First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



December 3, 2023

Service for the Lord's Day

First Sunday of Advent

8:30am Early

9:00am Contemporary

11:00am Traditional

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg – we are delighted that you are joining us for worship today! First Presbyterian is a community of believers in the heart of Spartanburg seeking to know and share the transformative love of Jesus Christ with others. Here you will encounter people who come from all walks of life representing diverse beliefs and faith experiences. What binds us together is our common hope in Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship, and mission we seek to root our lives in scripture, nurture our unity in Christ, and serve our neighbors in faith! No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, know that you are welcome here.

Peace,

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

If You Are New Here Whether you are searching for a church home or visiting from out-of-town, we are delighted that you are worshiping with us today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of our congregation, please be sure to speak with a pastor before or after today's worship or fill out the friendship register. We would love to get to know you better!

Pastoral Concern? Please let us know how we can be praying for you by visiting with a pastor before or after worship. If you need to contact a Minister, call 864-208-2142 day or night.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship!

Blue Worship Activity Bags, located in the welcoming areas of each worship venue, are available for your child to use during worship. After worship, please return the crayons and bags to the baskets. The activity sheet is for your child to keep.

A Nursery is available for infants through age 3 in the Clark Bldg, Room 105.

After *The Word for Children* in the 11:00am Traditional Service, children 3K-1st grade may attend Children's Worship with Ms. Kara. After the service, families are asked to pick their children up from Room 202 of the Clark Building.

To Aid in Worship Advanced listening technology, large-print hymnals, and large-print bulletins are available upon request for the Chapel and Sanctuary. Please locate an usher for assistance.

Worship Online Livestreaming of the Contemporary and Traditional Worship Services is available at fpcspartanburg.org/worship. Additionally, sermons are on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, or wherever you find your podcasts!

Ways to Give There are many ways you can support the missions and ministries of First Presbyterian. During worship, place your gift in the Offering Plate or scan one of these QR Codes (you may give via **ShelbyNext** or via **Venmo**). Additionally, you may mail a check to the church office (address on back of bulletin). Thank you. *Questions? Contact Church Financial Officer Lynise Clarke; 864-208-2130/lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org.*

ShelbyNext Venmo

Early Worship
8:30am
Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Invitation — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Hope — Terry and Doug Baker

Refrain:

The candle of hope we light in this hour
proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,
when Christ in his glory will make all things new.

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of hope this week,
help us to become the signs of hope that others are searching for.
As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens,
help us to be a glimpse of heaven's hope. Amen.

The first Sunday of Advent marks a new liturgical year in the church. The season of Advent anticipates Jesus' second coming and reminds us that we are not wandering aimlessly in a wilderness. Rather, history is headed somwehere by direction from God.

Hymn 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1,2,6,7)* — Veni Emmanuel

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Holy and loving God,
we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light;
we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings.
Smooth down the mountains of our pride
and lift up the valleys of our doubts.
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives
that we might find our way to you again.
Refine us and prepare us once again
for life in your kingdom.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

We worship a God of mercy who abounds in steadfast love.
The one who is God's righteous branch draws near to save us from our weakness and to seal us in God's love.
Friends, hear and believe the Good News.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response

Hymn 83, verse 1 — 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.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

✠Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another as we share the love and peace of Christ.

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading — Mark 1:1-8

Sermon — *Do You Hear What I Hear?* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

The Gospel of Mark

Responding to the Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings — Rev. Joanne R. Hull

Offertory — *The People Who in Darkness Walked* — David W. Music

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Sung Responsively) — Hymnal Page 9

Sharing of the Elements — *All communion bread and wafers are gluten free.*

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Communion Music — *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* — Michael Praetorius

Prayer After Communion

The Lord's Prayer — Hymnal Page 35

The Lord's Supper is not just the celebration of an event that happened long ago and far away - the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Supper also looks to the future in hope because the Christ who died and was raised also promises to come again and to gather all creation around his messianic table. Our participation in this sacrament is a foretaste of what is yet to be.

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 93 — *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* — Truro

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Benediction Response

Hymn 109, verse 3 — Merle's Tune

On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Closing Voluntary — *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* — Michael Burkhardt

Contemporary Worship
9:00am
Fogartie Hall

Welcome		Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Hope		
Refrain		
Unison Advent Prayer		Meghan and Reed Teague, Jet and Mary Max
✞Song of Praise		*Hope of the Nations*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. L. Craig Foster
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Scripture Reading	Mark 1:1-8	
Sermon	*Do You Hear What I Hear?* *The Gospel of Mark*	Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Communion		*All communion bread and wafers are gluten free.*
Communion Music		*O Come, All You Unfaithful*
✞Closing Song		*He Has Come For Us*
✞Benediction		

In our Contemporary Worship Service, our Advent candles sit in a tree stump instead of an evergreen wreath. Drawing from Isaiah 11:1, this Stump of Jesse reminds us of God's covenant and the promise that the royal line of David that was thought to be cut off would bring us a Messiah.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Traditional Worship
11:00am
Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

The first Sunday of Advent marks a new liturgical year in the church. The season of Advent anticipates Jesus' second coming and reminds us that we are not wandering aimlessly in a wilderness. Rather, history is headed somwehere by direction from God.

Welcome and Invitation — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Voluntary — *Sleepers, Awake* — J.S. Bach

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Hope — Charlotte and John Verreault

Refrain:

The candle of hope we light in this hour
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of hope this week,
help us to become the signs of hope that others are searching for.
As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens,
help us to be a glimpse of heaven's hope. Amen.

✠Hymn 88 — *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1,2,6,7)* — Veni Emmanuel

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Holy and loving God,
we have dwelt in darkness
and preferred it to the light;
we have been proud of our accomplishments
and despaired over our shortcomings.
Smooth down the mountains of our pride
and lift up the valleys of our doubts.
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives
that we might find our way to you again.
Refine us and prepare us once again
for life in your kingdom.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

We worship a God of mercy who abounds in steadfast love.
The one who is God's righteous branch draws near to save us from our weakness and to seal us in God's love.
Friends, hear and believe the Good News.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

✠ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✞Response

Hymn 83, verse 1 — 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.

✞Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Let us greet one another as we share the love and peace of Christ.

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

Children ages three years to first grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship;
those second grade and older will return to the pews.

Prayer for Illumination — *While We Are Waiting, Come* — Waiting

Scripture Reading — Mark 1:1-8

Sermon — *Do You Hear What I Hear?* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer
The Gospel of Mark

Responding to the Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings — Rev. L. Craig Foster

Offertory — *When God's Time Had Ripened* — Alfred Fedak

✞Doxology

Hymn 143, verse 4 — 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!

Invitation to the Lord's Table — Rev. Joanne R. Hull

Doxology, a Greek word meaning "saying of glory," is a brief hymn of praise that follows another hymn or Psalm or, as in our case, the offertory. Doxologies appear in many Christian traditions and have their origin in the Jewish kaddish, which concludes each portion of the synagogue worship service.

The Lord's Supper is not just the celebration of an event that happened long ago and far away— the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Supper also looks to the future in hope, because the Christ who died and was raised also promises to come again and to gather all creation around his messianic table. Our participation in this sacrament is a foretaste of what is yet to be.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Sung Responsively)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up, lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us all give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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, forever. Amen.

Sharing of the Elements

All communion bread and wafers are gluten free.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Communion Music

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming — Michael Praetorius

Prayer After Communion

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates — Truro

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Benediction Response

Hymn 109, verse 3 — Merle's Tune

On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Closing Voluntary

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying — Michael Burkhardt

<u>The Advent Greens in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
William Burnham Uhler, Dorothy Harris Uhler, and Sibyl Coleman Uhler
by the Uhler family.

Life of the Church
Sunday, December 3, 2023

Do You Hear What I Hear?
Down through the ages – from the prophets to the gospel writers – people have heard and told the good news of the Messiah's birth in slightly different ways. Join us this Advent as we are invited to listen for where and how God is calling us to tell the story of the incarnation for our world today.

Today: Food Drive
Please drop off non-perishable donations for TOTAL Ministries in the marked bins in the Tower Room, Narthex, or the Family Life Center Lobby.

This Afternoon: Concert
Get your Advent off to a good start by joining the Chamber Singers, along with orchestra and soloists, for a seasonal concert this afternoon, **Sunday, December 3 at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary**. The program will open with three a cappella pieces and then transition to J. S. Bach's masterpiece, *Magnificat*, a musical setting of Luke 2:1-13. The concert will last around an hour and all are welcome!

Wednesdays at First - Dec 6
Full Schedule (see Calendar ---- >)
Come for Food, Faith, and Fellowship! Dinner is served 5:00-6:15pm in Fogartie Hall. Pre-registration for dinner is required by noon on Monday; online payment is preferred; use this QR Code to sign up.
Menu: Adults: Shrimp/Kielbasa & Grits, Fried Okra, Salad Bar, Bread, Dessert & Beverage
Children: Chicken Tenders, Dipping Sauces, Homemade Mac & Cheese, Fruit Cup, Cookie & Juice Box

Advent Workshop - Dec 6
Following WAF dinner, join us in the Gym for our annual Advent Family Workshop. With 14 different crafts, live Christmas music, and lots of holiday cheer, there is something for everyone! Crafting will start around 6:15pm and wrap up around 7:30pm.

Advent Devotional Booklets
The Stories That Shape Us takes us on a journey throughout scripture, sharing the favorite Bible stories from you, the members of First Presbyterian. Please pick up a physical copy around the church or use this QR Code to sign up for email devotionals throughout this Advent season!

Angel Tree
As part of Angel Tree Ministry, First Presbyterian is providing gifts to 124 local children on behalf of an incarcerated parent. Angel Tree tags are hanging on the small Christmas trees in the Tower Room and in the Family Life Center. **Wrapped gifts - with the affixed Angel Tree tags - are due back to the Perrin Room by Sunday, December 17**. If you have questions, or if you would like to **deliver gifts on Sat, Dec 23 at 9am**, contact Brandt Goodwin (brandtgoodwin@gmail.com/ 864-542-4764)

Reverse Advent Calendar
We invite you to participate in Reverse Advent. Start with an empty box and each day add the designated item in your box. On December 17, bring your full box to the church. All donations will go to TOTAL Ministries. Feel free to decorate your box! This week's list:

Dec 3 - Boxed Potatoes	Dec 7 - Cranberry Sauce
Dec 4 - Mac & Cheese	Dec 8 - Rice
Dec 5 - Marshmallows	Dec 9 - Oatmeal
Dec 6 - Sweet Potatoes	

JOY Fellowship Luncheon
Join your First Presbyterian friends for food and fellowship! The J.O.Y. Fellowship will be holding their **Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 12 at 11:30am in Fogartie Hall**. Please use this QR Code to make reservations.

White Gifts Service

Please join us for our annual White Gifts Service on **Wednesday, December 13, at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary**. The service features our children's choirs presenting *The Bells of Christmas* and culminates in the giving of gifts, wrapped in white, for local missions: Thornwell, Mobile Meals, and The Hope Center for Children. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/white-gifts for gift ideas! This will also mark the last WAF for December; WAF Resumes January 10.

Lessons and Carols

Lessons and Carols will be a part of both worship services on **Sunday, December 17** (there will be no 8:30am service that day). At the 9:00 Contemporary Service, the Music Team will offer their distinct take on carols of the season, while the 11:00am Traditional service will feature five lessons from the traditional King's College liturgy with music led by the Chancel Choir.

Service of Comfort and Light

Are the holidays made more difficult this year because of a loss or sadness in your life? Join us for an intimate time of worship, including communion and candle lighting, on **Thursday, December 21, at 6:00pm in the Chapel**. This service is especially for those who struggle during the Christmas season.

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24

Traditional Morning Worship
11:00am in the Sanctuary

Family Service
4:00pm in the Sanctuary
with a Children's Nativity pageant

Candlelight Services
6:00 and 10:00pm in the Sanctuary
featuring music from our Christmas Eve Choir

Love Letters for Joanne

At the end of this year, Rev. Joanne Hull will retire after 40+ years of ministry with 10 of those years as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church. We invite you to write words of well wishes, what she's meant to you, and perhaps some retirement advice. Joanne and Eddie plan to get out of town whenever they can, so travel tips are appreciated! Place cards in the designated baskets located in the Perrin Room, FLC Lobby, and the Receptionist's Office. Join us in showing Joanne how much we care for her at First Pres and that our prayers are with her as she navigates through the unknown of retirement life.

Memorial Wreaths

This Advent season, we are offering the opportunity to purchase wreaths in memory of those inurned in the Columbarium. The cost of a memorial wreath is $35. Memorial names will be listed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 17. Use the QR code to order yours **before Friday, December 8 (deadline)**. Questions? Contact Lynise Clarke (lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org).

Order Christmas Poinsettias

Order poinsettias in memory of or in honor of loved ones. The names of those honored/memorialized will be listed in a commemorative booklet. You may also request that an acknowledgement card be sent to the person or family of those being honored/memorialized. The cost per plant is $25 and **must be ordered by Friday, December 15**. You may pick up your plants in Fogartie Hall or the Tower Room any time after the services on Sunday, December 24. Use the QR Code to order. Questions? Contact Lynise Clarke (lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org).

Recommendations for CNC

The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking a slate of nine members (non-officers) from the congregation to replace those who will rotate off at the end of 2023. Please scan the QR code and complete the form by **Sunday, December 31, 2023**.

Joining First Presbyterian

If you would like to become a member of First Presbyterian Church, please make your way to the **Church Parlor at 10:30am** on **Sunday, December 10**. Ministers and members of the Session will be there to greet you and welcome you into the membership of the church. Questions? Contact Rev. Joanne Hull; 864-208-2125 / jhull@fpcspartanburg.org.

Gym Hours

Mondays-Thursdays: 7am-8pm; Fridays: 7am-2pm; Saturdays: 8am-12noon

Chapel Open

The Chapel is open for Prayer Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, for you to come and sit and pray in the stillness of God. You may place any personal prayer needs in the Chapel prayer box and a member of our staff will pray over your requests.

Sunday School - 10am
(Gathering Time - 9:45am)

Children and Youth

Nursery – *Room C105 (Clark Building)*
Preschool ***(3K-5K)*** **–** *Room C110 (Clark Building)*
1st & 2nd Grade - *Room C202*
3rd & 4th Grade - *Room C203*
5th Grade - *Room C206*
Youth - *Second Floor of the Family Life Center*

Adult Sunday School

Bible Alive – *Room 2208*
Emmaus – *Room 2207*
Abide – *Room 2200*
L.I.F.T. – *Room 2201*
Glory Days – *Purnell Room*

Today's Musicians

Early Worship: Holt Andrews; Marcia Andrews; Genesis Choir

Contemporary Worship: Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals; Kolby Carrouth, drums; Cooper Cecil, electric guitar; Landon Hammett, keyboard/vocals; Anna Harkey, violin; Jeff Key, bass guitar

Traditional Worship: Holt Andrews; Marcia Andrews; Chancel Choir

Calendar

December 3

First Sunday of Advent: Hope
Communion
8:30am Early Worship (Sanctuary)
9:00am Contemporary Worship (Fogartie Hall)
9:15am Coffee and Fellowship (Perrin Room)
10:00am Sunday School (9:45am Gathering Time)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
4:00pm Chamber Singers' Concert (Sanctuary)

December 6

Wednesdays at First
5:00pm Dinner Line Opens (Fogartie Hall)
5:00pm Children's Choirs (Clark Building)
6:15pm Advent Workshop (Gym)
7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

December 10

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace
8:30am Early Worship (Sanctuary)
9:00am Contemporary Worship (Fogartie Hall)
9:15am Coffee and Fellowship (Perrin Room)
10:00am Sunday School (9:45am Gathering Time)
10:30am Receiving New Members (Parlor)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
6:30pm High School Christmas Caroling and Party

Looking Forward

December 12

JOY Fellowship Christmas Luncheon

December 13

White Gifts Service

December 17

Lessons and Carols
(9am - Fogartie Hall and 11am - Sanctuary)
Celebration of the Ministry of Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Young Adult Christmas Party

December 21

Service of Comfort and Light

December 24

11:00am Traditional Service
4:00pm Family Service
6:00pm & 10:00pm Candlelight Services

Front Cover: "Advent Candle" by Lauren Plummer
from Art in the Christian Tradition,
a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

Parts of today's liturgy are from the Abingdon Worship Annual.

To Ponder Prayerfully

"The greatest, the deepest, the most tender experiences in all the world demand patient waiting."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Ministers: All Members of the Church

We are a community of believers committed to "Glorifying God and Sharing Christ Together through Word and Deed."

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

Rev. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor
Discipleship and Communications

Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Associate Pastor
Congregational Care and Deacons

Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Associate Pastor
Young Adults and Missions

Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Associate Pastor
Youth and Campus Ministries

Rev. Ansley B. Page
Pastoral Associate for Engagement

Holt Andrews
Pastoral Musician

Marcia Andrews
Associate Director of Music; Organist

Kara Clark
Director of Children's Ministries

Grace deMaine
Associate Director, Youth Ministry

Carrie Coleman
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Beth Cecil
Parish Nurse

Colleen Darrall
Director of Recreation

Pano Stathakis
Director of Hospitality

Kris Graham
Director of the Weekday School

Lisa Cunningham
Contemporary Worship Music Leader

Lee Raines
Facilities Administrator

Jim Pitts
Campus Safety and Services Manager

Lynise Clarke
Church Financial Officer

Monteigne Campbell
Office Manager and
Admin to the Senior Pastor

Caroline Goodman
Communications Director

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Children's and Adult Discipleship

Ian Ritchings
Administrative Assistant
Missions, Young Adults, Communications

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and Admin to Music

Joanie Shackleton
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Custodians

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