First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



December 15, 2024

Service for the Lord's Day

Third Sunday of Advent

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!

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.

Nursery is available for infants through age 3 in the Clark Building in 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

Contemporary Worship
9:00am
Fogartie Hall

Welcome — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Joy — Hamp and Kristin Crow, Anna, Wade, and Sam

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again into the darkness of our world.

Sung Refrain:
(please remain seated)

O make a way open wide the gates
O make a way through the sorrow and the pain
O make a way
Though the road is dark and winding
O come come

Unison Advent Prayer:

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

✞Song of Praise — *O Come All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)*

Prayer of Confession — Rev. L. Craig Foster

Merciful God,
you call us to bear fruits worthy of repentance,
but we have been slow to change our ways.
We cling to selfish desires
and turn from the needs of our neighbors.
We are hesitant to share what we have,
and we resist your refining fire in our lives.
Forgive us, Lord.
Renew us with your Spirit,
that we may bear witness to your love,
proclaim your peace,
and prepare the way for your coming.

Silent Confession

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Sung Assurance of Pardon — *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

✞Passing of the Peace

Life of the Church

The Festival of Lessons and Carols was first celebrated at King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was an adaptation of a similar service that had been written for the cathedral at Truro in 1880.

First Lesson	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Carol	*Manger Throne*	
Second Lesson	Luke 2:1-7	
Carol	*A Cradle In Bethlehem*	
Third Lesson	Luke 2:8-16	
Carol	*Mothers and Shepherds*	
Fourth Lesson	Matthew 2:1-12	
Carol	*What Child is This*	
Fifth Lesson	John 1:1-14	
Carol	*Christmas Day*	

Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer

✞Closing Song — *Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)*

✞Benediction

Traditional Worship
11:00am
Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Invitation — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

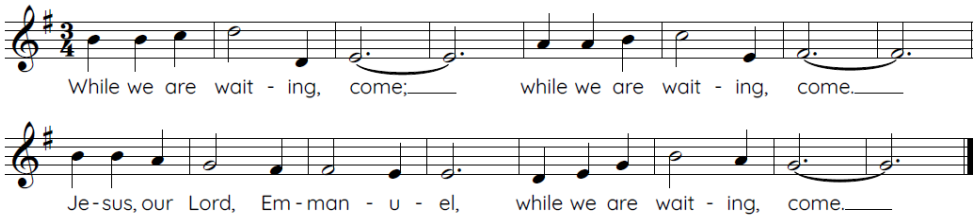
This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Voluntary — *Fantasia on Greensleeves* — Ralph Vaughan Williams

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Joy — Laura and Baker Boles

Refrain: — Bennett and Ellie

(please remain seated)



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

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again into the darkness of our world.

✠Hymn 123 (vs. 1, 3-5) *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* — Carol

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Merciful God,
you call us to bear fruits worthy of repentance,
but we have been slow to change our ways.
We cling to selfish desires
and turn from the needs of our neighbors.
We are hesitant to share what we have,
and we resist your refining fire in our lives.
Forgive us, Lord.
Renew us with your Spirit,
that we may bear witness to your love,
proclaim your peace,
and prepare the way for your coming.

Silent Confession

✠ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Assurance of Pardon

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

✞ Response

Hymn 88, verse 6 — Veni Emmanuel

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel

✞ Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Life of the Church

Musicians for centuries have been drawn to the Magnificat, or Mary's Song, taken from Luke1:46-55. This morning we offer celebrated contemporary English composer John Rutter's take on Luke's telling of Mary's reaction to learning she is to be the mother of Jesus. In this setting the colors and range of choir, soloist and orchestra are, you might say, maxed out to offer a vivid portrayal of the range of themes and emotions these relatively few verses of scripture open up for us. This morning's musical offering reflects over three months of rehearsal by our Chancel Choir and diligent preparation from our instrumentalists. We are grateful to all.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Magnificat

John Rutter

1. Magnificat anima mea Dominum: et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo. Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suac: ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his hand-maiden: for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. (Luke 1:46-48)

2. Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est: ct sanctum nomen eius.

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pierri sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. * (from the Ordinary of the Mass)

For he that is mighty hath magnifed me: and holy is his Name,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are jilted with thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest. (Luke 1:49)

3. Et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. (Luke 1:50)

4. Fecit potentiam in brachio suo: dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.
Deposuit potentes de sede, et exaltavit humiles.

He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. (Luke 1:51-52)

5. Esurientes implevit bonis: et divites dimisit inanes, Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus misericordiae suae. Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini eius in saecula.

He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel. As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever. (Luke 1:53-55)

6. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

The Prayers of the People combine thanksgiving and intercession for the community and the world, providing a space for us to name the places of celebration and of sorrow in our lives.

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

Offertory — *Prelude from Suite Antique* — John Rutter

✠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

What are you taking from worship? A new thought, a deep feeling, a glimpse of grace, a challenge? Where will you see God today? A hope or a prayer for the week?

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Benediction Response *Lord Jesus, Come* O Waly Waly

Lord Jesus come to us we pray,
Bring us your truth, show us your way,
As once the prophets did foretell,
Oh, come to us, Emmanuel.

Closing Voluntary *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* Wilbur Held

<u>The Advent Greens in the Sanctuary</u>

are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

Lehman C. and Juliette Hollis Moody, John Porter and Mary Walker Hollis, and John Lee and Henrietta Cooper Moody

by Rosemary Moody Roberts

Front Cover
"Magnificat" by Robyn Sand Anderson

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

Life of the Church

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Lessons and Carols - Today

Today at the 9:00am Contemporary Service, the music team will offer their distinct take on carols of the season. The 11:00 AM Traditional Service will feature John Rutter's *Magnificat* with the Chancel Choir, soprano Valerie MacPhail, and a 20-piece orchestra.

Christmas Eve at FPC

On December 24, First Presbyterian will hold three services in the Sanctuary as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The Family Service and 6:00pm Candlelight Service will be livestreamed at fpcspartanburg.org/worship. Please join us and bring family and friends.

Family Service - 4:00pm
Come all you angels, shepherds, and kings, and join us on Christmas Eve for our children's nativity pageant. Any child may come dressed as the part he or she wants to play.

Candlelight Services - 6:00 and 10:00pm
A tradition in our church, these services feature music by the Christmas Eve Choir. A special message will be delivered and the services will conclude with the Sanctuary bathed in candlelight.

Angel Tree

Thank you to all who provided gifts to 126 local children on behalf of an incarcerated parent through the Angel Tree ministry. Please place wrapped gifts with affixed Angel Tree tags in the Perrin Room today. If you have questions, or if you would like to deliver gifts on Christmas Eve at 9:00am, contact Brandt Goodwin at brandtgoodwin@gmail.com.

Service of Comfort and Light

For many reasons, not every Christmas season is one of peace and joy for every person. You are invited to the Chapel at 5:30pm on Thursday, **December 19** for a contemplative service of tender hope and abiding love, including candle lighting and the opportunity to pray with one of our pastors.

FPC One Stop Shopping

If you are looking for a Christmas gift for that hard-to-buy-for person, First Presbyterian has a one stop online shop. Here, you can make a gift to the Playground Project and receive a gift card or personalized paver to be placed in the new playground, purchase a new winter coat for a child in honor of a loved one through Winter Warmth, or purchase FPC tartan scarves, ties, and bow ties. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/onestop or scan the QR code to check off your list today! Contact Lynise Clarke at lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org with questions or to make a gift in person.

Chapel Open

The Chapel is open for prayer Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm. You may place prayer needs in the designated box and our staff will pray over your requests. If you need to contact a minister, call 864-208-2142.

Hand in Hand Christmas Cards

Hand in Hand is a local nonprofit that works with Spartanburg County School District social workers, to provide basic essentials to families in need. Hand in Hand aims to relieve daily concerns, improve self-esteem, and allow children to concentrate on their education. This Christmas, give a gift to this ministry in honor of a loved one. Holiday cards are available upon request. Online gifts may be made through fpcspartanburg.org/give or by scanning the QR code. Please contact Lynn Long at (864) 913-2179 or handinhandspartanburg@gmail.com to receive your Christmas cards.

Join Our AVL Ministry!

We need a volunteer camera operator for the third Sunday of the month in Contemporary Worship. No experience necessary! Please contact Caroline Goodman at cgoodman@fpcspartanburg.org.

Stewardship 2025 - Update!

This year's stewardship focus is an invitation for us to consider how we can deepen our commitment to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Thank you to all those who have answered the call and submitted a pledge for the coming year! To date, we have received 444 pledges, totaling $3,007,177. This total represents 82% of our budget goal. Will you consider submitting your pledge by the end of the year? To learn more or submit your pledge online please visit fpcspartanburg.org/stewardship.

Discover FPC

Discover FPC classes are offered for visitors and new members to learn more and ask questions about First Presbyterian Church, our values, mission, and programs. These classes are open to anyone and provide an opportunity to learn about our church and the denomination. Attending Discover FPC is not necessary to join! The next class begins January 12 at 10:00am in the Large Private Dining Room. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/discoverfpc for more information. Contact Cathy Bagwell at cbagwell@fpcspartanburg.org with questions.

Memorial Wreaths

Advent Wreaths in the Columbarium have been placed in memory of the following inurned individuals:

Cindy Baker
by Terry and Doug Baker and family

Marcus Bolliger
by Debbie Moore

Bonnie Carr
by her family

Rob Chapman
by his family

Max Deller
by Debbie Moore

Carol and George Dunn
by Mary Helen and Gregg Wade

Drucilla B. Gosnell
by Sally and David Dover

Samuel C. Gosnell
by Sally and David Dover

Mary Drucilla G. Fisher
by Sally and David Dover

Lucy Grier
by Cha and William Gee

James League
by Barbara League

David Long
by Lynn and Craig Long

Miguel Martinez
by Cathy Martinez

Bazil Mathes
by Mary Mathes

Elizabeth Chapman Quantz McMeekin
by Thomas, Winn, Tom, Sarah, Mae, Evans, Ann Tolly, and Henry

Lynda Moore
by Bert Moore

Charles Morgan
by Paula Morgan

James Warren Mullen
by Linda Mullen and family

William Clifton Neal
by Peggie and Harry Schoen

Doris Odom
by Joyce and Bobby Turner

Gen and Don Oldham
by the Oldham family

John Reagan
by Betty Reagan Tate

Janet Reed
by Cullen Reed

Linda Winburn Robinson
by her family

Henry Sanders
by Lindy Sanders

Sam B. Shackelford, Jr.
by Joy Shackelford

Jim Smith
by Darwin Simpson

Ned Sydnor
by his family

Hollis Taylor
by Naomi Taylor

John Tatham
by Pat and Pam Tatham

Joe and JoElla Utley
by Harriet and David Ike

Betty and Ed Walpole
by the Neidenbach family

Betty and Jimmy Weller
by the Neidenbach family

Michael (Mike) Williams
by Jan, Michael, Adrienne, and Alden Williams

Tommy Young
by Elizabeth Young

Tommy Young
by Monteigne Campbell and Lynise Clarke

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 2215
An extensive book-by-book study of the Bible

Emmaus – Room 2217
A journey with eyes open towards Jesus, with fellowship and a fresh new scripture-based lesson each week.

Abide - Room 2207
For younger adults and parents of preschool/elementary children to gather for a time of fellowship and learning.

L.I.F.T. - Room 2208
Faithful and energetic disciples who love growing deeper in faith through Bible study and trusting Jesus.

Glory Days - Purnell Room
Parents of youth & collegiates, come strengthen your faith and friendship with condensed stand-alone Bible lessons from dynamic teachers.

Today's Musicians

Contemporary Worship

Kolby Carrouth, drums; Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals; Eranga Goonetilleke, vocals; Landon Hammett, vocals/keyboard; Anna Harkey, violin; Matt Kelly, guitar/vocals; Jeff Key, electric guitar; Corey McDaniels, bass guitar

Traditional Worship

Holt Andrews; Marcia Andrews; Kathy Foster Valerie MacPhail; Chancel Choir; Chamber Orchestra; *Violin I*: Robin Hague Els, Ann Buttimer, Meredith Pendley; *Violin II*: Stacy Wiley, March Moody, Susan Baier; *Viola*: Zoe Harbison, Foster Neely; *Cello:* Kathy Foster; *Bass*: John Kvasnicka; *Harp*: John Wickey; *Flute*: Janet Kuntz; *Oboe*: Chelsea Russell; *Clarinet*: Ryan Reynolds; *Bassoon*: Frank Watson; *Horn*: Ericka Grodrian; *Timpani*: Adena McDaniel; *Percussion*: Matt McDaniel, Killian McDaniel

Calendar

December 15
Lessons and Carols (9am)/Magnificat (11am)

December 19
Service of Comfort and Light

December 24
Angel Tree Delivery
Christmas Eve Services

December 29
Worship as One

Looking Forward

January 10
High School Winter Retreat

January 24
Confirmation Opening Retreat

February 14
Youth Ski Retreat

February 23
Special Guest: Dr. Andrew Root

February 28
Tending the Fire: Marriage Retreat

March 4
Concordia College Choir Concert

March 5
Ash Wednesday

March 26
Children's Choir Concert

March 28
Churchwide Day of Service

For details on all church events, visit fpcspartanburg.org/calendar

The Flowers in the Tower Room
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Suzanne Parris Bagwell
by her family

To Ponder Prayerfully

"We do not always understand what God is doing—Mary didn't either. But she sang her obedience. She sang her trust."

- Eugene Peterson

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. John Daniel DeBevoise
Associate Pastor
Youth and Campus Ministries

Rev. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor
Discipleship

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Associate Pastor
Congregational Care

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

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

Carrie Coleman
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Grace deMaine
Associate Director, Youth Ministry

Beth Cecil
Parish Nurse

Colleen Darrall
Director of Recreation

Jane Mullins
Director of Hospitality

Pano Stathakis
Kitchen Assistant

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

Cathy Bagwell
Visitor and New Member Coordinator

Caroline Goodman
Communications Director

Ian Ritchings
Communications Coordinator

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Children's and Adult Discipleship

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and Admin
to Music and Mission

Joanie Shackleton
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Custodians

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