

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 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**.*

Liturgy is sourced from: *Call to Worship*, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion* (Westminster John Knox Press)

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

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

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 for peace.

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord."

A choir sings in the silence,

"Come, Emmanuel."

Every valley shall be filled.

Every heart shall be made whole,

for peace is stronger than turmoil,
and love is louder than hate.

As we light our second Advent candle,

we pray for the holy peace of God.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Peace.

The Wisner Family

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN – NO. 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Refining God, you have sent us prophets
and we have not listened.

We have not always determined what is best
or made way for your reign
in our lives, our church, and our community.

Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us,
that we might be ambassadors of your peaceful reign.

Through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

*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**

***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

STORY TELLING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING: Matthew 1:1-6, 17

Large Print Pew Bible, page 1
Pew Bible, page 1

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

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.

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

ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Chancel Choir

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein.
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their All.

-Revelation 22, adapted by Ruth Manz

SECOND READING: Matthew 1:18-25; 2:13-15

Large Print Pew Bible, pages 1-2

Pew Bible, pages 1 and 2

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: Gospel Lights Tour: Matthew (Peace)

Dr. Jim Lunde

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN OF RESPONSE – NO. 86**

The People Who Walked in Darkness

ISAIAH 9

***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.

CONFIRMANDS RECEIVE BIBLES

Nathan Clark

Daniel Doss

Nora Fisher

Griffin Inman

Margaret Parker

Jeremiah Richardson

Madeline Vann

Caroline Vincent

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

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

Comfort, Comfort

setting by John Ferguson (b. 1941)

Chancel Choir

“Comfort, comfort now my people; Tell of peace!” So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness Mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim That God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald’s voice is crying In the desert far and near.
Calling all to true repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him, And the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, And the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord Now on earth is shed abroad.
And all flesh shall see the token That God’s word is never broken.

-Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684), translated by Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878)

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly
host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*Pennies for
Hunger Offering is
being received
today. The
collection is sent to
Salem Presbytery
where it is then
divided and
returned to local
food ministries.*

*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.*

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN – NO. 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Robert Lind

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



A Moment's Meditation

You find peace not by rearranging the circumstances of your life but by realizing who you are at the deepest level.

- Eckhart Tolle

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.

CHANCEL FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in honor of Carrie Tuttle by Bob and Penny Lewis, David, Ann Bradey, Lenoir and Bennett Sapp and Patrick, Virginia and Lewis Cable.

NARTHEX FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and memory of Edith Ann Carter by her family.

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 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!

THE MOUNTAINS ARE CALLING... Let's go SERVE together!

2025 FPC Service Retreat

February 28-March 2, 2025

Montreat, NC at the William Black Lodge

We have already done some wonderful brainstorming about the intergenerational congregational retreat as we move forward, but it makes the most sense to help Western NC AND to not pull out of our use of the William Black Lodge—all who need our support in this time.

Registration will be first-come, first-registered with a deadline of Monday, December 16 at reception@fpcburlington.org or call the office 336-228-1703.

\$50 NON-refundable deposit is due PER PERSON to reserve your space.

**you can write a check or use tithley on the fpc website*

Total cost for the weekend (food & lodging):

Single Room=\$200

Sharing (couple or two twins)=\$300

**please note that we have financial aid available for anyone who can't quite cover these costs*

Questions?

Carrie Tuttle ctuttle@fpcburlington.org

Charlotte Nance-Allbright callbright@fpcburlington.org

Ami Hill or Becky Wagoner (logistics team!)

UPCOMING EVENTS!

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.

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 _____

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 8

- 9:00 a.m. Natividad Tea—Shive Hall
- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir — Room 220
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class — Room 122
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship and Supper — Shive Hall

Monday, December 9

- 11:00 a.m. PW Circle #2 Gathers at the Home of Jo Grimley
- Noon Furniture Ministry Meets — Room 228
- 6:00 p.m. Joint Meeting of Officers and Covered-Dish Supper — Shive Hall

Tuesday, December 10

- 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.)
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting — Room 203
- Noon Lunch Bunch Book Club — Witherspoon Room
- 1:00 p.m. PW Circle #4 Gathers for Lunch at Prego's
- 3:00 p.m. CDC Board Meeting — Room 122
- 6:00 p.m. PW Circle #1 Gathers for Supper at Angelina's Cafe
- 7:00 p.m. BSA Troop 17 Meets — Garrison Joyner Activities Building

Wednesday, December 11

- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study — Witherspoon Room
- 6:00 p.m. Pack 17 Meets — Garrison Joyner Activities Building
- 6:00 p.m. Brass Rehearsal — Sanctuary
- 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Room 225

Thursday, December 12

- 6:45 a.m. Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study — Witherspoon Room
- 9:30 a.m. Andrews Snack Packing — Witherspoon Room
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry — Room 201

Saturday, December 14

- 9:00 a.m. Furniture Ministry Workday



MATTHEW 25