



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

16 EAST FIFTH STREET
ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA

Website: 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 8, 2019

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

SECOND 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)

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

One: A voice cries out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

A choir sings in the silence,

“Come, Emmanuel.”

Every valley shall be filled.

Every heart shall be made whole, for peace is stronger than turmoil,
and love is louder than hate. As we light our second Advent candle,
we pray for the holy peace of God. Come now, O Child of Mary.

All: Come now, O Prince of Peace.

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Can you imagine?

All: The wolf lives with the lamb; the leopard rests with the goat.

One: Can you imagine?

All: Knowledge of the Lord fills the land; righteousness reigns o'er all the earth.

One: The Lord's light shines on a weary world—illuminating possibility, beckoning us to hope.

All: With peace in our hearts, let us worship God!

****OPENING PRAYER**

One: Laboring God, with axe and winnowing fork you clear a holy space where hurt and destruction have no place, and a little child holds sway. Clear our lives of hatred and despair, sow seeds of joy and peace, that shoots of hope may spring forth and we may live in harmony with one another.

All: Amen.

****HYMN 107**

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

****CALL TO CONFESSION**

****PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy One, Christ is coming; your kingdom is drawing near. We cannot remain unchanged. As we prepare the way for the Prince of Peace, help us abandon wayward wanderings and return to faithful paths. We have neglected to plead the case of the poor, and ignored the needs of the afflicted. We have denied our part in systems that oppress, and turned a blind eye toward injustice. Renew our minds and transform our hearts, that our lives might bear the fruit of compassion and care. Baptize us with your Spirit, and claim us again for your holy work, until you come in glory.

****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

Bev Hummel, liturgist

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Give the king your justice, O God,
 and your righteousness to a king's son.
 May he judge your people with righteousness,
 and your poor with justice.
 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
 and the hills, in righteousness.
 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
 give deliverance to the needy,
 and crush the oppressor.
 May he live while the sun endures,
 and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
 like showers that water the earth.
 In his days may righteousness flourish
 and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
 who alone does wondrous things.
 Blessed be his glorious name for ever;
 may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

ANTHEM

Come, Emmanuel

Don Besig & Nancy Price

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the
 prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 "Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight." '

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his
 food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were
 going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in
 the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them,
 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit
 worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our
 ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.
 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear
 good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH YOUNG CHRISTIANS

SERMON

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**HYMN 96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God expressed love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve him in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with judgment and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose would be realized.

-Adapted from the Confession of 1967, (BOC 9.18)

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 your people; may we live in harmony and love according to Christ's new commandment. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for the peace of the earth . . . Bring peace, O God, to all creatures; hasten the coming of the day when wolf and lamb may live together. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for the peace of all nations . . . Bring peace, O God, to every land;
help us to seek what is just and right, and defend the cause of the poor.
Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: We pray for the peace of this community . . . Bring peace, O God, to our town
teach us to welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed us.
Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: We pray for the peace of loved ones . . . Bring peace, O God, to all your
children; bless us with life, health, and prosperity so that we may praise you all
our days.
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 is coming in glory to reign and 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 105**

People, Look East

****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

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.

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