



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

16 EAST FIFTH STREET
ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA

Website: www.fpc-rr.org

Church Office: (252) 537-4018 firstpresbyterianchurchrr@gmail.com

Rev. Sandoval: (252) 676-9857 fprrminister@gmail.com

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

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

SERVICE OF CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2019

FIVE O’CLOCK

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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

Greensleeves

Richard Purvis

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

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

One: “Good news of great joy,” the angel said, “for to you a savior is born.”

“Peace on earth,” the choir sang, “for God reigns in the highest.”

“Follow me,” the star beckoned, “For Hope was born in Bethlehem.”

As we light the Christ candle, we watch for the Christmas story around us.

Emmanuel has come and is coming.

All: Come, all ye faithful, and worship God.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

German

**CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Voice 1: The glory of the Lord shines around us. The angels tell the story:

Voice 2: Do not fear; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy.

All: A child has been born for us, a son given to us!

Voice 1: He is named Wonderful Counselor,

Voice 2: Mighty God,

Voice 1: Everlasting Father,

Voice 2: Prince of Peace.

All: Glory to God in the highest heaven! And peace to all on earth!

Voice 1: Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place.

Voice 2: Let us glorify the One who is the Messiah, the Lord.

All: Come, let us adore him! Let us worship God!

****OPENING PRAYER**

One: God of all ages, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name.

All: Amen.

****HYMN 117**

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

****CALL TO CONFESSION**

****PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

The heavenly host fills the skies; the shepherds rush to behold the babe. But we stand still, for these glad tidings have lost all sense of urgency. The angel chorus rejoices with alleluias, but we hear words as nothing new. This story is so familiar we forget its power to transform the world. We forget it heralds a reign of justice. We forget that this story requires something of us. You have given us your Son. Now give us the gift of faith, that we might receive the Christ child into our hearts, our lives, our homes, our world, and live as those who walk in his light. Bless us with the gifts Emmanuel brings, that hope, peace, joy, and love might flow through us and bless your people everywhere—from far-flung fields to crowded city streets where there is no room in the inn. Embolden us to tell your story and send us out, glorifying and praising God—for to us is born a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord!

****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

Denise Hackenburg, liturgist

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

ANTHEM

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was

descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH YOUNG CHRISTIANS

SERMON

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**HYMN 129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate

of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O holy God, creator and ruler of the universe Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. According to his commandment:

All: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal p. 35

BREAKING THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who are baptized in a Christian church, regardless of denomination, are welcome to take communion. To receive the elements, please come forward pew by pew at the moment indicated by the ushers, dip your bread into the cup and then partake.

Return to your seat using the side aisle.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

**HYMN 122

Silent Night, Holy Night

Ushers will pass out candles. When the candle flame comes to you, light your candle and then share the flame with next person in your row. Once everyone in your row has a lit candle, go stand in the side aisle, forming a circle in the sanctuary.

If you need them, carry the words to "Silent Night" with you.

**CHARGE

**BLESSING

One: The loving kindness of the Lord our God, the grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

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.

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