



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Telephone: (336) 993-7358 • Fax: (336) 993-5526 • www.fpckernersville.org

December 24 — *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: *We are that people. Christ is that light.*

Leader: Let heaven and nature sing.

People: *Sing praises to the God who loves us.*

Leader: Let every heart prepare him room.

People: *We are here to prepare to receive Christ in our lives right now.*

*HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" No. 113

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Tincher Family

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(The prayer continues in a time of silent, personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The saying is true and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. Friends, believe the good news.

People: *In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Please share a sign of peace with others.

*GLORIA PATRI

ANTHEM

THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-20

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SERMON

"The Innkeeper's Story"

Dan Wilkers

SENDING

*HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

No. 119

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERINGS

The Discretionary Fund is collected each Christmas Eve to benefit those who are in need. This Fund is one way in which the love and compassion of Christ can be communicated to the poor and the needy of our community. (For a complete description, see the back of the bulletin.)

*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Words of Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Sharing God's Gifts (receive by intinction)

Communion Prayer

SHARING OF THE LIGHT

(When lighting the candles, please take the unlit candle to the lit candle. This will eliminate the possibility of getting hot wax on your skin.)

*HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

No. 122

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING TONIGHT

Ushers: Rusty Sudderth, Lynda Self

Element Prep: Nancy Bolen

Assisting Elder: Nancy Bolen

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Discretionary Fund Description

The Discretionary Fund is collected each Christmas Eve to benefit those in the community and the church who are in need. These funds are used to meet the basic necessities of life. Many have needed assistance with paying utility bills, or making rent. In the past it has even been used to replace a car radiator of a visitor from out of town who needed to get back home and simply didn't have the cash or a credit card to pay for the repairs.

Those seeking help must be interviewed. Rarely, if ever, is cash given out. Usually identification is requested and paper copies of any outstanding bills are required. Those needing help will be asked if they have family or friends that can help them. It is also the policy of this church to help only those who live in the Kernersville community. The money given here for the fund should be used for the local residents. Typically, people are also asked if they have a church home. If they do, the church they mention is either called or they are referred back to their home church for help.

It is also standard procedure to ask the person seeking help to meet with Crisis Control first. When Crisis Control is open we usually compare notes with the agency and determine if Crisis Control can help them, if they have been helped or where they might apply for help elsewhere.

It is always a judgment call on what to do. If there are children living at home and endangered by a lack of heat, they will usually be helped in some way. It is better to error on the side of being taken advantage of than to endanger children. The Discretionary Fund is one way in which the love and compassion of Christ can be communicated to the poor and the needy of our community. Thank you for your past support!