

Christmas Eve 2011

*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, 2011

*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

Three Flute Carols
Janet Kuntz, flute

Peter Crisafulli

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

Dr. William P. Wood

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

† CALL TO WORSHIP

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

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

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

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

Minister: 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 (Please be seated)

Reverend Laura E. Palmer

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 (Please join in singing.)

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 SONG (Please join in singing.)

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) The David Berry Family, The David Berry, III Family, The Scott Heath Family

(11:00) Marcia, Holt, Carrie, and Rafe Andrews

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.

SOLO

Maria Weigenleid
Valerie MacPhail, soprano

Max Reger

Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus child,
While amid the treetops sighs the breeze so warm and mild.
And soft and sweetly sings a bird upon the bough; Ah, baby dear, slumber now!
Happy is Thy laughter, holy is Thy silent rest, Lay Thy head in slumber fondly on Thy mother's breast!
Ah, baby dear, slumber now!

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING

Luke 1:15-20
Pew Bible Page 887

(7:30) Reverend Ansley B. Page
(11:00) Reverend L. Craig Foster

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

SOLO

Before the Marvel of this Night

Carl Schalk

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 2:1-14

Pew Bible Page 889

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

ANTHEM

Away In a Manger

Mack Wilberg

SERMON

Recovering our Angels

Dr. William P. Wood

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased."*

Luke 2:14

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

PRESENTATION OF CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Star Carol

John Rutter

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.

† 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 newborn 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, To the earth from heaven’s home;
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men 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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them 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

Dr. William P. Wood

Minister: In Christ was life
Congregation: and the life was the light of all.
Minister: The light shines in the darkness
Congregation: and the darkness has not overcome it.
Minister: 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 loving memory of Minnie Sangster Duck and Susie Auten West by Jack and Linda Sangster West.

The Advent Wreath in the Sanctuary is given to the Glory of God and in honor of our ministers from a grateful congregation.

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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!*

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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.

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).