

WORSHIP OF GOD

First Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Jesus ist Kommen

Max Reger

Greensleeves on a Ground

English Folk Song

Emmett Anglin, Recorder

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.)

INTROIT

Arr. by Cathy Moklebust

Rejoice, Rejoice!

Joy Ringers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Meredith & Nan Partridge

One: "And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name'" (Luke 1:46-49).

One: Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with confidence and strength while remaining a humble servant of God.

People: Today we give thanks for the Marys among us, who step out of the roles society has planned. We thank God for the unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.

One: On this second Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of peace.

* HYMN OF PRAISE 100

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Seated)*

Reverend Nick Cheek

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Advent God, we confess we are not the people you hope us to be. The very ones you favor, we ignore or ridicule. At the same time, we admire and emulate those the world deems favored. We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty. Forgive us, mighty God, and look with grace upon us. Empower us to live securely in your love. Help us be bearers of peace, seeking to do your will and answering your call. Open our hearts to Emmanuel, God with us. *(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

Matthew Blankenship

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Matthew Blankenship

Pew Bible, New Testament, p. 56

* HYMN OF PREPARATION 88 (Verses 1, 5, 6, 7) VENI EMMANUEL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

Pew Bible, New Testament, p. 57

SERMON

"The Favored One"

Reverend Ashley 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

Sandra Eithun

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Joy Ringers

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.*

*It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.*

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;

With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.

*To Show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.*

*The Song of Dedication 144

In the Bleak Midwinter

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.

*The Offertory Prayer

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN OF DEDICATION 362

LLANGLOFFAN

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

* BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 362

LLANGLOFFAN

***Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, thou Sun so longed for, able this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!***

* CLOSING VOLUNTARY

HELMSLEY

Improvisation on "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"

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JOY RINGERS

Margy Carpenter

Lauren Decker

Landee Roth

Alexander Blum

Janet Kuhlmann

Norma Abbott

Lee Craig

Kenny Jordan

Dee Dailey

Gustavo Blum

Kayleigh Jordan

Glenn Fisher

* Please stand as you are able.

Bold type indicates congregational response.

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.

The Chancel Choir will participate in the annual Festival of Choirs held at Trinity United Methodist Church today at 3:00 p.m. Please join us for an afternoon of Advent and Christmas music.



41st ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
Next Sunday, December 11
10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
 Featuring the Chancel Choir, the Taylor Strings and other guest musicians

This service is modeled after the traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols, first held on Christmas Eve in 1918 at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England. We have lovingly woven together sacred music and scriptural texts in an attempt to tell the extraordinary story of Jesus' birth.

The Council of Presbyterian Women will meet tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. in the McLaurin Room. A complete list of Circle meeting times and places is on the back page.



Presbyterian Men will meet tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Dickie Jones will be the guest speaker and Randy Lynch will be preparing the meal.

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.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Covenant Place: Marion Young

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

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Virginia Rissling who died November 20.

This morning's rosebud is placed in celebration of the birth of Charles Mitchell Freeman, son of Susan and Emmett Freeman, who was born November 22.

Upcoming Events at FPC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 11:40 a.m. Children's Choir Choir Room
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Bells..... Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group..... West Building
- 6:00 p.m. *Not a Silent Night* Book Study McLaurin Room

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 10:00 a.m. Council of Presbyterian Women McLaurin Room
- 6:00 p.m. Presbyterian Men Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Troop 86..... Scout Hut
- 6:30 p.m. Pack 86..... West Building

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 7:00 a.m. MSY Prayer Breakfast Baker's Sweets
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting..... Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Circle #3..... 2781 Creekside Drive
- 10:00 a.m. Circle #4..... McLaurin Room
- 11:30 a.m. Worship and Music Parlor
- 12:30 p.m. Circle #1..... McLaurin Room
- 6:30 p.m. Circle #6..... 820 Haynsworth Street
- 7:00 p.m. Circle #9..... 422 Haynsworth Street

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 7:00 a.m. HSY Prayer Breakfast Baker's Sweets
- 12:00 p.m. Lectionary Lunch Fellowship Hall
- 3:00 p.m. Circle #8..... Covenant Place
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir..... Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 9:00 a.m. Care and Prayer Session Room
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School ~ Classes for All Ages
- 10:30 a.m. Service of Lessons & Carols Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols Sanctuary
 Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall
- 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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to know Christ and make Him known by living faithfully, worshiping joyfully and serving gladly.

December 4, 2016

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 9 West Calhoun St. (at the corner of Main)
 Sumter, South Carolina 29150
www.fpcsumter.org
info@fpcsumter.org



A Stephen Ministry Congregation