staff

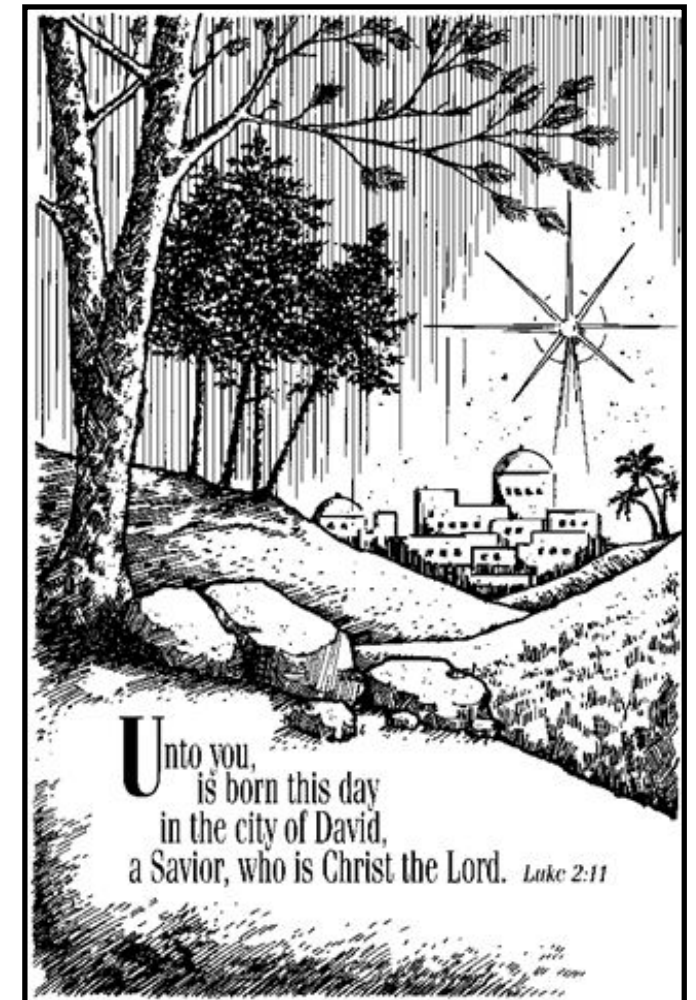
Dr. William P. Wood, Interim Senior Pastor; **Reverend L. Craig Foster**, Associate Pastor, Education/Discipleship; **Dr. William L. Arthur**, Supply Pastor; **Reverend Ansley B. Page**, Supply Pastor; **Reverend Laura E. Palmer**, Interim Associate Pastor; **R. Holt Andrews**, Director of Music; **Marcia 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.*

393 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302-1917

864/583-4531

www.fpcspartanburg.org



Welcome!

We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us.

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