

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 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**.*

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

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 with love.

Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen,
to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope.

Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth,
to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy.

Mary went to a place called Bethlehem,
to a stable called a nursery,
with a light of love.

As we light our third Advent candle,
we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Love.

The Tuttle Family

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

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN — NO. 105

People, Look East!

BESANÇON

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Living God,

**You beckon us to open our eyes to the goodness of your reign,
the injustice of our world,
and the gap in between.**

You call us to follow in the path of your love.

Forgive us, O God, when we choose the easy way.

**Forgive us, O God, when we choose the selfish way,
the fast way, the successful way, the nice way,
the friendly way, the comfortable way.**

**Convict us, awaken us, empower us, and enliven us
to follow the Way of justice and love.**

We lay before God our own sins, the sins and brokenness of our fellow worshipers, the church universal, and the world.

From Call to Worship, PCUSA

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***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.

***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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Charlotte Belle Chandler Leyden

PRESENTATION

Chan and Cindy Chandler, *Elders*

QUESTIONS TO PARENTS

Ben Leyden and Helen Chandler

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith and teach that faith to your child?

Do you intend your child to be Christ's disciple, to obey his word and show his love?

Do you promise through prayer and example, to support and encourage your child to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ?

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

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

Christian Baptism is the sign and seal of our initiation into the household of faith, and a symbol of inclusion in God's grace and covenant with the Church. In Baptism, we die to what separates us from God and are raised to newness of life in Jesus Christ. Baptism enacts and seals what the Word proclaims: God's redeeming grace offered to God's children of all ages. The Paschal Candle burns at baptisms to signify the Spirit and fire that John the Baptist promised to those who are baptized in Christ.

QUESTIONS TO CONGREGATION

Do you, the members of First Presbyterian Church, in the name of the whole church of Christ, undertake with Ben and Helen the Christian nurture of Charlotte, so that in due time she may confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? Do you?

Will you endeavor by your example and fellowship to strengthen her family ties with the household of God? Will you?

QUESTIONS TO THE CHILDREN

Will you be a friend to Charlotte?

Will you let her know that she is welcome here?

If she gets lost, will you show her the way?

Will you share stories and love of Jesus with her?

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

- The Apostles Creed

**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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION OF CHARLOTTE TO THE FAMILY OF FAITH

PRAYER

WELCOME AND CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Charlotte is now received into the one holy catholic church through baptism. God has made her a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. I charge you to love her and to encourage her to be a faithful disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**With joy and thankfulness, we welcome Charlotte into Christ's church,
for we are all one in Christ.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG

Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,
and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

NATIVITY TABLEAU AND POETRY

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

Will and Katharine Frazier, piano

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: John 1:1-5,14

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING: John 15: 9-12

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Gospel Lights Tour: John (Love)

Dr. Jim Lunde

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE — NO. 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

Our response to hearing God's Word includes singing and saying what we believe.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

O Come, Divine Messiah

James Biery (b. 1956)

Women of the Chancel Choir

Mark Payne, clarinet

O come, Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away.
Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth.
Dispel the night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace,
O come, Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away.

O come, Desired of nations, whom priest and prophet long foretold,
Will break the captive fetters, redeem the long-lost fold.
Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth.
Dispel the night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace,
O come, Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away.

O come, in peace and meekness, for lowly will your cradle be:
Though clothed in human weakness we shall your Godhead see.
Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth.
Dispel the night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace,
O come, Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away.

-Abbe Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, trans. S. Mary of St. Philip

*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 melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all
creatures here below; praise God above, ye heaven-ly
host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN — No. 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Bring a Torch

Richard Ellsasser (1926-1972)

*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.*

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

A Moment's Meditation



Listen to the long stillness. New life is stirring. New dreams are on the wing. New hopes are being readied; Humankind is fashioning a new heart; Humankind is forging a new mind; God is at work. This is the season of Promise. - Howard Thurman

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 22

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Reception in Honor of The Reverend Carrie Tuttle — Shive Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Holiday Party — The Vincent's Home

Monday, December 23

- 8:30 a.m. ACAC Team B Serves at Allied Churches

Tuesday, December 24

- 4:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship Service — Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 25—Friday, December 27

FPCB Facilities Closed

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 at 336-228-1703 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 Advent banner has been designed and created by Carolyn Langley.

CHANCEL FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in honor of Rev. Carrie Tuttle with love and appreciation for her ministry at FPC Burlington by Bibby and David Pinson.

RECEPTION FOR REV. CARRIE TUTTLE

Join us following worship today in Shive Hall for a reception celebrating The Rev. Carrie Tuttle's ministry here at First Presbyterian Church. Come say farewell and express gratitude for Carrie's time here at First Pres as we wish her well in this next season!

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!



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.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: A PC(USA) SPECIAL OFFERING

It is a tradition that touches the lives of so many. The Sunday before Christmas, the PC(USA) invites us to join in receiving the Christmas Joy Offering, a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. We will continue this tradition today during our 10:00 am worship service when we will receive the Special Offering in addition to our regular tithes. Thank you for giving.

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.