

**WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**First Presbyterian Church**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

*Variations on "Nun komm der Heiden Heiland"*  
*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

Kevin McChesney  
Youth Bells

**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**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
Youth Bells

Kevin McChesney

**CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

The Croft Family

One: "God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."

One: Today we remember Joseph, engaged to Mary and earthly father of the Son of God. We remember his faith, his justice and above all, the love that compelled him to do what was necessary for the sake of his family.

**People: Today we give thanks for the Josephs among us, fiercely devoted to the ones they love and unwavering in their loyalty. We thank God for all who embrace the law of love over the law of principle.**

One: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of the steadfast love of God; a love that is great enough to cover the sin of the world with grace and forgiveness.

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE** 104

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

**CALL TO CONFESSION** *(Seated)*

Reverend Nick Cheek

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(In Unison)*

Gracious and loving God, we know that we do not always live as we ought. We turn away from you, our neighbor and from ourselves. We struggle to do what is right in your eyes. Even in our pride and self-righteousness, you do not abandon us. Instead, you fight for us with love as your guide and call us back to you. As we eagerly await for your love to enter our world, empower us to embrace a greater love for you, our neighbor and ourselves. Through Emmanuel, God with us, we pray. *(Silent reflection)*

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** 91 COME, COME EMMANUEL  
*Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel. (Twice)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

\* **GLORIA PATRI** 113

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

GLORIA

**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**

*Away in a Manger (Children come forward during singing.)*

Reverend Nick Cheek

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Brown Osteen

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Brown Osteen

Pew Bible, Old Testament, p. 735

\* **HYMN OF PREPARATION** 108 (Verses 1-3) DIVINUM MYSTERIUM  
*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

**THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 1:18-25

Pew Bible, New Testament, p. 1

**SERMON**

*"The Law of Love"*

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

Brown Bannister and Bart Millard

*Joseph's Lullaby*

Reverend Nick Cheek

\*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.***

CRANHAM

\*The Offertory Prayer

GO IN GOD'S NAME

\* **HYMN OF DEDICATION** 110

*Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH

\* **BENEDICTION**

\* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** 110

***Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on High!***

BRING A TORCH

\* **CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

*Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*

J. S. Bach

Special thanks to our guest organist, Frances Webb,  
for sharing her musical talents with us today.

Youth Bells

Kayleigh Jordan, Gracyn Coker, Ansley Blanding, Madison White,  
Kathryn Blanding, Luxey Peyton, Kenny Jordan

**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.

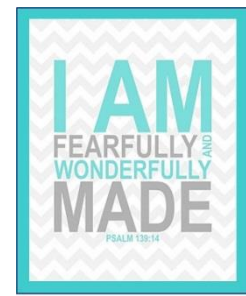
\* Please stand as you are able.

Bold type indicates congregational response.



The *Focus* will not be published the week of December 26. Please submit any information to Shirley Wood ([swood@fpcsumter.org](mailto:swood@fpcsumter.org)) by Monday, December 19, to be included in the *Focus* which will be published December 21.

Any funds to be applied toward your 2016 pledge or to pre-pay your 2017 pledge should be received by noon on December 31. All mailed gifts must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2016 to be credited to 2016.



**SIGN UP NOW FOR THE 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT !!!**  
**February 17-19, 2017**  
 Doubletree Resort  
 (formerly Springmaid Beach Resort)  
 Myrtle Beach, South Carolina  
 Registration forms can be found in the pew racks or on the table outside the church office. *Registration deadline is January 11, 2017!*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**  
**Christmas Eve Services in the Sanctuary**  
*Candlelight Services with Communion*  
 4:00 p.m. ~ Family Service with Children's Nativity  
 6:00 p.m. ~ Traditional Service



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**  
*No Sunday School*  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Christmas Worship (Chapel)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1**  
*No Sunday School*  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Worship (Sanctuary)



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8**  
 10:30 a.m. ~ Installation of Officers (Sanctuary)  
 4:00 p.m. ~ Installation of Reverend Nick Cheek (Sanctuary)

The Church Office will be operating on the following schedule during the holidays:



December 26 and 27 ~ Closed  
 December 28 and 29 ~ Open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
 December 30 ~ Closed at noon  
 January 2 ~ Closed  
 January 3 ~ Normal office hours resume

**Upcoming Events at FPC**

- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**  
 6:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Caroling..... West Building  
 6:00 p.m. *Not a Silent Night* Book Study ..... McLaurin Room
  - MONDAY, DECEMBER 19**  
 6:30 p.m. Troop 86..... Scout Hut  
 6:30 p.m. Pack 86..... West Building
  - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20**  
 5:45 p.m. Children's Gathering ..... Meet at the Beacon Theater  
 6:00 p.m. Youth Movie Night ..... West Building
  - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**  
 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service with Children's Nativity ..... Sanctuary  
 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service ..... Sanctuary  
*Both Services are Candlelight Communion Services.*
  - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**  
 10:30 a.m. Informal Worship ..... Chapel
  - MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 ~ Church Office Closed**
  - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27 ~ Church Office Closed**
- We ask for your help in keeping this calendar current. Please contact Shirley in the church office ([swood@fpcsumter.org](mailto: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**

**Lexington:** Joe Kuhlmann  
**Tuomey:** Betty Crosby  
**Greenville:** Anne Bell

**Covenant Place:** Marion Young  
**At Home:** Charles Shaw, Linda Montague,  
 Helen Brookes-Futrell, Gordon Rettke

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**December 18, 2016**



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

