First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



December 10, 2023

Service for the Lord's Day

Second 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: Peace — Sally and James Winfrey; Mary Elizabeth and Sloan Evans, Saffy, Anna, and David

Sung Refrain:
(please remain seated)

The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of peace this week,
help us to become the signs of peace 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 peace. Amen.

Advent is a season of hope and joy, anticipating the fulfillment of the rule of God in Christ's coming in the future. The Scriptures read, the liturgical texts used, and the music sung all convey this sense of expectant, joyful longing for the fulfillment of God's promised reign.

✞Hymn 104 — *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* — Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Joanne R. Hull

Faithful God,
we confess that we have not led lives of holiness.
We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace.
We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love.
Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins
that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

To the weak and the strong, Christ comes.
To the old and the young, Christ appears.
To the lost and the found, Christ arrives.
Christ calls us to discipleship and offers us grace.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

✞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 — Matthew 1:18-25

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

The Gospel of Matthew

Responding to the Word

✙Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed — Hymnal Page 35

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

The offering of material goods in worship is a corporate act of self-dedication in response to God. It expresses thanksgiving to God, the giver of life and all good, the redeemer from sin and evil. – Directory for Worship

Offertory — *Come Thou, Dear Redeemer* — Cesar Franck

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer — Hymnal Page 35

Bearing the Word to the World

✙Hymn 110 — *Love Has Come* — Bring a Torch

✙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 — *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (Setting 2)* — Johann Pachelbel

Following the service, you are invited to a time of coffee and fellowship in The Perrin Room.

Contemporary Worship
9:00am
Fogartie Hall

Welcome		Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Peace		
Sung Refrain		
Unison Advent Prayer		Norman and Corey Mayfield, Mattison and Flynn
✞Song of Praise		*Angels from the Realms of Glory*
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		
First Reading	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Savannah Pinilla
Second Reading	Matthew 1:18-25	
Sermon	*Do You Hear What I Hear?* *The Gospel of Matthew*	Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Anthem		*Peace Has Come*
Prayers of the People		
The Lord's Prayer		
✞Closing Song		*Silent Night/How Great is Our God*
✞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

Advent is a season of hope and joy, anticipating the fulfillment of the rule of God in Christ's coming in the future. The Scriptures read, the liturgical texts used, and the music sung all convey this sense of expectant, joyful longing for the fulfillment of God's promised reign.

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 — *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (Setting 1)* — Johann Pachelbel

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Peace — Caroline and Steve Richards, Smith, Grace, and Ann Haywood

Sung Refrain:
(please remain seated)

The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of peace this week,
help us to become the signs of peace 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 peace. Amen.

✙Hymn 104 — *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* — Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

Prayer of Confession — Rev. L. Craig Foster

Faithful God,
we confess that we have not led lives of holiness.
We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace.
We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love.
Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins
that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

To the weak and the strong, Christ comes.
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To the lost and the found, Christ arrives.
Christ calls us to discipleship and offers us grace.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

✙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

The Word for Children — Rev. Ansley B. Page

Sacrament of Baptism — *Margaret Ellis Oldham*, *Daughter of Millie and Tanner Oldham* — Bill Oldham, Elder; Nora Biber, Reader

Response — *Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.* — Jesus Loves Me

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

First Reading — Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 — Lily Dargis

Second Reading — Matthew 1:18-25

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

Responding to the Word

✞Affirmation of Faith — Rev. Joanne R. Hull

The 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.

In our baptism God has called and sealed us. Baptism is an important event, not simply in the life of the child and family, but in the life of the whole church. We are baptized into a community and not in abstraction from the community. The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God's love claims people before they are able to respond in faith.

We pray for the world because God loves it. God created the world and cares for it. To abide in God's love is to share God's concern for the world. Our prayers should therefore be as wide as God's love, and as specific as God's tender compassion for the least ones among us.

Prayers of the People

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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

Offertory — *Salvation is Created* — Pavel Tschesnokoff

✠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!

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 110 — *Love Has Come* — Bring a Torch

✠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 — *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (Setting 2)* — Johann Pachelbel

<u>The Advent Greens in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Susan Craig Murphy and Donald Lee Moore, Jr. and Donald Lee Moore III
by their families.

Life of the Church

Sunday, December 10, 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.

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.

Wednesdays at First - Dec 13

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: Chef Salad Bar, Chicken Tenders, Homemade Mac and Cheese, Squash Casserole, Soup de Jour, Bread, Dessert, Beverage

White Gifts Service - Dec 13

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, youth orchestra, and adult handbell choir 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.

Next Sunday - Celebration

Next Sunday, December 17, we will celebrate the 40+ year ministry of The Reverend Joanne R. Hull, with 10 of those years as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church. During the 11:00am service, there will be a time of thanksgiving and celebration. Afterwards, there will be a special reception in the Social Hall. Make sure to get your *Love Letters for Joanne* (see next article) to the church this week.

Love Letters for Joanne

We invite you to write words of well wishes, what Joanne has 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.

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a **Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 17, 2023**, at the conclusion of the 11:00am Worship Service, for the purpose of requesting Foothills Presbytery to dissolve the Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Joanne R. Hull and First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, effective December 31, 2023.

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 10 - Can of Corn
Dec 11 - Can of Green Beans
Dec 12 - Box of Instant Vanilla Pudding
Dec 13 - Vanilla Wafers
Dec 14 - Can of Beans
Dec 15 - Can of Fruit
Dec 16 - Can of Tomatoes
Dec 17 - Can of Collard Greens

Please Place Filled Box in Tower Room

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!

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

Give to Hand in Hand

When you give to Hand in Hand, you provide fundamental essentials to children and families throughout Spartanburg County. This Christmas, give a gift to this ministry in honor of a loved one. Cards are available so you may let the recipient know a gift has been made in their honor. Please contact Lynn Long (handinhandspartanburg@gmail.com / 864-913-2179) for more information.

Order Christmas 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 the Tower Room any time after the 11:00am service on Sunday, December 24. Use the QR Code to order.

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. Members will serve for one year and will be charged with the nomination of Church officers. Please scan the QR code or go to fpcspartanburg.org/cnc and complete the form. **Deadline is December 31, 2023**.

Winter Warmth Coat Purchase

The annual Winter Warmth Project of First Presbyterian Church was held on November 11. Over 800 warm winter coats were distributed to students from all seven Spartanburg County School Districts. Now, we need your help. For a gift of $35.00, you can be a part of providing a new warm coat for a child in need. Use this QR Code and choose "Winter Warmth" from the drop-down box. Gift Acknowledgement Cards are available upon request.

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** or **Sunday, January 14**. 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

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 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

December 13

Wednesdays at First
5:00pm Dinner Line Opens (Fogartie Hall)
5:00pm Children's Choirs (Sanctuary)
6:30pm White Gifts Service (Sanctuary)
7:15pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

December 17

Second Sunday of Advent: Joy
Lessons and Carols
9:00am Contemporary Worship (Fogartie Hall)
10:00am Sunday School (9:45am Gathering Time)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
12:00pm Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
12:05pm Celebration of the Ministry of Rev. Joanne R. Hull (Social Hall)
6:00pm Young Adult Christmas Party (offsite)
6:30pm Middle School Christmas Caroling and Party

Looking Forward

December 21

6:00pm Service of Comfort and Light

December 24

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

December 31

11:00am Traditional Worship Service

May 3-5, 2024

Congregational Retreat at Montreat

June 3-6, 2024

Vacation Bible School

Front Cover: "Annunciation to Saint Joseph"
by Br. Claude Lane, O.S.B., 1996-1997.
Located in the Abbey's Saint Joseph Chapel.

Parts of today's liturgy are from the Feasting on the Word Worship Companion and Abingdon Worship Annual.

To Ponder Prayerfully

"When we say that Jesus is Immanuel - 'God with us' -
it turns out that 'us' is not just the extended family
or the ones who share a birthright.
The 'us' is all of us: the whole human family."

- Cynthia M. Campbell, *Christmas In The Four Gospel Homes*

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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