

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 19, 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

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

arr. Raymond Haan

INTROIT

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: LOVE

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

✠HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Mighty God,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We confess that we are so wrapped up in our own concerns
that we have not made room in our hearts for the needs of others.
We confess that we are so deadened by fear, anxiety, and prejudice
that we lack the courage to live lives of faithfulness and service.
We confess that we have gone our own way so long
that we have failed to love our neighbors.
Gracious God, forgive us and renew us.
In this Advent season, break open our minds, throw open the doors of our hearts
that we may welcome you and know the power of your transforming love.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! As far as the east is from the west, so far does the Lord remove our sin from us.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

✠RESPONSE

HYMN 110, VERSE 3

BRING A TORCH

*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!*

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

As God's own people, be merciful in action, kindly in heart, humble in mind.

Be always ready to forgive as freely as God has forgiven you.

And, above everything else, be loving, and never forget to be thankful for what Christ has done for you.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 61:1-4; Luke 1:35-56

SERMON

Prepare the Way: Love

Dr. Lewis F. Galloway

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✠HYMN 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,

the firstborn of all creation;

in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,

things visible and invisible.

All things have been created through him and for him.

He himself is before all things,

and in him all things hold together.

He is head of the body, the church;

he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead,

so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things,

whether on earth or in heaven,

by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

(Colossians 1:15-20)

✠ *Please Stand*

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.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

(8:45)

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

J. S. Bach

(11:00)

African Noel

Andre Thomas

✠DOXOLOGY

BRING A TORCH

*Love is born, come share in the wonder.
Love is God, with the gift of the Son.
Love is Spirit who dwells among us.
Hear what the triune God is saying:
Love! Love! Love is the name of Jesus,
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on High.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

✠HYMN 145

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

✠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

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Neil Harmon

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

Emily and Geoff Mitchell; Cannon, Grace, Eloise, and Margot
Lita and Will Phillips; Jackson, Margaret, and Henry

Musicians

Chancel Choir
Genesis Choir
Thomas Cotter and Matthew Gill, trumpet
Kaci Cotter, horn
Jeff Kuntz, trombone
Matt McDaniel, timpani

The Advent Greens in the Sanctuary

*are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
John Walton (Jack) West, Minnie Sangster Duck, Susie Auten West,
and Lanie Matthews Kabrick
by Linda Sangster West.*

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 19, 2021

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.

MORAVIAN CANDLELIGHT SERVICE This year’s Moravian Candlelight Service will be held this afternoon 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – Friday, December 24

4:00pm Family Service Come all you angels, shepherds, and kings, and join us on Christmas Eve for our children’s nativity pageant. Any child may come dressed as the part he or she wants to play.

7:00pm and 11:00pm Candlelight Services A tradition in our church, these services 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 is available for the 7:00pm Candlelight Service in Room 105 in the Clark Building.

BOXES DUE TODAY: REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR 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.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE On Sunday, December 26, and Sunday, January 2, we will worship together as a Church Family at 11:00am in the Sanctuary. Sunday School Classes will not meet on either of these days.

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.

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.

CHURCH FACILITIES CLOSED All Church Facilities will be closed on Monday, December 27 and Tuesday, December 28 for the Christmas Holidays and on Monday, January 3 for the New Years' Holiday. Additionally, the church offices will be closing at 12:30pm on Wednesday, January 5 in order for the staff to attend a Christmas / Epiphany gathering.

HOW CAN I HELP? On Friday, December 10 and into the early hours of Saturday, December 11, several tornadoes ripped through multiple U.S. states, resulting in extensive damage and significant loss of life. First Presbyterian Church of Mayfield, Kentucky was completely destroyed. The Presbytery of Western Kentucky has been working with the Mayfield church and is receiving donations on behalf of Mayfield as well as other areas that have been affected. FPC Spartanburg is sending a \$5,000 gift to the Presbytery of Western Kentucky. We invite you to join us. You may submit a donation to FPC Spartanburg – noting “Presbytery of Western Kentucky” – or give directly to the presbytery yourself. That address is: Presbytery of Western Kentucky, PO Box 624, Hopkinsville, KY 42241.

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.

YEAR-END GIVING

Contribution Deadlines: *For credit as 2021 contributions, donations must be received in the church financial office by 5:00pm on Friday, December 31, 2021 or postmarked by December 31, 2021. Any contributions received or postmarked on or after January 1, 2022 will be considered as 2022 contributions. *If you make a pre-payment in 2021 toward your 2022 pledge, please make certain to write 2022 in the “memo” section of your check. Similarly, in 2022, if you continue to make contributions toward your 2021 pledge, please mark as 2021.

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 1-2 weeks for completion of stock transactions.

Questions? Contact Lynise Clarke; 864-208-2130/lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org.

WINTER WARMTH On November 13, First Presbyterian Church distributed 500 winter coats to students in need in grades 4K-8 in the Spartanburg County School System. For a gift of \$35, you can be a part of providing a warm new coat for a child in need. Your gift will help sustain this mission for years to come. You may donate online (fpcspartanburg.org/serve/local-missions/winter-warmth) or fill out the form below and mail or bring to the church office:

I am enclosing \$_____ to buy ____ coat(s) at \$35 each.

My Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Blank acknowledgement cards are available with all donations. Please contact Lynise Clarke (lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org) to arrange to pick up yours.

WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

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

Communion

11:00am One Worship Service (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

Baptism of the Lord

8:45am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

8:45am MorningSong Worship (Fogartie Hall)

11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Officer Ordination and Installation

*** WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST RESUMES JANUARY 12 ***

5:00pm Dinner Line Opens

5:00pm Children's Choirs

6:15pm Christian Recreation for Children

6:30pm Adult and Youth Programs

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal



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