



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

16 EAST FIFTH STREET  
ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA

Website: [www.fpc-rr.org](http://www.fpc-rr.org)

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[To text Rev. Sandoval use (336) 420-0388]

Church Office Hours: Wednesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

# SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 1, 2019

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### CHIMING OF THE LORD'S DAY

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(A children's nursery is available upon request. Please see an usher to assist you)*

#### ORGAN PRELUDE

*(Please use the prelude as a time to quietly prepare for worship)*

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP     *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*     Genevan

#### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

One: The world says, "All is lost."

God says, "All is loved."

The darkness says, "The light is dying."

The light says, "The fire is catching."

Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears."

Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."

As we light our first Advent candle, we pray for holy hope of God.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

**All: Come now, O Prince of Hope.**

#### \*\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Come all who seek truth—let us go up to the Lord's house,

**All: that we might learn holy ways and follow right paths.**

One: Come—all nations, all peoples—stream through open gates,

**All: that we might gather in the hallways of justice, the courts of peace.**

One: Come—children of God—let us walk in the light of the Lord!

**All: With hope in our hearts, let us worship God.**

**\*\*OPENING PRAYER**

One: God of glory, we know that you are coming at an unexpected hour. Come to us now, in Spirit and Truth. Take us up into your presence, and make us ready for your reign of peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**All: Amen.**

**\*\*HYMN 107**

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

**\*\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Almighty God, You set before us the way of goodness and beckon us to follow you, but we disregard your teachings and disobey your word. You call people of every land to dwell in harmony, but we sow division and harvest discord. You command us to craft tools that sustain life, but we cling to weapons that damage and destroy. Forgive us, Lord. Your creation yearns for wholeness; your people long for justice and peace. Keep us ever watchful and awaken us to your ways as we wait in hope for the light of the world.**

**\*\*KYRIE ELEISON**

Hymnal No. 576

**\*\*TIME FOR SILENCE**

*(We ask for forgiveness for our individual faults)*

**\*\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*\*THE PEACE**

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

*(The congregation is invited to exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)*

**\*\*GLORIA PATRI**

Hymnal 581

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Wally Spragins, liturgist

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.  
In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord!

ANTHEM

*Zion, At Thy Shining Gates*

K. Lee Scott

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 24:36-44

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH YOUNG CHRISTIANS

## SERMON

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*\*HYMN 88

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

\*\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker. We believe that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

*- Adapted from the Confession of Belhar*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Gathered here, in the house of the Lord, let us pray for the coming of Christ's realm. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for the peace of the church . . . Bring peace, O God, to all believers; show us how to honor and serve you as members of Christ's body. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for the peace of the earth . . . Bring peace, O God, to all the world; bind us more firmly together in the pursuit of the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for the peace of all nations . . . Bring peace, O God, to every land; teach us to trade our swords for plowshares and spears for pruning hooks. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for the peace of this community . . . Bring peace, O God, to our town; make us attentive to the needs of our neighbors and protect all who are in danger. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for the peace of loved ones . . . Bring peace, O God, to family and friends; heal those who are sick, help those who suffer, and give hope to those who mourn. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for the peace of Jerusalem . . . Bring peace, O God, to the world you

have made: the peace that passes understanding and the promise of your new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray - Our Father...

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnbook p. 35

CHORAL PRAYER

*Amen*

Harling

GIVING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*\*DOXOLOGY

Hymn No. 144, verse 4

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him; give my heart.*

\*\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Lord see the offerings we place before you and hear the pledges of service we make in our prayers.

**All: All in the heavens and on the earth is yours, and of your own we give you.**

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*\*HYMN 367

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

\*\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

One: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia!

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

\*\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

HYMN 113

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

(refrain)

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE

# ADVENT

It is uncertain as to when exactly the celebration of Advent was first introduced in the Christian church. Some sources say that Advent began on November 11 (St Martin's Day) at some time in the fifth century in the form of a six-week fast leading to Christmas. Advent was reduced to its current length at some stage in the sixth century and the fasting was later no longer observed. Advent is originally a time to reflect and prepare for Christmas similarly to how Lent is in preparation for Easter. Advent has sometimes been referred to as the Winter Lent. In recent times the restrictions that Advent brings to Christians have become more relaxed.

Advent traditions spread from Europe to the United States, especially the Advent calendar, which became very popular in the United States after World War II as American military personnel and their families who were stationed in Germany brought them home and made them a part of the pre-Christmas traditions. Some people credit President Dwight Eisenhower with helping the tradition of the Advent calendar spread in the United States during the 1950s.

## Symbols Of Advent

Purple is historically the main color used for Advent because it reflects penitence, fasting, and the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the king (Jesus Christ). The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his first Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his second Advent. Some churches use other colors in recent times. For example, some churches mark the third Sunday of Advent with pink or rose, colors that represent joy. Many Protestant churches use blue to distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent.

Advent wreaths are symbolic of Advent. They are usually made of fir and decorated with gold and silver ribbons or scarlet woolen threads. Lit wreaths may be displayed on the table where family and friends sit while singing carols and preparing handmade gifts.

(<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/first-sunday-advent>)

### **WELCOME !**

**If this is your first time at First Presbyterian Church, we thank you for choosing to spend some time with us in worship.**

**If you have questions about us, or what we believe, you can talk to Rev. Sandoval after the service.**

**If you are just curious about us, we encourage you to take a welcome brochure with you. You can also check us out on the web at: [www.fpc-rr.org](http://www.fpc-rr.org).**

**If you feel that you have found a church home here and would like to join, that is wonderful! You can transfer your membership from another church or simply profess your faith in Jesus Christ. Talk to Reverend Sandoval after the service to make arrangements for joining.**

**In any event, be sure to fill out the friendship pad and include your email address. We'd love the opportunity to keep you informed about the wonderful things we are doing here at FPC.**

**THE SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Class of 2019**

Jeff Dillard  
Denise Hackenburg  
John Shives  
Marie Anderson

**Class of 2020**

Jimmy Bryant  
Nancy Crowe  
Mary Shelby  
Wally Spragins

**Class of 2021**

Jack Kiger  
Mike Knudson  
Jim Small  
Pet Spears

**WORLD MISSIONS**

Our church supports the missionary work of Larry and Inge Sthreshley in the Congo, and the Rev. Donald Marsden, Frontier Fellowship.

**OTHER SUNDAY OFFERINGS**

Sunday School meets at 9:45 am for adults.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

The morning CIRCLE meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am in the Parlor, and an evening CIRCLE meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Loy Building. Tammy Spragins and Judith Clary are the Moderators of the Presbyterian Women.

**PRESCHOOL**

Our Preschool Program for two-year-olds meet Wednesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 am.

Three-year-olds meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-11:00 am or 12:00-2:30 pm.

Twos and Threes are taught by Leesa Daughtry and Shannon Knight.

Four year old classes meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and are taught by Susan Gaylor and Becky Faison. Classes are 8:30-11:30 am and 12:30-3:30 pm.

Contact the church office for further information.

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN**

Jim Allen and Jimmy Bryant are the Co-President's of the Presbyterian Men.

Sunday morning breakfast meetings are held periodically.

**CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Joe Sandoval, Pastor

Tammy Spragins, Administrative Assistant

Denise Hackenburg, Choir Director

Nick Stephenson, Organist/Choral Accompanist