

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Annual White Gifts Service

MAY MY LIGHT SHINE

Wednesday, December 11
6:30 P.M.



WELCOME

Rev. Leslie A. Lang

SCRIPTURE READINGS

PRAYER LITANY

Leader: Gracious God, we thank you for creating our beautiful world; for giving us the Light. Thank you for blessing us with Jesus, our Light in the darkness.
All: Jesus is the Light of the World.
Leader: Help us walk in his Light and to spread his Light in the world. Let us shine His Light in the world.
All: Jesus is the Light of the World.
Leader: Help us to live like people who belong to the Light, forsaking the worthless things that belong to the world of darkness.
All: Jesus is the Light of the World.
Leader: Help us to live in the Light, sharing the Light with others. We give thanks to God the Father who gave us the gift of the Light.
All: Jesus is the Light of the World. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Congregational Hymn #110

“Love Has Come”

Bring a Torch

MAY MY LIGHT SHINE

“Will You Be Ready?”

Mark Patterson

Kennedy Bozard
Solo

Congregational Hymn 127

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”
vs 1 Choirs only
vs 2-4 All Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Three Kings

Michael Bedford

“May My Light Shine”

Lynn Bailey and Becki Mayo

Congregational Reprise

Please join in singing the refrain below

*May my light shine like the star of Bethlehem.
May the world see God's love through me.
May my light shine for my Jesus and my King.
May I shine so others see.*

Presentation of White Gifts

Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Carol Sing

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus
laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where
He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever
and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

O come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him,
born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep. (Refrain)

And by the light of that same star three
wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their in-tent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
(Refrain)

(Refrain) Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
born is the King of Israel.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today:
Ox and ass before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss;
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Children's Choirs Sing on Christmas Eve

For those of you who will be in town on Christmas Eve, and would like for your child (age 5K-grade 5) to sing at the 5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service, there will be ONE REHEARSAL to prepare for this event on Wednesday, December 18 from 5:00-5:45 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you are not able to participate in this service, please note that all children's choirs will resume on Wednesday January 8, 2020. We wish all children and their families and very Blessed Christmas!



PARTICIPATING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Liturgist Rev. Leslie A. Lang
 Script Martha Bean
 Accompanists Bruce Campbell, Landon Hammett- Saxophone
 Organist Erica Pauly
 Handbells Thea McLellan, Mary Ada Poole, Norwood Strasburger
 Director Martha Bean
 Set Colleen Ballance
 Sound Tom King, Craig Foster
 Choir Leaders Martha Bean, Patti Foy, Adena McDaniel

Cherub Choir

Nora Biber
Bennett Brock
Ella Jane Brown
Mae Cutler
Hattie MacPhail
Stewart Pack
Meakin Pack
Savannah Pinilla
Mavis Pinney
Bryan Whitfield
Riley Workman

Jr. Choristers

Caroline Alva
Carson Ashby
Sadie Brock
Charlotte Clementson
Grant Close
Lily Dargis
Ellis Goodwin
Frances Halligan
Carter Hughes
Catherine Jenkins
Jack Langley
Katy Martin
Grace Mitchell
Ramsey Neely
Harrison Pack
Michael Pack
Caroline Ringo
Lyle Roos
Suzanna Story
Claire Swofford
Madison Workman

Sr. Choristers

*Jacob Bannan**
*Kennedy Bozard**
*Lettie Brown**
*Malcolm Cleland**
*Abby Clementson**
*Jane Close**
*Cooper Davis**
*Savannah Davis**
Pierce Dickerson
Eloise Hammett
Addyson Hammett
*Bryson Kiehl**
*Kate Lancaster**
*William Lancaster**
*Finnigan McDaniel**
David Millinor
Brogdon Mitchell
Cannon Mitchell
*Ben Neely**
Anne Neely
Mary Soutter Pack
*Henry Phillips**
Hope Phillips
*Madison Raynor**
Elizabeth Reynolds
Loren Roos
*Wynn Story**

* Denotes Readers

The History of White Gift Services

The origin of the White Gift service is credited to the wife of a Methodist minister in 1904 in Ohio. She knew the legend of the Chinese people who loved their king so much that they each brought him a gift on his birthday. The gifts were all wrapped in white paper in order to emphasize the love of the people and the intent of the gift, not the size or value of it. The minister's wife and his daughters asked their congregation to bring a gift wrapped in white for their King, Jesus. These were often packages of food, the kind of thing that even the poorest in the congregation could bring. They were Christmas love gifts to be distributed to people in need in their community. This beautiful idea quickly spread around the Christian world in the early 1900s, and is still celebrated today in many congregations. White Gifts has been celebrated at FPC for over 50 years.

Your gifts tonight will be distributed to these local mission partners of FPC:

THE HOPE CENTER FOR CHILDREN (Spartanburg, SC) – Provides a continuum of care to meet the needs of the children and families in our community. Though we provide many different services, our name captures what is at the heart of each one of our programs - providing hope to children and families. Services include: home visitation and prevention focused case management when a child is able to live at home; an emergency shelter for when children are removed from their home due to abuse and neglect; longer term residential care for girls in foster care; and finally, if a child is adopted or re-unified with kin, our services are able to support this transition back to family life and better ensure that the child is able to thrive. www.hopecfc.org

MOBILE MEALS (Spartanburg, SC) - Glorifies God by providing nutritious meals, services, and fellowship to the frail and homebound citizens in Spartanburg County. Mobile Meals weekly provides hot meals to 1,500 frail and homebound neighbors, delivering love, compassion and hope to those in need. www.mobile-meals.org

THORNWELL (Clinton, SC) - Founded in 1875, Thornwell began as a Presbyterian ministry for orphans. Today, Thornwell is a full-service, nonprofit organization committed to providing the most innovative and effective solutions to help children and families in need. Thornwell's programs are all rooted in the evidenced-based Teaching-Family Model and value a family-style approach to healing. Thornwell provides Christian love and support to hundreds of children and families throughout Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. www.thornwell.org

