

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024



Photography by Trina Holt

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
508 WEST DAVIS STREET
BURLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 27215
www.fpcburlington.org
336-228-1703

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Please join in reading aloud those parts of the service printed in **bold**.*

Adapted from The Office of Worship (PCUSA) source.

When this symbol () precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us prepare our hearts to worship God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Inman Family

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!
Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,
remembering the promises of God with prayer.
We light this candle in hope.
The world says, "All is lost."
God says, "All is loved."
The darkness says, "The light is dying."
The light says, "The fire is catching."
Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears."
Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."
As we light our first Advent candle,
we pray for holy hope of God.
Come now, O Child of Mary.
Come now, O Prince of Hope.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Solo 1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
Women 2. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
Men 3. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its
All 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
wide our heaven - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on
by Thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
in one heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and dis - cord

here Un - til the Son of God - ap - pear. ALL:
high, And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re-joice!
night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Coming Christ,
you may not find us as you hoped.
We've looked away from signs
we do not wish to see.
We've stopped listening to distress
we do not wish to hear.
We are numb to inconvenient truths.
Keep us alert, O God,
to the needs of our neighbors.
Revive our hearts
laden with compassion fatigue.
Sharpen our minds clouded by worries.
Sober our lives addicted to privilege.
Show us the signs of your coming,
that we may stand before you,
the Son of Man,
in whose name we pray.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Lord, Have Mercy (*Kyrie eleison*)

JEFFERSON



Lord, have mer - cy up - on your peo - ple, Christ have mer - cy up - on us.

Shine your light in - to our dark - ness, fill us with your ho - ly love.

Be our strength in times of trou - ble, set us free from chains that bind.

Breathe new life in - to our spir - its, pur - i - fy our hearts and minds.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*We lay before God
our own sins,
the sins and
brokenness of
our fellow
worshippers,
the church
universal,
and the world.
Today's Corporate
Prayer is sourced
from Call to
Worship, PCUSA*

*The astoundingly
good news of our
reconciliation to
God through Jesus
Christ frees our
tongues to sing
mighty praise to
God.*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Glory to God in the Highest (*Gloria in excelsis*)

GLORIA

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o;

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

*We exchange
reconciling words
and gestures
among the people
of God.*

***PASSING THE PEACE, LOVE AND JOY OF CHRIST TO OTHERS**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

STORY TELLING

*We listen for what
God is saying to
God's people
through scripture,
song, and sermon.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING: Mark 13:32-37

*Large Print Pew Bible, page 62
Pew Bible, page 51*

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Advent Message

Martin How (1931-2022)

Chancel Choir

Come, Lord Jesus, Amen come Lord Jesus.
The voice of Him that crieth in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert,
A highway for our God.

SECOND READING: Mark 1:1-4, 14-15

*Large Print Pew Bible, page 42
Pew Bible, pages 34, 35*

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Gospel Lights Tour: Mark (Hope)

Dr. Jim Lunde

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE – NO. 94

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

JEFFERSON

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

- Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19

Out of Israel,
God in due time raised up Jesus.
His faith and obedience were the response
of the perfect child of God.
He was the fulfillment
of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.
He gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be his servant
for the reconciliation of the world.

Our response to hearing God's Word we sing and say what we believe.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

The Lord Will Come

Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

Chancel Choir

The Lord will come and not be slow. His footsteps cannot err;
Before Him righteousness shall go, His royal harbinger.
Truth from the earth, like to a flower, shall bud and blossom then;
And justice, from her heavenly bower, look down on mortal folk.
Rise, God, judge Thou the earth in might, this wicked earth redress;
For Thou art he who shalt by right the nations all possess.
The nations all whom Thou hast made shall come, and all shall frame
To bow them low before Thee, Lord, and glorify Thy name.

-John Milton (1608-1674)

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

The musical notation is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The sacrament of The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with our crucified and risen Lord. In the Lord's Supper, the Church gives thanks to God for all God's gifts, is renewed and sustained by the power of Jesus Christ, and is in communion with Christ and with all who belong to Christ. Today's celebration is by intinction. Come forward to receive the communion elements. All are welcome. Gluten free bread is served to all.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, reign-ing God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, all cre - a - tion seeks your light!
Bless-ed is the one who comes in your name. Bless-ed be the Lord most high!

Setting: Picardy

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN – NO. 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

MUSIC AT THE VOLUNTARY

Fantasia on *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

James Lunde, D. Min., Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
Carrie Tuttle, M. Div., Parish Associate for Pastoral Care
J. Patrick Murphy, M. Mus., Organist-Choirmaster

Charlotte Nance-Allbright, M.A, C.C.E., Director of Christian Formation and Education

*God blesses and
sends us in mission
to the world.*

*All are invited to
remain seated for
the voluntary. If
you must leave,
please do so
quietly.*

IN MEMORIAM

ELSIE LEE WEST

October 24, 1938 - November 24, 2024

*“So then, whether we live or whether we die,
we are the Lord’s” Romans 14:8*

IN MEMORIAM

EDITH ANN MORGAN CARTER

June 30, 1936 - November 26, 2024

*“I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.”
John 11:25*

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A WARM AND CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all who worship with us this Sunday. We hope in this service you will encounter the living Christ and experience the warmth of our caring family of faith. Please take a moment to sign our friendship register when it is passed to you. If you are visiting with us and in search of a church home, we invite you to become a part of our church family here at First Presbyterian Church. Please let us know of your interest by way of the friendship register, or by speaking to one of our ministers. If you are not receiving the weekly e-newsletter, please feel free to pick up a copy today in the narthex and then contact the church office to be added to the weekly email list.

LIVE TELEPHONE WORSHIP: To listen to the worship service, simply call 888-969-5508 each Sunday. You will also be given an option of receiving a weekly call prior to each worship service. Please help us and pass this information along to any church member or community member who would benefit from this opportunity.

LIVE VIDEO STREAMING SERVICE: *Boxcast* will stream to our website and Facebook page each Sunday morning. Click here to view: [on our website](#) and on [the FPC Facebook page](#).

LARGE PRINT HYMNS: Copies of today's hymns are available in the Narthex.

ADVENT BANNER: Our new Advent banner has been designed and created by Carolyn Langley.

HEARING ASSISTANCE: The Sanctuary is fitted with a Hearing Loop system. Please switch your hearing device to T-coil. If you need a listening device, please contact one of our ushers.



WELCOME-TO-WORSHIP ACTIVITY TABLE is located in the Narthex and available for children to receive a worship bulletin, pencil, crayon, children's Bible, and other activities. Bags to hold the worship resources are located in the basket under the table. Please return the supplies to the table at the end of worship.

OFFERING RITUAL: In the pew racks you will find "Offering Ritual" cards. The giving of our offerings and ourselves is vital part of worship in which we express our gratitude for God's blessings. The passing of the offering plate is a visible demonstration of our commitment to devote our time and treasures to Christ's ministry. If you give monthly, quarterly, annually; or through stocks, credit cards, or e-giving, you may still participate in the offering ritual by placing this card in the offering plate. If you are interested in giving electronically through our secure e-giving process, you will find instructions on the back side of this card. Scan this QR code to access FPC's online Giving with your Smartphone. It's easy to download a QR Code reader from the App Store!



WORSHIP SERVICE CDS AVAILABLE EACH WEEK: Each Sunday, the Scripture readings, anthem, and sermon will be recorded on CD. A limited number of copies will be available immediately after the worship service in the narthex. Additional copies may be requested by calling the church office.

PASTOR ON-CALL INFORMATION: If you have a personal emergency, hospitalization, or pastoral care need, please call the church office. If it is after office hours or on the weekend, you may contact the pastor on call by calling the church at 336-228-1703 and pressing 9. You will then be connected to the pastor on call.

YEAR-END GIVING: If you have questions about your 2024 pledge or would like instructions for year-end giving please call Tori Stadler in the church office at 336-228-1703.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING OPPORTUNITY: This Christmas, you can give a gift--and help our community! Through Alternative Giving, make a donation to an FPCB Mission Partner organization in honor of a loved one, and get a beautiful greeting card to send them to let them know you've given a gift on their behalf. Just pick up an Alternative Giving envelope from the table outside the church office, stop by the table in the Narthex today or on December 8, or 15 after the service, or click the links in the e-blast and on social media to place your order online. All donations must be received by December 15. Greeting cards will be ready for pickup starting December 1. Thank you for supporting FPCB's Mission Partners!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS:

Adults/Youth - *Pattern of Divine Possibility: An Advent Search* - Step into a journey of discovery this Advent with a devotional that challenges us to see beyond familiar binaries and embrace the complex, natural patterns of our creator in the world. In this devotional, *Outlook* Editor/Publisher Teri McDowell Ott invites us to open our eyes to the intricate designs of God's creation that often go unnoticed. In a world dominated by binary thinking – light vs. dark, good vs. evil – this devotion encourages us to look for the more, to recognize that God's patterns are nuanced, complex, and always beyond the limited constructs we impose. It challenges us to explore faith as trusting in the unseen patterns and embracing a fuller understanding of God's handiwork. From art to everyday life, this devotional series invites us to see God's world as more than either/or. It's a call to step into divine possibility, with curiosity and openness, just as the Advent season prepares us to welcome Christ into the world. Join the *Outlook* this Advent as we walk together, searching for the divine patterns that surround us, and let this devotion be your guide to discovering the more of our Creator. This resource will be emailed each week of Advent in a special eblast. Hard copies can be picked up outside the church office, in the narthex and in the Welcome Center beginning today

Children - *Advent: At Home Candle Lighting*- Celebrate the mystery of Christmas and Jesus birth through a daily or weekly ritual of lighting candles around your table. Take a few minutes to mark, remember, listen, reflect, pray, and bless. Written and illustrated by Vilmarie Cintron-Oliveri, an Artist, Educator, Presbyterian Ruling Elder, and Regional Liaison for the Caribbean, World Mission of the PC(USA). Copies will be mailed to FPCB children and families. Copies will also be available by the church office and in the Welcome Center.

DIAPER MINISTRY UPDATE: In October the Diaper Ministry made a donation to the Diaper Bank of NC for the victims of Hurricane Helene. Your generous financial gifts to the diaper ministry were utilized to send \$2,010.00 to help families in Western N.C. with diapers, formula and feminine products! Thank you so much for your generosity!

Christmas Decorations Order Form : Poinsettias (\$32 each) will be in the chancel on December 15. All who donate are welcome to take a poinsettia anytime on/after December 16 to enjoy during the Advent/Christmas season. Donations help to cover the cost of all Advent/Christmas décor.

Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church ("Christmas Decorations" notated in the memo line) Order Deadline is Monday, December 9. Thank you.

In Memory of _____

Donor _____

In Honor of _____

Donor _____

UPCOMING EVENTS!

ANNUAL FRUIT BASKET DELIVERY

First Presbyterian Church has a tradition of delivering fruit baskets to church members during the month of December. The Annual Fruit Basket Delivery will take place on Saturday, December 7.

INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT EVENT – NATIVI-TEA: All ages are cordially invited to the Nativi-Tea Intergenerational Advent Event on **Sunday, December 8 from 9:00-9:45 a.m. in Shive Hall.** Bring your favorite Nativity set(s) from home so it can be enjoyed by others. Explore the Nativity sets in the room and hear the story behind them. Experience a variety of teas, including warm spiced tea, as well as coffee, cocoa, and tea-time treats provided by the Fellowship Team. Hear the history of nativity scenes and, with reflection on the birth narratives in the Gospels, consider the beloved characters we place around the manger each Advent and Christmas season. All are welcome! Bring a friend! Your RSVP will help in our planning (reception@fpcburlington.org or 336-228-1703).

THE FPC LUNCH BUNCH BOOK CLUB will meet on Tuesday, December 10, at 12 noon in the Witherspoon Room for a lively discussion on interesting books we have read but that did not get picked for the 2024-25 “reads list.” Bring one or two from your “stack of books” and/or a favorite Christmas book to share with the group. Let’s all pitch in and offer a title or two to make this a compelling discussion. And, *Yes*, since it’s our Christmas meeting, there will be a little party.

FURNITURE MINISTRY WORKDAY Saturday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m.! Get in the true spirit of Advent by delivering furniture to adults and children right here in our community who are facing Christmas without beds or furniture in their homes. We need folks to load and deliver, to go with the trucks to meet the families, and to help sort and organize donations in the warehouse. Register by emailing (furnmin3@gmail.com) OR just show up slightly before 9:00 a.m. for donuts, coffee and fellowship.

The Furniture Ministry will be closed for Christmas December 23-January 3

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS 2024 marks the 62nd offering of *A Festival of Lessons and Carols* at First Presbyterian Church. Carols of the season, sung by our choirs and congregation, are alternated with scripture lessons read by representatives from our choirs, congregation, and clergy. An ensemble of brass quintet, cello, timpani and organ will accompany the choirs and congregation. Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, December 15 at 5:00 p.m.** (a prelude of carols will begin at 4:30 p.m.). An offering to support the Music Fund will be received.

BLUE CHRISTMAS: A Service for Loss, Healing and Hope – For the most part, Christmas is a time of celebration and joy. For many, however, this is a difficult time of year. Many people carry significant weight: grief, loss, depression, anxiety, stress, uncertainty. The public tone of the season does not resonate with many people’s private experience. Please join us on **Wednesday, December 18 at 11:30 a.m.** for a brief service for reflection, prayer, and music that gives space for all the different experiences we might have in the season. The service will be in the Williams Chapel. You are invited to stay for a simple lunch in Shive Hall. If you are able, please let us know if you will be staying for lunch by Monday, December 16, but all are welcome.

A VERY MERRY FRIENDSHIP GROUP: Christmas time is made for beautiful music: carols, holiday songs, lullabies, and so much more! Join your friends on **Thursday, December 19 at 11:00 a.m. in Shive Hall** for a magical time of music presented by singers from our Chancel Choir and hear the restored Steinway piano for the first time! All followed by a delicious lunch! RSVP by December 16 to pmurphy@fpcburlington.org or call the church office at 336.228.1703.

December 20 - 6:00 p.m. Friday Funday at Hawfields Enchanted Forest (2115B NC Hwy 119S, Mebane). An outside walk-through experience to enjoy lights and beautiful winter & Christmas displays. See Santa & the Grinch! Make crafts and decorate cookies. Great family fun! Cost \$10 per adult (bring 3 cans of food for \$2 off the adult ticket). Cost for children will be covered by the church. Contact Charlotte Nance-Allbright if you plan to attend (callbright@fpcburlington.org)

December 22 - 10:00 a.m. children present a Nativity Tableau during worship. All children (members and non-members) who want to participate must sign up for parts. Contact Charlotte Nance-Allbright (callbright@fpcburlington.org)

CHRISTMAS EVE AT FPCB: All are welcome to worship in the sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24.

This annual candlelight worship service includes communion. Please bring friends and family and join your voices in praise on this most special of days.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Children's Choir – Room 220
5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship – Shive Hall
6:00 p.m. Youth Council – Shive Hall

Monday, December 2

- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Council Meets – Room 122

Tuesday, December 3

- 6:45 a.m. Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study – Witherspoon Room
7:30 a.m. High School Dough Devotions – The Park (S. Church St.)
8:00 a.m. Walk and Talk Breakfast – Cracker Barrel
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting – Room 203
7:00 p.m. BSA Troop 17 Meets – Garrison Joyner Activities Building

Wednesday, December 4

- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study – Witherspoon Room
3:30 p.m. CDC Board Meeting – Room 122
6:00 p.m. Youth Game Night – Shive Hall
6:00 p.m. Pack 17 Meets – Garrison Joyner Activities Building
6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Room 225

Thursday, December 5

- 6:45 a.m. Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study – Witherspoon Room
9:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry – Room 201
4:30 p.m. CDC Holiday Extravaganza – Shive Hall

Friday, December 6

- 5:30 p.m. YoungLife Club Gathers – Garrison Joyner Activities Building

Saturday, December 7

- 9:00 a.m. Annual Fruit Basket Delivery
6:30 p.m. The Pointe Social – The Giles home

A Moment's Meditation



The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.

Frederick Buechner



MATTHEW 25