



# 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 22, 2019

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

## FOURTH 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

*Zion Hears Her Watchman's Voices* (from Cantata 140) J.S. Bach  
Joe Sandoval, tenor

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

#### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

One: Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen, to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope. Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth, to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy. Mary went to a place called Bethlehem, to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love. As we light our third Advent candle, we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh. Come now, O Child of Mary.

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

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!* German

#### \*\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Look, O house of David! The Lord will give you a sign:

**All: The young woman shall bear a child;**

One: she shall name him Immanuel—

**All: God is with us.**

One: Listen, O house of David! The Lord draws near.

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

**\*\*OPENING PRAYER**

One: Shepherd of Israel, may Jesus, Emmanuel and son of Mary, be more than just a dream in our hearts. With the apostles, prophets, and saints, save us, restore us, and lead us in the way of grace and peace, that we may bear your promise into the world.

**All: Amen.**

**\*\*HYMN 107**

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

**\*\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel! You call us each by name and invite us to follow you. But we—like sheep—do not heed your voice; we stray from your path. Now we call upon your name. Save us from all that ensnares our lives! Restore us, O God! Let your face shine, that we may be saved. You claim us for service and assure us we have nothing to fear. But we are timid disciples who discount dreams and discredit messengers, for we do not believe you can use a flock like us to usher in your reign. Restore us, O God! Let your face shine, that our faith may be made strong. You come among us to enfold us with love. As we await the babe of Bethlehem, give us the steadfast faith of Joseph and the expectant hope of Mary, that we, too, may come in wonder to worship the newborn king. Restore us, O God! Let your face shine, that our trust may be renewed.**

**\*\*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

Faye Brown, liturgist

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

ANTHEM

*Christmas Hymn*

Amy Grant & Michael Smith

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH YOUNG CHRISTIANS

SERMON

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*\*HYMN 102

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

### \*\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: How does Christ's return "to judge the living and the dead" comfort you?

**All: In all distress and persecution, with uplifted head, I confidently await the very judge who has already offered himself to the judgment of God in my place and removed the whole curse from me. Christ will cast all his enemies and mine into everlasting condemnation, but will take me and all his chosen ones to himself into the joy and glory of heaven.**

*- Adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism Q52*

### 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 sinners and saints; keep us faithful in your mission and generous in sharing your grace. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for the peace of the earth . . . Bring peace, O God, to all people; let new neighbors love one another and old enemies be reconciled. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for the peace of all nations . . . Bring peace, O God, to every land; give wisdom to our leaders and freedom to all people. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for the peace of this community . . . Bring peace, O God, to our town; hold us in your hand and lead us; shepherd the lost and feed the hungry. 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; protect those who are in trouble and save us from all harm. 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*

Schubert

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 106

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

\*\*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](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