

WELCOME to
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Spartanburg, SC



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 15, 2019

8:45AM AND 11:00AM - SANCTUARY

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND INVITATION

One: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

All: **that the King of Glory may come in.**

(from Psalm 24)

OPENING VOLUNTARY

(8:45)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Paul Manz

(11:00)

I Wonder As I Wander

Arnold B. Sherman

INTROIT (11:00)

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Augustus Nelson

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

Advent means "coming" or "arrival." During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. The four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ's return.

In Psalm 24, the gates and doors of the heavenly temple are personified.

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

† Please rise in body or spirit.

Hymn 104

Paul Gerhardt,
famous author
of Lutheran
evangelical
hymns, wrote
this German text
in ten stanzas.
The original text
was inspired by
Matthew 21:1-
9, the Gospel
reading for the
first Sunday of
Advent in the
old Lutheran
lectionary.

**At the 8:45
service,** all
children are
invited to the
front of the
Sanctuary
during The Word
for Children.
Afterwards, they
will return to the
pews.

**At the 11:00
service,** all
children are
invited to the
front of the
Sanctuary during
The Word for
Children. The
children will hear
Advent lessons
from Godly Play,
which will help
them get ready
for the Mystery
of Christmas.
Afterwards,
children **3yrs
– 1st grade** are
welcome to
attend Children's
Worship.

Pickup Location:

**Godly Play
Room,** Clark
Building, 2nd floor

Nursery is
available for
infants through
age 3.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: JOY

UNISON PRAYER

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

† HYMN 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

O God,
you search us and know us,
and all that we are is open to you.
We offer you our confession this day.
If we have longed for your coming to change the world,
but are unwilling to change our own hearts, forgive us.
If we have made no room for Christ
and failed to welcome the poor and the stranger
into our midst, forgive us.
If we marvel over the Christ child's birth,
but do not rejoice in your presence with us every day, forgive us.
If we have hoped in our own devices and desires
before hoping in you, forgive us.
Enter our lives and fill our hearts
as we come before you in silent prayer...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
May the God of Mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit renew in us a right spirit. Amen.
All: In Christ's name, we are forgiven.

† RESPONSE

HYMN 83, VERSE 1

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.*

STUTTGART

† 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 joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Let us greet each other as we share the joy of Christ.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00)

Harry Huntingon Brown
Son of Megan and Hunter Brown

SUNG PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

While We Are Waiting, Come

Don Cason

SCRIPTURE READING

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 1:46-56

SERMON

Magnify

Dr. Thomas E. Evans

Baptism enacts and seals what the Word proclaims: God's redeeming grace offered to all people. The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God's love claims people before they are able to respond in faith.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

Jesus, the long expected Savior,
came into the world as a child,
descended from David,
conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of Mary, a virgin.

He lived as a Jew among Jews.

He announced to his people
the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman
as is every child,
yet born of God's power
as was no other child.

In the person and work of Jesus,

God himself and a human life
are united but not confused,
distinguished but not separated.

The coming of Jesus was itself
the coming of God's promised rule.

Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship between God and humanity
that God always intended.

(from "A Declaration of Faith")

Though it is not part of our *Book of Confessions*, "A Declaration of Faith" was adopted by the old southern Presbyterian Church (PCUS) in 1977 and also by the PC(USA) in 1985 as "as a contemporary statement of faith, a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offering

The Christian life is marked by the offering of one's self to God. In worship, God presents us with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ, who has claimed us and set us free. In response to God's love in Christ we offer our lives, our gifts, our abilities, and our material goods for God's service.

Hymn 360

The text of this hymn, written by a Scottish pastor in 1853, anticipates the Second Coming. It approaches the theme of Christ's return in glory with joyful anticipation.

You are invited to stay and listen to the Closing Voluntary, but you are welcome to leave following the Benediction.

OFFERTORY

(8:45)

Glory, Hodie!

Robert W. Thygerson

(11:00)

There Shall a Star from Jacob

Felix Mendelssohn

† DOXOLOGY

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.*

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (Unison)

O God of Grace and Glory,
we come before you today to offer our gratitude
for the wonder and blessed splendor of this Christmastide,
for your reassurance that you are Immanuel, God with us,
for your love that came down at Christmas,
for your faithfulness that never abandons, and
for your tender mercies that are from everlasting to everlasting.

It is right for us to give you thanks and praise
for the abundant blessings that you grant us day by day,
for the joy, hope, and peace that you offer each of us in the Christ Child,
and for the amazing grace that abounds in your heart
and draws us ever, ever closer to you.

Hear our prayers of thanksgiving as we present our offerings from the bounty you have so generously granted us and pray as your beloved Son taught us,

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. (The Lord's Prayer)

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

† HYMN 360

Christ Is Coming!

UNSER HERRSCHER

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† BENEDICTION RESPONSE

HYMN 93, VERSE 3

TRURO

*Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.*

† CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Ding Dong! Merrily On High

Gordon Young

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES

Dr. Thomas E. Evans
Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.; Rev. L. Craig Foster
Rev. Joanne R. Hull; Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Dr. David P. Berry, Elder

Advent Candlelighters

The Barre Family: Bert, Katherine, Sallie, Martha, Dixon
The Ringo Family: Will, Laura, Caroline, Mary Wilson

Janet Kuntz, Guest Director; Erica Pauly, Guest Organist; Kay Maddox, Guest Director of Handbells
Genesis Choir; Chancel Choir; Handbells

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.

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.

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

COME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:45AM

CHILDREN

Birth - Kindergarten: Clark Building, 1st Floor
1st - 5th Grades: Clark Building, 2nd Floor

YOUTH

(6th-12th Grades) 2nd Floor of Family Life Center

ADULTS

BIBLE ALIVE! Room 2210

CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES Room C212

EMMAUS CLASS Room 2207

FAITH DRIVEN Room C210

LIFT (MID)LIFE IN FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER Room 2201

OPEN CLASS Room 2213

PURNELL FELLOWSHIP CLASS Purnell Room

YOUNG ADULTS Room 2216

LIFE @ FIRST

DECEMBER 15, 2019

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 Building 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.

TONIGHT: MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST

The popular Moravian Love Feast will be held tonight 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 18

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 18, at 6:00pm in the Chapel. This "Service of Comfort and Light," which includes communion and candlelighting, is especially for those who struggle during the Christmas season. The Health Committee will host a time of refreshments and fellowship following the service in the Parlor.

MORNINGSONG LESSONS & CAROLS NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, December 22, 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.

BE A PART OF THE CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR!

Anyone high school age and up is invited to be a part of the Christmas Eve Choir. There are only two rehearsals, Sunday, December 22 at 12:00pm and Monday, December 23 at 5:30pm. The rehearsals will be relatively brief, efficient, and fun. One great perk of being a part of this choir--you will have a spectacular view of the candlelighting during the services.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

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.

WINTER WARMTH MISSION

Our annual Winter Warmth Project was held on Saturday, November 16. Over 600 coats were distributed to children from all seven Spartanburg County School Districts. Now... we need your help. A gift of \$35 will provide a new, warm winter coat for a child in need.

Donation forms can be found in the Tower Room or you may give online. If you would like to "give" a coat, Gift Cards are available in the church office.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR!

There is still time to participate in the "Reverse Advent" calendar! Fill a box with designated food items (a list can be found in the December *First News*) and bring it on Christmas Eve. All donations will be given to TOTAL.

Questions? Contact Holly Bannan; hbannan@fpcspartanburg.org.

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 on December 31, 2019. Members will serve for one year and will be charged with the nomination of Church officers.

Please email your nomination(s) to Michael Pack; mpack@dsdlegal.com.

HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH FLOWER MEMORIAL

If you would like to honor a loved one with a Flower Memorial in the Sanctuary, there are Sunday dates available in February.

Contact LeAnne Thurmond; 864-621-0213; leanne.thurmond@gmail.com.

YEAR-END GIVING

Contribution Deadlines: *For credit as 2019 contributions, donations must be received in the church financial office by 5:00pm on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 or postmarked by December 31, 2019. Any contributions received or postmarked on or after January 1, 2020 will be considered as 2020 contributions.

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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK TO A STEPHEN MINISTER?

As we approach the holidays, we know that there are many who experience sadness and loneliness due to events that have taken place in their lives. How many times have you wished you had someone that you could pour your true feelings out to confidentially? That is what Stephen Ministers do – we listen and provide Christian Care.

For information, contact: Joanie Shackleton; jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org / 864-208-2132 or Dana Halliday; Danahalliday1@charter.net / 864-237-0330.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 15

*Traditional Services
(8:45 & 11:00am-Sanctuary)*

*MorningSong Worship
(8:45am - Fogartie Hall)*

Sunday School (9:45am)

Moravian Love Feast

Youth Christmas Event

DECEMBER 18

Service of Comfort and Light

DECEMBER 22

*Breakfast for Young Adults and
College Students*

MorningSong Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 24

Angel Tree Distribution

Christmas Eve Services

(Family Service at 4:00pm

Candlelight Services at 6:00 & 11:00pm)

DECEMBER 25

Neighborhood Meal Christmas Dinner

DECEMBER 25 & 26

Church Facilities Closed

DECEMBER 29

*ONE Worship Service at 11:00am
(no Sunday School)*

DECEMBER 31

Church Facilities Close at 5:00pm

JANUARY 1

Church Facilities Closed

JANUARY 5

Communion

Monthly Fellowship

JANUARY 8

First WAF of 2020

JANUARY 12

Officer Ordination and Installation

JANUARY 20

MLK Unity Celebration

JANUARY 26

SPIHN Guests Arrive

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: Quarterly 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; Kairos Prison Ministry; MLK, Jr. Celebration

Education: Pine Street Elementary Tutoring; Boys & Girls Clubs; Spartanburg Presbyterian Student Association (UKIRK); 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**

CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION

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

Class of 2020: David Beacham, Martha Bean, Dawn Bingham, Leslie Calicutt, Muffet Chapman, David Ellis, Sloan Evans, Nan McDaniel, Kam Neely, Michael Pack, Jennifer Parker, Carter Smith, Septima Smith, Pat Tatham, Mary Helen Wade

Class of 2021: Ali Beeson, David Berry, Cam Cecil, Blair Clementson, Sally Dover, Callie Hammett, Josh Jones, Stan Lummus, Donna Pulliam, Reel Robertson, Richard Strasburger, Charlotte Verreault, Ben Wall, Tom Webster, Lewis White

DIACONATE

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

Class of 2020: Marjorie Appiah, Fran Bagwell, Budge Bean, Marsha Calvert, Alice Eberhardt, Sharon Hill, Brenda James, Andy Lancaster, Cheryl Lang, Jack Mason, Beth Neidenbach, Ryan Reynolds, Frank Waters, Hannah Zimmerman

Class of 2021: David Berry Jr., Katherine Burns, Jeff Cleland, Mary Grace Close, Molly Colbath, Tres Cox, Hamp Crow, Carol Gutman, Marsha Hagins, Anne Hicklin, LeAnne Holcombe, Will Hoy, Beau Shuler, Denise Stevens, Alan Workman

STAFF

Dr. Thomas E. Evans, Senior Pastor; **Rev. L. Craig Foster**, Associate Pastor, Discipleship and Communications; **Rev. Joanne R. Hull**, Associate Pastor, Congregational Care; **Rev. Leslie A. Lang**, Associate Pastor, Young Adults and Missions; **Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.**, Associate Pastor of Youth and Campus Ministries; **Rev. Ansley B. Page**, Pastoral Associate; **Mr. R. Holt Andrews**, Pastoral Musician; **Mrs. Marcia C. Andrews**, Associate Director of Music and Organist; **Mrs. Holly M. Bannan**, Director of Children's Ministries; **Mrs. Carrie H. Coleman**, Youth Program Administrator; **Ms. Beth S. Cecil**, Parish Nurse; **Mrs. Colleen M. Darrall**, Director of Recreation; **Mrs. C. Jane Mullins**, Director of Hospitality



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393 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302-1917
864/583-4531 www.fpcspartanburg.org