

WELCOME to
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Spartanburg, SC

First Presbyterian Church
is a community of believers committed to
“Glorifying God and Sharing Christ Together
through Word and Deed.”



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 5, 2021

8:45AM AND 11:00AM SANCTUARY

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND INVITATION

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

A Huron Carol

arr. Susan Nelson

INTROIT

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Taizé Community

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: PEACE

**Heavenly Father,
creator of the world,
thank you for the promise of peace.
Guide us as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ,
who brings light to the world. Amen.**

✠HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of our salvation,
you straighten the winding ways of our hearts
and smooth the paths made rough by sin.
Forgive our sin
and the many ways in which we fail to live in peace with you,
with others, and within our restless hearts.
Keep our conduct blameless,
keep our hearts watchful in holiness,
and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near;
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ...**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Long ago, God sent the prophets to prepare the people for the good news of salvation.
In Jesus Christ, the promise of God's grace, mercy, and peace is fulfilled.
Hear the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

✠RESPONSE

HYMN 83, VERSE 3

STUTTGART

*Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

As God in Christ has forgiven us, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace of Christ with one another.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Savior of the Nations, Come

arr. Joshua Kramer

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

SERMON

Prepare the Way: Peace

Dr. Lewis F. Galloway

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CHORAL RESPONSE

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

(8:45)

Dona Nobis Pacem

Traditional Canon

(11:00)

Creation Will Be at Peace

Anna Laura Page

✠DOXOLOGY

HYMN 143, VERSE 4

REGENT SQUARE

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the-eternal three in one.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the coming King.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING (Sung Responsively)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up, lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us all give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

✠ *Please Stand*

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.**

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION MUSIC

Come Thou, Dear Redeemer

Cesar Franck

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

✠HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

✠CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✠BENEDICTION RESPONSE

HYMN 88, VERSE 6

VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Johann Pachelbel

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES

Dr. Lewis F. Galloway
Rev. L. Craig Foster
Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Holt Andrews, Director
Marcia Andrews, Organist

Advent Candlelighters

Hollie and Kevin Marsh; Ella Grace, Alle Marie, and Olivia
Andrea and Bryan Shaw; Abigail and Sydney

Musicians

Genesis Choir
Chancel Choir
Handbell Choir
Will Manello, solo

The Advent Greens in the Sanctuary

are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. William Grant Willard, Jr. and Mr. Benjamin Sims Willard
by their family.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

We believe that children learn to worship by regularly attending church with their families. During the 11:00am Traditional Worship Service, all children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary for *The Word for Children*. Afterwards, children 3K - 1st grade are welcome to attend Children's Worship in the Clark Building with Pastor Ansley. During this time, they worship with song and prayer, hear a Bible story, and enjoy art and play. May they know the love of God and the joy of church! After worship, families are asked to pick their children up from Room 202 of the Clark Building.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

COMMUNION TODAY Take some time prior to the service and investigate your Individual Communion Set. Depending on which type of Communion Set you have, the opening instructions are a little different.



Standard set:

- 1) Hold the edges of the cup, remove the clear cellophane to expose the wafer.
- 2) Hold the edges of the cup, remove the foil to expose the juice.

Chalice type:

- 1) Open bottom seal to access the wafer.
- 2) Open top seal to access the juice.



CHECK IN TO WORSHIP!

If you are a church member, download the *ShelbyNext | Membership App*. After you download and launch the app, enter “firstpres.shelbynextchms.com” for the domain and your username and password. Instructions on how to get your username and password: fpcspartanburg.org/discover/member-login. Once you have the app downloaded, each Sunday when you arrive at church, open your ShelbyNext App and click “Check In” (“allow” it to know your location). Then click on “who” you are checking in, choose the worship service, then “Done.”

If you would prefer not to download this app or you are one of our precious visitors, please sign the Fellowship Pad as it is passed down the pew. Our ushers will gather those after the service.

THIS AFTERNOON: FAMILY ADVENT WORKSHOP Let’s get ready for Christmas together! After the 11:00 Sanctuary Service, join other families to create Advent wreaths and crafts - special projects for tweens and teens! We’ll gather under the tent and in the gym. Questions? See Pastor Ansley or Beth Burris.

WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST (DECEMBER 8) Dinner will be served beginning at 5:00pm in Fogartie Hall. Pre-registration for dinner is required; online payment is preferred (fpcspartanburg.org/waf). Dinner Prices: Child \$6 (up to age 11); Adult \$9 (ages 12 - 54); Senior \$8 (ages 55+); Family \$27. **RSVP for dinner by noon on Monday!** You may register for dinner each week or for the month! WAF will resume on January 12.

Dec 8 Menu - Baked Greek Chicken, Roasted Greek Potatoes, Spanakopita, Greek Salad, Bread, Beverage, Dessert.

Kids' Menu: Pepperoni Pizza, Fried Cheese Sticks, Applesauce, Beverage and Dessert.

Program for All: White Gifts Service... (see below)

WHITE GIFTS SERVICE: Please join us for our annual White Gifts Service on **Wed, Dec 8, at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary**. The service features our children's choirs presenting “Who is my Neighbor?”, but culminates in the giving of gifts, wrapped in white, for local missions: Cleveland Academy of Leadership, Thornwell, Mobile Meals, The Hope Center for Children. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/white-gifts for gift ideas!

A LIGHT FOR ALL NATIONS Next Sunday, December 12, at both Sanctuary services, the Chancel Choir, along with the orchestra, will offer musical reflections on the remarkable reach of the Christmas story’s resonance - through multiple generations, countries, and cultures. Highlights included a brand-new piece commissioned by FPC for this service written by Dr. John Moody. The service was inspired by the beloved annual Christmas program at Princeton Seminary, which Holt and Marcia attended while on their sabbatical in 2019.

ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS Would you like to order poinsettias in memory of or in honor of loved ones? Fill out the form available at the church or online. The cost per plant is \$20.00 and orders are due by Friday, December 10. You may pick up your plants in Fogartie Hall any time after MorningSong on Sunday morning, December 19. If you do not plan to do so, we would appreciate your giving us permission to use your gift for cut flowers or greenery to enhance our Christmas arrangement. Contact Lynise Clarke if you have questions (lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org).

ANGEL TREE tags are out! If you haven't already, please pick up a tag and bless a child this Christmas season. Each child will receive one gift, not over \$25. Wrapped gifts - with the Angel Tag attached - should be taken to The Perrin Room by Sunday, December 19. Questions? Brandt Goodwin (brandtgoodwin@gmail.com).

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR We invite you to participate in Reverse Advent. Start with an empty box. Each day, fill your box with the designated items found at fpcspartanburg.org/reverse-advent. Bring your full box to church on Sunday, December 19. We encourage you to include a card of Christmas love and joy. All donations will go to Hand-in-Hand Ministries to furnish a Christmas dinner for families in need.

THE PEACE AND JUSTICE TASKFORCE is focusing on **3 John 1:2** as we are called to improve the health of those around us. This verse states "Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers." Please join us at the next Peace and Justice Task Force Meeting on Friday, January 21, 12:30pm-1:30pm in the Purnell Room.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CNC The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking a slate of nine members from the congregation to replace members who will rotate off the CNC. Members will serve for one year and will be charged with the nomination of Church officers. Please go to www.fpcspartanburg.org/cnc and complete the form. Deadline is Friday, December 31, 2021.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD MEAL MINISTRY has moved to Thursday evenings in the Arthur Center, with food service beginning at 5:15pm. Adjustments have been made for Covid safety measures. If you are interested in volunteering or need more information, please contact Mary Lorick Thompson or Betsy Burrell.

BLUE WORSHIP BAGS are available in the Narthex and Tower Room (Traditional Worship) and in the back of Fogartie Hall (MorningSong) for your child to use during worship. After worship, please return the crayons and bags to the baskets. The activity sheet is for your child to keep as a reminder of today's scripture and message.

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND LIGHT On Wednesday, December 15, we will gather in the Sanctuary at 6:00pm for an intimate time of worship including communion and candle lighting. This service is especially for those who struggle during the Christmas season.

LESSONS AND CAROLS On Sunday, December 19, the MorningSong Music Team will lead the congregation in carols of the Advent and Christmas seasons. Join in at 8:45am in Fogartie Hall (MorningSong Worship).

MORAVIAN CANDLELIGHT SERVICE This year's Moravian Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday, December 19, at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary. Celebrate the season in a service inspired by our brothers and sisters from the Moravian tradition. Moravian Christmas hymns are supplemented by music from the First Presbyterian Church Chamber Singers and guest instrumentalists.

WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

Second Sunday of Advent

Communion

8:45am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
8:45am MorningSong Worship (Fogartie Hall)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
12:00pm Advent Workshop

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Final WAF of 2021

5:00pm Dinner Line Opens
6:30pm White Gifts Service (Sanctuary)
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

Third Sunday of Advent

Chancel Choir Special Music at Both Traditional Services

8:45am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
8:45am MorningSong Worship (Fogartie Hall)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

6:00pm Service of Comfort and Light (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lessons and Carols in MorningSong

8:45am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
8:45am MorningSong Worship (Fogartie Hall)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
5:00pm Moravian Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

4:00pm Family Service (Sanctuary)
7:00pm Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)
11:00pm Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

First Sunday of Christmas

11:00am One Worship Service (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

Second Sunday of Christmas

11:00am One Worship Service (Sanctuary)



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