First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



December 22, 2024

Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth 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!

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

Early Worship
8:30am
Chapel

Gathering Around the Word

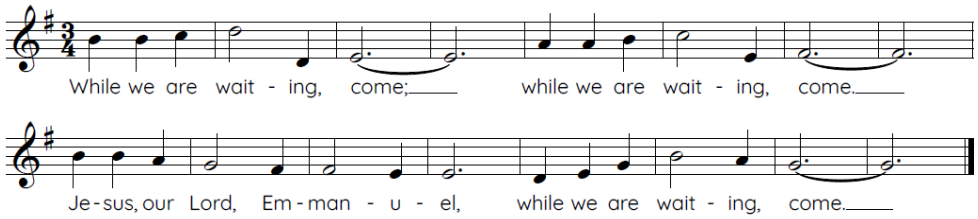
Welcome and Invitation — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

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

Opening Voluntary — *Rejoice and Be Merry* — arr. Robert Powell

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Love — The Berline Family

Refrain:
(please remain seated)



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

✙Hymn 119 — *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* — Mendelssohn

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.
Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you.
We pass by those considered lowly in this world.
We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.
Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice
and fullness of life for all people.
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.
As we wait for you, turn our apathy and indifference
into acts of love and service.

Silent Confession

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

Today is the fourth and final Sunday of Advent. Advent is far more than preparing to celebrate the first coming of Christ, the incarnate Word. Advent is a season of hope, during which we anticipate the future coming of Christ to judge, and to establish his rule over all things.

✙ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✠Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading — Luke 1:46b-55

Mary's song of praise is an expression of her deep faith and joy in response to God's work in her life and the world. These verses highlight God's justice and mercy, celebrating the reversal of worldly power structures as the humble are lifted, the hungry are filled, and the proud are brought low. Rooted in the promises made to Israel, the Magnificat serves as a powerful proclamation of God's faithfulness and the coming transformation through Jesus

Sermon — *Begin Again: Love* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✠Affirmation of Faith

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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory — *Gesu Bambino* — Petro Yon

✠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!

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer — Hymnal Page 3

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 147 — *The First Nowell (v. 1, 2, 3, 6)* — The First Nowell

✠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 — *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* — Neil Harmon

Contemporary Worship
9:00am
Fogartie Hall

Welcome — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Love — The Ray Family

Refrain

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 love this week,
help us to *become* the signs of love 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 love. Amen.

✞Song of Praise — *Midnight Clear (Love Song)*

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Ansley B. Page

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

Passing of the Peace

Life of the Church

Children's Time

Anthem — *What a Glorious Night*

First Reading — Luke 1:39-45

Second Reading — Luke 1:46b-55

Sermon — *Begin Again: Love* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

✞Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

✞Closing Song — *Angels (Glory to God)*

✞Benediction

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✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Traditional Worship
11:00am
Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Invitation — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

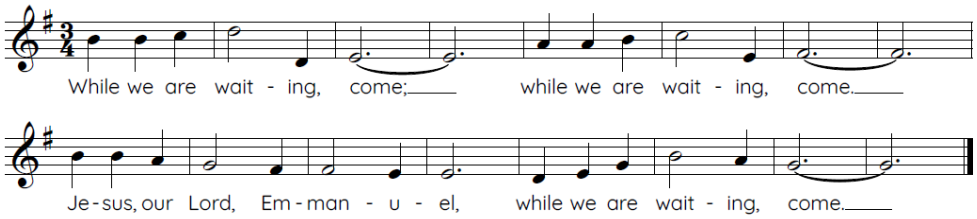
This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Voluntary — *Two French Carols* — Todd Marchand

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Love — Scottie and Stan Lummus

Refrain: — Meredith, Chase, Nora, and Annie Biber

(please remain seated)



Today is the fourth and final Sunday of Advent. Advent is far more than preparing to celebrate the first coming of Christ, the incarnate Word. Advent is a season of hope, during which we anticipate the future coming of Christ to judge, and to establish his rule over all things.

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

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We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.
Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice
and fullness of life for all people.
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.
As we wait for you, turn our apathy and indifference
into acts of love and service.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✙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

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

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 — *O Little Town of Bethlehem* — Forrest Green

First Reading — Luke 1:39-45 — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

Second Reading — Luke 1:46b-55

Sermon — *Begin Again: Love* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Mary's song of praise is an expression of her deep faith and joy in response to God's work in her life and the world. These verses highlight God's justice and mercy, celebrating the reversal of worldly power structures as the humble are lifted, the hungry are filled, and the proud are brought low. Rooted in the promises made to Israel, the Magnificat serves as a powerful proclamation of God's faithfulness and the coming transformation through Jesus Christ.

Responding to the Word

✙Affirmation of Faith

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.

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

Felix Mendelssohn was a great admirer of baroque composers, especially Bach and Handel. Inspired by Messiah, late in his short life he began to compose his own version. Unfortunately the only full chorus he completed was today's anthem, There Shall a Star from Jacob. We're grateful for this wonderful piece of music but sad that Mendelssohn passed away before he could finish the full work..

Offertory *There Shall be a Star* Felix Mendelssohn

Offertory text can be found on the last page of the bulletin.

✙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 147 *The First Nowell (v. 1, 2, 3, 6)* The First Nowell

✙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 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Neil Harmon

<u>The Advent Greens in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Chapman, Jr. and Mr. Robert H. Chapman III
by Sadie Chapman and John Chapman and their families.

Life of the Church
Sunday, December 22, 2024

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 for any/all Christmas Eve Services and bring family and friends. All are welcome.

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.

Advent Decorating Days

Before Christmas, our Sanctuary/Flower Guild will change the bows on the Sanctuary wreaths from red to white, the liturgical color of Christmastide. Meet in the Sanctuary on Monday, December 23 at 10:00am if you are able to help! After Christmas, we will begin "un-decking" the halls on Friday, December 27 at 10:00am in the Tower Room. Find more dates to volunteer at fpcspartanburg.org/deckthehalls or contact LeAnne Thurmond at (864) 621-0213 / leanne.thurmond@gmail.com.

Angel Tree

Thank you to all who provided gifts for 126 local children on behalf of an incarcerated parent through Angel Tree. If you would like to **deliver gifts on Christmas Eve at 9:00am**, please contact Brandt Goodwin at brandtgoodwin@gmail.com.

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.

Hand in Hand Christmas Cards

Hand in Hand is a local nonprofit that works in collaboration 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. Please contact Lynn Long at (864) 913-2179 or handinhandspartanburg@gmail.com to receive your Christmas cards.

Next Sunday

On Sunday, December 29, we will worship as one in the Sanctuary at 11:00am. There will be no Sunday School. Please join us and bring a friend!

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.

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.

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.

Holiday Gym Hours

December 23, 7:00am-8:00pm
December 24, 7:00am-2:00pm
December 25-26, Gym and Church Closed
December 27, 7:00am-2:00pm
December 28, 8:00am-12:00pm
December 30, 7:00am-8:00pm
December 31, 7:00am-2:00pm
January 1, Gym and Church Closed
January 2, Resume normal hours

If you plan to access the fitness area/walking track, please bring your keycard.

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 448 pledges, totaling $3,036,777. This total represents 83% 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.

Year-End Giving

As we approach year-end, we want to ensure you have all the information regarding giving deadlines. To be credited as a 2024 tax deduction, according to IRS guidelines:

Checks/cash must be received in the church office or postmarked by December 31.

Online transactions must be completed by midnight on December 31.

Stocks must be sold by the end of business, according to the market close deadline provided by your broker.

When making a gift, please make sure that you include the purpose of the gift (2024 or 2025 operating, Winter Warmth, Purnell Fund, etc.). If you're making a stock gift, please let Lynise know the stock and when you initiated the transfer. If you have any questions, please contact Lynise Clarke at lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org or (864) 208-2130.

Sparkle City Transparent Men

Join Sparkle City Transparent Men for its monthly breakfast meeting of song, fellowship, and Christian study on Saturday, January 4 at 8:30am in the Large Private Dining Room. This is an opportunity for those in our community who want to build friendships with Christian men of other races. We urge you to give our group a try and are certain you will be glad you did. For more information, contact Jimmy Edwards at 864-415-4999.

The 28-Day Challenge

If you're ready to shed those extra pounds, please join Beth Cecil for a journey through Haylie Pomroy's *The Fast Metabolism Diet*. An information session will be held in the Large Private Dining Room on January 14 at 4:00pm. Contact Beth Cecil at bcecil@fpcspartanburg.org with questions.

The Flowers in the Tower Room

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

the Reverend Doctor Kirk Neely.

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

Early Worship

Holt Andrews, Marcia Andrews

Contemporary Worship

Rafe Andrews, guitar/vocals;
Kolby Carrouth, drums;
Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals;
Landon Hammett, vocals/keyboard;
Anna Harkey, violin;
Jeff Key, electric guitar;
Corey McDaniels, bass guitar

Traditional Worship

Holt Andrews; Marcia Andrews; Chancel Choir
Thomas Cotter, Matt Gill, trumpet;
Kaci Cotter, horn;
Jeff Kuntz, trombone;
John Holloway, tuba;
Jackson Hall, timpani

Offertory

There Shall be a Star
Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,
and a sceptre from Israel rise up,
And dash in pieces princes and nations.

As bright the star for morning gleams,
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams
Of light and consolation.

Thy word, O Lord,
Radiance darting, truth imparting, gives salvation.
Thine be praise and adoration.

Calendar

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 5
Looking Back, Looking Forward: Annual Meeting

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 20-21
African American Museum Trip

Front Cover
"Magnificat Opus 1" by Edwin Wilwayco

Parts of today's liturgy are from
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion

To Ponder Prayerfully

"Advent creates in us a longing for love incarnate, a love that sacrifices itself for others and draws us into the reconciling heart of God."

- 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. 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

First Presbyterian Church
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Spartanburg, SC 29302
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