



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

December 17, 2017 — *Third Sunday of Advent*

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Evans Family

Leader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's joy.

People: *Knowing that Christ is coming, to bring healing and wholeness to the world, is a source of genuine delight!*

Leader: When we gather for worship it is a celebration, an opportunity to rejoice in all that God is doing among us and beyond us.

People: *Our lives are marked by laughter and friendship, as we love our neighbors with wide smiles and open arms.*

Leader: Even when we face difficulty and trouble we sing a song of faith, confident that Jesus is able to redeem our suffering world.

People: *Together, we are a sign of God's joy for the world.*

(THE LITURGISTS WILL NOW LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLES)

Leader: Let us pray:

People: *God of transformation, we rejoice that you lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things. We marvel at your power to change hearts and lives. Fill us with your Spirit this season so*

MUSICAL RESPONSE

"Light a Candle for All to See" - Joy ~L. Larson

Please sing when directed

(Sing the echo)

Light a candle for all to see. *(Light a candle for all to see.)*

The King shall come for you and me. *(The King shall come for you and me.)*

Boundless joy: Emmanuel. *(Boundless joy: Emmanuel.)*

And with us He shall ever dwell. *(And with us He shall ever dwell.)*

(All sing)

Emmanuel: God with us, King of kings and Lord of lords!

Come fill our hearts with Your joy and reign forevermore.

*HYMN

"Joy to the World"

No. 134

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, we confess that we have not recognized you in our midst nor listened for your voice. Our faith is fragile, and our iniquity goes unrecognized amid our self-concern. We have lived as if we have no need to account for the life we have been given. Our church is focused more on our own survival than on its mission in the world. We come to you today with sincere repentance for our neglect. We have failed to prepare the way for Christ's entry into our everyday environment. Pardon and change us, we pray. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God speaks tenderly to us and assures us that our debt has been paid, our sins forgiven, our paths made straight. God's glory is waiting to burst into the midst of all who accept the good news. Surely our salvation is at hand. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. Friends, believe the good news...

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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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.

ANTHEM

"Celebrate the Joy"

Laura White, Soprano
Pat Hill, Alto

SPECIAL MUSIC

"O Little Town of Bethlehem and O Come, All Ye Faithful"

THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Isaiah 40:1-11

Matthew 1:18-19

SERMON

"Faith to Show Mercy"

Rev. John Pruitt

*Those who are able, please stand.

*Those who are able, please stand.

SENDING

***HYMN** *“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”* No. 129

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *“The Apostles' Creed”* Hymnal p. 35

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN** *“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”* No. 132

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Serving Today (Dec 17)

Greeters: Becky Collins, Burch Idol
Ushers: Dale Watts, Faye Hodges
Lay Reader: Dottie Roudabush

Serving Next Sunday Morning (Dec 24)

Greeters: TBD
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: TBD

Serving Next Sunday Evening (Dec 24)

Greeters: TBD
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Element Prep: TBD
Assisting Elders: TBD

*Those who are able, please stand.