



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 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

8:45AM AND 11:00AM - Sanctuary

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

One: This is the day that the Lord has made;

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Prelude to "Christmas Oratorio"*

Camille St. Saens

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: PEACE

UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God, we confess that too often we fail to live as agents of Your peace. Yet, through Christ, You still grant to us the peace that passes understanding. As we watch and wait, help us to live as people of peace. Help us to prepare our hearts to receive the Child born for us, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

† Please rise in
body or spirit.

Please sign and
pass the Ministry
of Friendship
Pad, note the
names of those
around you,
and greet one
another after
worship.

Carol of the Word

William Craft

Gustav Holst



1. Through the deep un bound-ed dark-ness, Love's quick'ning spir - it came, cal-ling
2. Did we dream that bright cre - a - tion, that world in - vok-ing word? Did love
3. In this cold and ang - ry sea - son, this win - ter of our sin, from the



light and day and night - time, who ans - wered at their name. Sing - ing
 wear - y of our blind - ness, and turn a - way un - heard, from the
 rude, un - love - ly man - ger, Love calls to us a - gain. Speak - ing



stars, and speak - ing plan - ets, spin - ning gal - ax - ies un - told, roll - ing
 bat - tle rav - aged gar - den, from the ri - vers dark with blood, from the
 jus - tice o - ver em - pire, lift - ing hat - red's mor - tal curse, mak - ing



o - ceans from the land's rise, that moon and sun be - hold. And -
 fran - tic mean ad - dic - tions that numb our minds to good? Lost to
 whole our bro - ken spir - its, with news of peace on earth. So with



with earth's new - formed gar - den, beasts leap and birds take flight, as love
 us the day - light's pro - mise, the night - time's heal - ing rest; lost to
 sta - bled beasts and an - gels, with stars and moon and sun, we de -



breathed in us God's like - ness, de - clar - ing deep de - light.
 us the deep com - mun - ion, by which we once were blest.
 clare Love's new cre - a - tion, God's life in us be - gun!

The hymn "Carol of the Word" is a frequent Advent visitor to FPC. Classical music lovers may recognize the tune from the "Jupiter" movement of Gustav Holst's orchestral suite, The Planets. The striking text was written by William Craft, president of Concordia College in Moorhead, MN (and Marcia Andrews' brother!)

ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God our Maker,
we confess that we are not ready to meet you.
You call us to repent,
but we turn away from you.
You wait patiently for us,
but we fail to watch and wait for you.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Embrace us with tender mercy
so that we may be at one with you
when all your glory is revealed.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

† RESPONSE

HYMN 147, V6

THE FIRST NOWELL

*Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and he shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us greet each other as we share the peace of Christ.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Christmas Oratorio

Recitative

There were shepherds abiding in the fields

Chorus

Glory to God in the highest

During the Word for Children, all children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary. Afterwards, at the 8:45 service the children will return to their pew and at the 11:00 service, children 4 yrs-1st grade are welcome to attend Children's Worship. Pick-up Location: Stepping Stones hallway, Clark Building, 2nd floor.

Solo

Patiently have I waited for the Lord

Solo and Chorus

In my heart I believe that thou art indeed Christ

Duet

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord

Chorus

Wherefore do the heathen clamor?

Trio

My soul doth magnify the Lord

Quartet

Alleluia

Quintet and Chorus

Arise Now, daughter of Zion

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Hymnal Page 35

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.

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts

Camille St. Saens

† DOXOLOGY

HYMN 143, V4

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!*

† PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal Page 35

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

† HYMN 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† CLOSING VOLUNTARY

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

arr. Raymond Haan

PARTICIPATING IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP SERVICES

Rev. L. Craig Foster

Rev. Joanne R. Hull

Rev. Christi O. Brown (11:00)

Mr. R. Holt Andrews

Advent Candle Lighters

Ushers and Greeters (8:45)

Jan Williams and Adrienne Williams (11:00)

Chancel Choir

Soloists: Valerie MacPhail, Katie Jo O'Neal, Caroline Bosworth,

Reel Robertson, Paul MacPhail

Orchestra

Violin: Mary Irwin, Robin Els, Helen Tipton, Ann Buttimer,
Tina Pulley, Allison Key, Stacey Wiley, Theresa Curren, Peter Moore

Viola: Bonnie Lee Mizzell, Mary Ada Poole, Jeff Kuntz

Cello: Kathy Foster, Brenda Leonard, cello

Bass: John Kvasnicka, bass

Harp: Lelia Lattimore, harp

Organ: Marcia Andrews

The Advent Greens in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Lehman C. and Juliette Hollis Moody and Mary Walker Hollis by Rosemary Moody Roberts.

For the hearing impaired: *Our Sanctuary* is equipped with a T-coil hearing loop. If your hearing aid or cochlear device is equipped with T-coil technology, please switch it to the "T", T-Coil, or telephone position for improved hearing during the service. Hearing aid devices are also available in the Narthex and Tower Room. Please ask an usher and return these to the Usher Stands when you exit. Thank you.

Large-print bulletins are available from the ushers upon request.

LIFE @ FIRST

DECEMBER 10, 2017

Complete details at www.fpcspartanburg.org.
Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

WELCOME!

If you are visiting with us today, you are our honored guest! **Please sign the Fellowship Pad**, so that we may contact you.

For more information about First Presbyterian, see one of the Greeters, holding the baskets.

JOINING FIRST PRES...

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian, please come to the Church Library on the second Sunday of any month at 10:30am. Ministers and members of the Session will be there to greet you.

*Questions? Contact Rev. Joanne Hull;
208-2125 / jhull@fpcspartanburg.org.*

PASTORS ON-CALL

If you have a Pastoral Emergency after 5:00pm during the week or anytime over the weekend or on holidays, please call 208-2142. The message will be sent to the pastoral care team member who is on-call.

FOR PARENTS

Nursery Care is available on the first floor of the Clark Bldng for children six weeks through three years old.

Rainbow Worship Bags are provided for your child to use during worship. Please return the bag to the baskets after worship. The bulletins are for your child to keep.

Online Games are available at: www.Games.Childrensbulletins.com. Enter the code found at the bottom right of each Child's Bulletin in the Rainbow Worship Bags. This code is unique to our church.

NEXT SUNDAY - DECEMBER 17

LESSONS AND CAROLS: Next Sunday, in the **MorningSong** worship service (8:45am in Fogartie Hall), the **MorningSong Music Team** will lead the congregation in the carols of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST: The popular Moravian Love Feast will be held next Sunday at 4:00pm and 6:00pm in the Chapel. This simple and moving service features music from the Chamber Singers and traditional Moravian coffee and buns, served by members of the Palmetto Moravian fellowship. These services usually fill up; we recommend you arrive a little early.

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND LIGHT - DECEMBER 20

Are the holidays made more difficult this year because of a loss or sadness in your life? You are invited to join us for an intimate time of worship on Wednesday, December 20, at 6:00pm in the Chapel. This "Service of Comfort and Light" which includes communion and candle lighting is especially for those of us for whom the Christmas season is a struggle this year. The Health Committee will host a time of refreshments and fellowship following the service in the Parlor.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

MORNING WORSHIP: There will be one traditional service and one MorningSong – both at 11:00. Traditional in the Sanctuary and MorningSong in Fogartie Hall.

FAMILY SERVICE, 4:00pm in the Sanctuary: Come, all you angels, shepherds, animals, and kings! Join in on Christmas Eve for our Family Service Nativity Pageant. Any child may come dressed as the part he or she wants to play (from those listed above).

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES, 6:00pm and 11:00pm in the Sanctuary: These services, a tradition in our church, feature music by the Christmas Eve Choir. A special message will be delivered and the services will conclude with the Sanctuary bathed in candlelight. Childcare will be available at the 6:00pm Candlelight Service.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FROM SET FREE ALLIANCE

Similar to Winter Warmth, we are also offering Christmas cards made by the children of Set Free Alliance. Instead of giving the usual gifts this year, make a donation in someone's honor and give your loved ones these cards as their Christmas gifts. 100% of your donation helps care for the Set Free Children in India, many of who are experiencing the meaning of Christmas for the first time this year. The cards are available in sets of five for a suggested donation of \$25 and are available in the church office this week.

4TH TUESDAY MEAL MINISTRY - DECEMBER 25

Please join us as we share a traditional Christmas Dinner with our Meal Ministry friends on Christmas night. Please join us as we serve the meal, sing Christmas carols, and celebrate the joy of Christmas as we light candles and sing Silent Night. We need someone to provide Christmas music and lead us as we sing carols. Volunteers please arrive between 4:15-5 pm. We will serve dinner at 5:15. Donations needed:

For the meal: Ham, Turkey, Dressing, Macaroni & Cheese, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans or Peas, Rolls, and Pies

For our guests to take with them: We would like to give away goody bags and a blanket to everyone. Please consider donating holiday bags filled with food and hygiene items.

Questions? Contact Will DeLaney or Tina Hamilton; 864/908-8753 / 4thtuesdaysoupkitchen@gmail.com.

REGISTER FOR THE WOMEN'S RETREAT

On Saturday, January 27, join your sisters in Christ as we learn and discuss healing through faith. This on-site retreat will be in Fogartie Hall, 8:30am-1:30pm. The \$25 cost includes lunch. We will learn how our faith factors into our daily living, as well as how can we be open to the work of the Spirit in our lives, our homes and churches, especially during the storms of life. Our speaker, Gail Henderson-Belsito, is a writer, teacher, student, mother, wife, and fearless solo traveler. She is a second-career seminary student at Union Presbyterian Seminary. This retreat makes great Christmas gifts for the women in your life!

Register online at fpcspartanburg.org/events/retreat or with a form (church office).
Questions? Contact Crystal Workman; workman06@charter.net.

YEAR-END GIVING

Contribution Deadlines: *For credit as 2017 contributions, donations must be received in the church financial office by 5:00pm on Friday, December 29, 2017 or postmarked by December 31, 2017. Any contributions received or postmarked on or after January 1, 2018 will be considered as 2018 contributions. *If you make a pre-payment in 2017 toward your 2018 pledge, please make certain to write 2018 in the "memo" section of your check. Similarly, in 2018, if you continue to make contributions toward your 2017 pledge, please mark as 2017.

Year-End Stock Contributions: By giving appreciated stock to the church for your pledge, you can receive a tax advantage. Please notify Lynise Clarke in the church financial office at the time you notify your broker with the following information: * Name of your broker and the particular stock that is involved and * Year (or years) in which to apply your gift and/or whether any special funds are involved. Please allow 2-3 weeks for completion of stock transactions.

For information, contact Lynise Clarke; 208-2130/lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PASTORAL COUNSELING

Pastoral Counseling, with Dr. Kirk Neely, is offered by the congregation for First Presbyterian Church members. There is no fee; a contribution may be made to underwrite the ministry. Counseling is by appointment on Tuesdays.

To make an appointment, please contact Didi Terry;
583-4531/dterry@fpcspartanburg.org.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

MorningSong Worship (8:45&11am)
Traditional Worship (8:45&11am)
Christmas Oratorio in Sanctuary
Sunday School (9:45am)

DECEMBER 15

Poinsettia Orders Due

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

MorningSong Lessons and Carols
Moravian Love Feast (4:00&6:00pm)

DECEMBER 20

Service of Comfort and Light

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Services:
MorningSong Worship (11:00am)
Sanctuary Worship (11:00am)
Family Service (4:00pm)
Candlelight Services (6:00&11:00pm)

DECEMBER 27

Sanctuary Renovations Begin!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

MorningSong Worship (11:00am)
Chapel Worship (11:00am)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018

MorningSong Worship
(8:45&11:00am - Fogartie Hall)
Traditional Worship
(8:45-Chapel & 11:00am-Social Hall)
Sunday School (9:45am)

JANUARY 27

Women's Retreat (on-site)

MARCH

Portraits for Pictorial Directory

A complete calendar, including Weekly Bible Studies, Committee Meetings, Recreation Classes, and AA Meetings, is available at fpcspartanburg.org/calendar.

FINANCIAL NEWS

2017 Operating Budget:	\$2,828,008
Needed weekly:	\$54,385
Received 12/03:	\$28,428

MISSION THAT SERVES OUR NEIGHBORS AND OUR GOD

Our congregation serves God and our neighbors at home and abroad with these local and international missions.

LOCAL MISSIONS

Poverty: Monthly Hunger Offering; Mobile Meals; Winter Warmth; TOTAL Ministries; Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network (SPIHN); Habitat for Humanity; The Haven; CAST Program; Neighborhood Meal Ministry; **Healing:** Angel Tree; St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic; Children's Advocacy Center; HOPE Center for Children; SAFE Homes/Rape Crisis Network; Thornwell Home for Children; Presbyterian Communities of SC; Disaster Relief: One Great Hour of Sharing, Disaster Response Action Team; Kairos Prison Ministry; MLK, Jr. Celebration; Refugee Relief; Mental Health Advocacy; **Education:** Pine Street Elementary Tutoring; Boys & Girls Clubs; Spartanburg Presbyterian Student Association (UKIRK); Arcadia Outreach Ministry; Presbytery Unified Funds; The Shepherd's Center; Adult Learning Center

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Missionaries: Support for missionaries - **Jo Ella Holman**, PCUSA liaison for the Caribbean; **Mark Hare and Jenny Bent**, mission co-workers in Haiti and the Dominican Republic; **Mission Workers Serving with Kurds**; **Mission Workers Serving in the Middle East**; **Dominican Republic:** Clinica Cristiana; Center for Christian Education & Development (CCED School); Sponsorship of CCED School Children; Infant Nutrition Program; **Cuba:** Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada in Santa Clara partnership; **Haiti:** Haiti Outreach Ministries; Haiti Reforestation Project (CODEP); **Philippines:** Precious Heritage Ministries orphanage and feeding program for street children; **India:** Set Free Alliance; **Witness Season;** **Bread for the World**

This week, please pray for these PC(USA) Missionaries: Melissa and Charles Johnson (Zambia) and for Spartanburg City Police Officer Keith Soules (FPC's Adopt-a-Cop).

CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION

Class of 2017: Fran Bagwell, David Beacham, Roy Berry, Leslie Calicutt, Mark Coleman, Mary Dixon, Ken Frick, Mark Hicklin, David Ike, Kay McClure, Nan McDaniel, Kam Neely, Susan Oldham, Carter Smith, Pat Tatham

Class of 2018: Bert Barre, David Berry, Jennifer Biber, Mark Cann, Dick Carr, David Cecil, Fred Cumbo, Sally Dover, Emma Harrill, Ann Jones, Stan Lummus, Eric Nease, Richard Strasburger, Winnie Walsh, Lewis White

Class of 2019: Lee Close, Celia Cogdell, Suzy Cole, Andrew Darr, Melissa France, Laura Henthorn, Whit Kennedy, Craig Long, Jason Lynch, Ashley Millinor, Bert Moore, Steven Richards, Jessalyn Story, Monica Threatt, Linda West

DIACONATE

Class of 2017: Marjorie Appiah, Randy Barre, Budge Bean, Margie Beckett, Randall Chambers, Erin Chastain, Max Hyde, Brenda James, Donna Kennedy, Andy Lancaster, Lisa Lefebvre, Melissa Morehead, Juli Robertson, Joy Shackelford, Brand Stille

Class of 2018: Katherine Burns, Harry Clayton, Molly Colbath, Mary Deller, John Donovan, Phillip Glover, Carol Gutman, Marsha Hagins, Anne Hicklin, LeAnne Holcombe, Eunice Knouse, Tommy Rudeen, Denise Stevens, John Tatham, Alan Workman

Class of 2019: Will Adair, Vic Bailey, Steven Blanton, Bill Cummings, Chris Curtis, Carroll Easterling, Rob Elliot, John Faris, Dana Halliday, Andy Halligan, Catherine Johnson, Bryan Pack, Kristen Raynor, Leah Rigsby, Marsh Rogers

STAFF

Dr. Thomas E. Evans, Senior Pastor; **Rev. L. Craig Foster**, Associate Pastor, Education/Discipleship; **Rev. Joanne R. Hull**, Associate Pastor, Congregational Care; **Rev. Christi O. Brown**, Pastoral Associate for Missions; **Holt Andrews**, Pastoral Musician; **Marcia Andrews**, Associate Director of Music and Organist; **Beth Burris**, Director of Children's Ministries; **Beth Cecil**, Parish Nurse; **Colleen Darrall**, Director of Recreation; **Jane Mullins**, Director of Hospitality



this way forward

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