



Happy
NEW YEAR

Rejoice evermore.
Pray without ceasing.
In every thing give thanks: for
this is the will of God in Christ
Jesus concerning you.

1 THESS 5:16-18

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
16 EAST FIFTH STREET
ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA

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SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

JANUARY 3, 2021

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

ORGAN PRELUDE

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

CHIMING OF THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Come, hear the Christmas news:

All: Jesus Christ is born!

One: Come, sing the Christmas story:

All: Jesus Christ is born!

One: Come, worship the Christmas child.

All: Jesus Christ is born!

OPENING PRAYER

One: Creating God, source of truth and giver of life, by your Word you brought all things into being. Enlighten us by the power of your Holy Spirit so that we may believe your Word made flesh and receive the fullness of abundant grace; through Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega.

All: Amen.

HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

page 8

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy One, forgive us when we fail to live in the good news of your Christmas story; when we hear the choir sing, "Rejoice!" but we do not join their chorus; when we know the angels say, "Do not fear," yet fear is all we can muster; when we see a star rising in the east,

but we turn away from its light. Forgive us, O Lord, of the sins of our lives and the sins of the systems we fail to disrupt. Convict us with the cry of a child from a manger, and free us to try again.

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.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
‘Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.’

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.’

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,

and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the Lord.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

THE WORD IN MUSIC *In Dulci Jubilo* arr.by Douglas Wagner

SERMON

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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: Rejoicing in the gift of Jesus Christ our Savior, we pray for this world that God so loves,
saying: Emmanuel, God-with-us,

All: **hear our prayer.**

One: With gratitude for your love, we pray for the church . . .
May we live this day as your beloved children, rejoicing that we

have been adopted by your grace and given every spiritual blessing in you. Emmanuel, God-with-us,

All: hear our prayer.

One: With gratitude for your love, we pray for the world . . .
Bless our sisters and brothers throughout the earth. May we all live at peace with our neighbors, receiving from your hand all that we need. Emmanuel, God-with-us,

All: hear our prayer.

One: With gratitude for your love, we pray for this community . . .
Let your Word made flesh live among us, full of grace. Bring light to all who cannot raise their eyes to the future. Bring life to all who are weighed down and weary. Emmanuel, God-with-us,

All: hear our prayer.

One: With gratitude for your love, we pray for loved ones . . .
Lead them beside quiet streams and along smooth paths, that their mourning may be replaced with laughter and their tears with songs of joy. Emmanuel, God-with-us,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Holy One, as you have come to dwell among us, show us how to live as your faithful people, sharing the good news of your grace with all; through Christ, your Word made flesh, who taught us to pray, Our Father . . .

LORD'S PRAYER

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

page 9

CHARGE

BLESSING

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are live streaming the worship services via Facebook and Youtube. We plan to continue to use both media platforms. The links to the service can be found on the Church's website or by using Facebook (FPC Roanoke Rapids) or Youtube (Search: First Presbyterian Church, Roanoke Rapids).

Offerings can be made by mailing your checks to the church at 16 East 5th Street, RR, NC 27870 or placing them in the letter slot in the Administration Building. Although the church is not open physically, the work of the church continues, so please remember your offerings.

Next Sunday is Baptism of the Lord Sunday!

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Please have your communion elements prepared before the service. Any form of bread or juice is acceptable as long as it doesn't take away from communion.

The Elders for the Class of 2023 (Ray Barmer, Faye Brown, Bev Hummel and Laura Pate) will be installed on Sunday, January 10th. Many thanks to the Class of 2020 (Jimmy Bryant, Nancy Crowe, Mary Shelby and Wally Spragins) for their hard work and service to the church.

The Witness Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 13th at 3:30 pm via Zoom.

Finance and Personnel will meet on Thursday, January 14th at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Please take a look at our prayer list. If you have someone that needs to be on the prayer list or someone that needs to come off, please contact Tammy at firstpresbyterianchurchrr@gmail.com or call me at home (586-1818).

Prayers for Healing of Friends & Families of the Church

Priscilla Ricks
Bill Howell
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels
Sally Ray Warren
David and LaNae Grimes
Sandra Stephenson
Mary Francis Fisher
Harrison West

Ellen Burnett
Diane Bone
Eula Cutler
B.T. Brown
Doug Hayes
Bill Davis
Betsy Medlin
Linda Ray
Roger Fuester
Jeff Peedin
Frank Lonesky
Dee Campbell
Nancy Elias
Diana Dillard
Carolyn Keeter
Matt and Kelly Small, loss of baby boy Luke
Dennis Gaylor, surgery
Darlene Kassner
Bobbie Scott, broken hip
Cheryl Wingfield, knee replacement
Marie Anderson, recovery from hip replacement
Mary Braswell Kiger, gall bladder surgery

Concerns Outside of our Community

- *SYRIA and YEMEN
- *SOMALIA, drought, famine, anarchy
- *EGYPT and LIBYA, political unrest
- *ISRAEL, PALESTINE, GAZA peaceful coexistence
- *IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, security
- *USA, war in Syria, Iraq & Afghanistan
- *NIGERIA, abducted Chibok school girls
- *Ukrainian people victimized by foreign aggression
- *People of Sudan
- *Victims of gun violence in our country
- *People who are effected by Covid-19



Our Christian Sympathy is extend to the family and friends of Jeff Dillard who went to be with his Lord and Savior on December 25. There will be no visitation or funeral service at this time. A celebration of Jeff's life will be held in the future when there is less risk from the pandemic. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to First Presbyterian Church.

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven-ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - -

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed!
 glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.