

WORSHIP OF GOD

First Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2016

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Johann Pachelbel

From Highest Heaven

WELCOME & LIFE IN THE CHURCH

(Both members and guests are invited to complete the Friendship Pad and pass it to those seated next to you.)

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Chancel Choir

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Holler Family

One: "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... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

One: Today we remember the prophets of old, who demanded to be heard, who dared to speak of a child to come; an unexpected liberator of the people and vulnerable incarnation of the Holiest of Holies.

People: Today we give thanks for the prophets among us who bring to us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think outside the box and who show us a future we never anticipated.

One: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of the prophets who renew our faith and remind us of what may be. We light this candle as a sign of hope today and hope to come.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 314

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

* HYMN OF PRAISE 88 (Verses 1-4)

VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CALL TO CONFESSION (Seated)

Reverend Nick Cheek

"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." Friends, as we confess together our need for hope, we do so in the presence of a living and gracious God. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Merciful God, we claim to know you even as we turn our ears from the prophets of your light. We have ignored your voice in the people around us because they were not what we were looking for. We have ignored voices crying in the wilderness and turned our backs on your messengers because they did not speak the message we expected to hear. Help us hear anew the cry of those who are in need. Give us a true repentance that turns our hearts and minds towards you and your people. As we prepare for Christ, let us do so with a hope that renews our faith in Emmanuel, God with us. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen. (Silent reflection)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 91

COME, COME EMMANUEL

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel. (Twice)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* GLORIA PATRI 113

GLORIA

(Congregation) Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE PEACE: We share signs of care, love and respect with one another.

Leader: The peace of God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Reverend Nick Cheek

Jesus Loves Me (Children come forward during singing.)

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Kenny Jordan

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Kenny Jordan

Isaiah 40:1-8

Pew Bible, Old Testament, p. 667

* HYMN OF PREPARATION 357

LLANGLOFFAN

The Days are Surely Coming

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:1-8

Pew Bible, New Testament, p. 34

SERMON "John and The Gift of Metanola"

Reverend Nick Cheek

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day, He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

All we have and all we are is God's. Let us give thanks for the Lord's provision and joyfully give back to the one who has given so much to us.

The Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Anthem

Paul Manz

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Hamilton Stoddard, Organ

*The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Him all creatures here below. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*The Offertory Prayer

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN OF DEDICATION 93

TRURO

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

* BENEDICTION

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

J. S. Bach

Wachet Auf

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WELCOME!

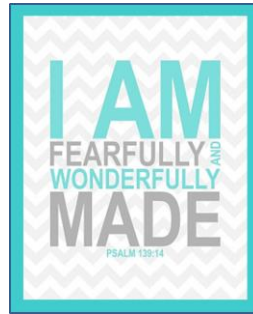
We especially welcome those of you who are guests today. We invite you to provide us with your contact information in the Friendship Pad as it is passed along the row. We look forward to learning how we may serve you in your faith journey. If you have particular questions, please speak to Pastor Nick.

* Please stand as you are able.

Bold type indicates congregational response.

ADVENT WORKSHOP ~ 5:00 p.m.

Come make your advent wreath, play games and make crafts. Please contact Robin Thames (call 803-972-3207 or email nibor9902@aol.com) if you have greenery from your yard that you can share. If you have your wreath from last year please bring it. *Supper will be served.*



IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT!

February 17-19, 2017

Doubletree Resort

(formerly Springmaid Beach Resort)

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Registration forms are now available on the table outside the church office. Fill one out today!!

IT'S TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS!

First Presbyterian will again decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias this year. Order forms can be found on the table outside the church office and must be received by the church office no later than Friday, December 2. Each plant is \$12.50. If you do not wish to pick up your plant, we ask for your permission to use your donation to purchase greenery.



SHOWER SHAW WITH COOKIES



Our church has been asked to provide 50-100 dozen cookies. Cookies need to be homemade and packed in disposable containers that are labeled with the number of dozens, if they contain nuts and First Presbyterian Church on the outside.

Please deliver cookies to Swan Lake Visitors Center on Wednesday, December 7, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Let's show our appreciation to the men and women at Shaw by sharing the spirit of Christmas, as through this project.

The Angel Tree Project is a program that provides Christmas gifts for less privileged families in our community. Angels are now available and can be picked up from the tables in the Fellowship Hall. When you pick up an angel, please remember to sign the sheets provided. Gifts must be returned by Monday, December 12. Please be sure to tape the angel to the top of the package.



Upcoming Events at FPC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

11:40 a.m. Children's Choir Choir Room
5:00 p.m. Advent Workshop Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

6:00 p.m. Session Meeting Session Room
6:30 p.m. Troop 86..... Scout Hut
6:30 p.m. Pack 86..... West Building

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

7:00 a.m. MSY Prayer Breakfast Baker's Sweets
6:00 p.m. New Officer Training Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

7:00 a.m. HSY Prayer Breakfast Baker's Sweets
12:00 p.m. Lectionary Lunch Fellowship Hall
5:45 p.m. Joy Ringers..... Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

12:00 p.m. Sunday School Committee Parlor

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:00 a.m. Care and Prayer Session Room
9:30 a.m. Sunday School ~ Classes for All Ages
10:30 a.m. Worship Sanctuary
11:40 a.m. Children's Choir Choir Room
3:00 p.m. Festival of Choirs Trinity United Methodist Church
5:00 p.m. Youth Bells Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Youth Group West Building

We ask for your help in keeping this calendar current. Please contact Shirley in the church office (swood@fpcsumter.org or 803-773-3814) to add your meeting dates and times. The weekly deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday at 12:00 noon.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

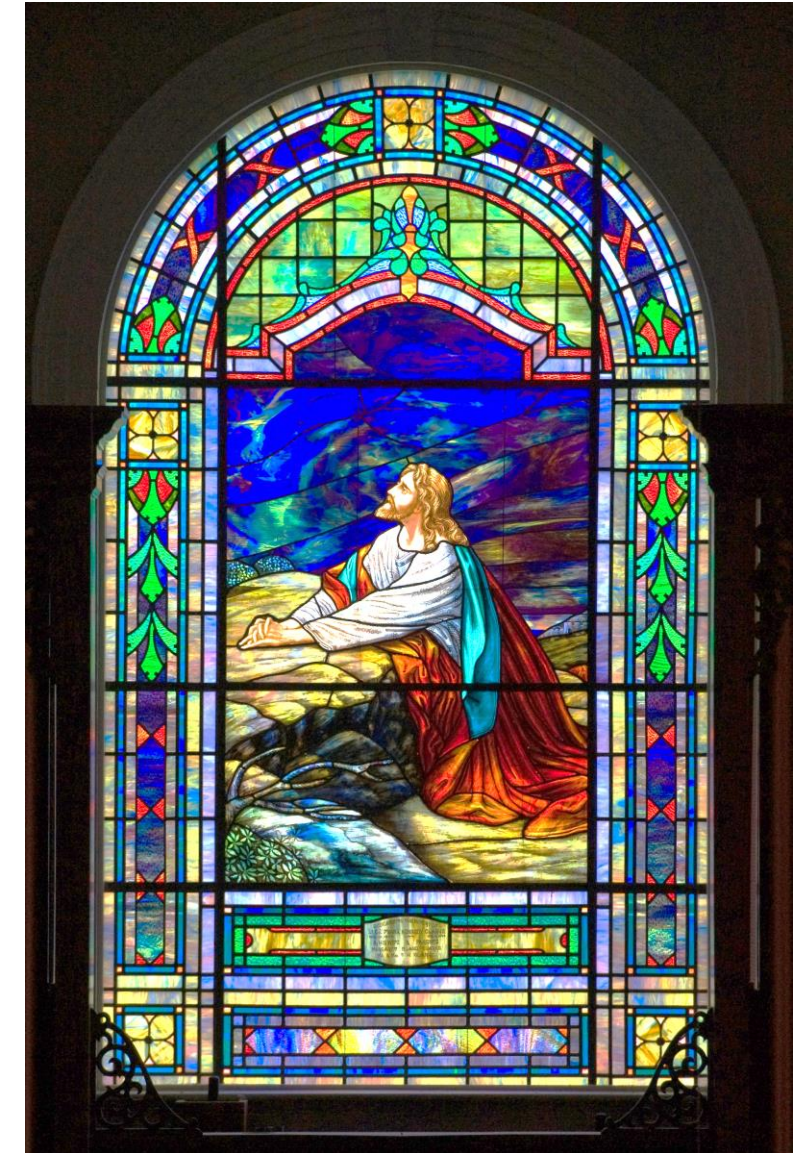
Tuomey: Marion Young

At Home: Billy Freeman, Charles Shaw, Linda Montague, Helen Brookes-Futrell, Gordon Rettke

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of John H. (Johnny) Jackson, Jr., who died November 20.

We Care: Please take a gold **Prayer Card** from the pew rack, and write a word of encouragement, congratulations, or a thank you to someone or group. Please include the first and last name of the person you wish to receive the card and your name. You may place your Prayer Card in the offering. On Monday morning, we will send your note of care to that person or group. Prayer Cards bring great joy to those who receive them! So, "let us encourage one another."

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



November 27, 2016



A Stephen Ministry Congregation