

GOOD MORNING! We welcome each of you to this service of worship and we are glad you are here. We invite you to fill out the Welcome card found in the pew rack and place the card in the offering plate, so we can welcome you further and start to get to know you better.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES		
Today (12/15)	9:30a 10:30a	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Sunday School Worship Service
Mon (12/16)	9:00a 9:00a	Bulletin Information Due Website Information Due
Wed (12/18)	9:00a 7:00p	WW Meeting (Weight Watchers) Choir Rehearsal
Thu (12/19)	2:00p	W&M Committee Meeting
Fri (12/20)		Church Offices Closed
Sun (12/22)	9:30a 10:30a	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Sunday School Worship Service

Financial Update can be found on the bulletin board.

	Dec 1 - 9, 2024	Jan 1 - Dec 9, 2024
Income/Expense		
Income	5,860.00	138,557.36
Expense	1,545.61	135,177.54
Net Income	4,314.39	3,379.82

Donations: Just a reminder that all 2024 tax deductible donations must be received by Sunday, December 29, 2024

Pennies for Hunger: Don't forget to drop your pennies in the "Hunger" pail located in the Narthex.

Dollars-For-Missions: All loose dollar bills placed in the collection plates will be earmarked for mission work—divided between FPC Mission Team and a Salem Presbytery mission.

Blessing Box: Please continue to support the Blessing Box. It is being visited quite frequently and because of this we are in need of the following:

- ◆ Canned Vegetables
 - Green Beans
- ◆ Canned Pasta
- ◆ Canned Soup
- ◆ Canned Meat
 - Tuna, Chicken, Beef Stew, etc.
- ◆ Boxed Pasta
 - Mac & Cheese, Hamburger Helper, etc.
- ◆ Dry Pasta / Pasta Sauce
- ◆ Ramen Noodles
- ◆ Instant Potatoes, Pasta and Rice Mixes
- ◆ Other Non-perishable Foods



First Presbyterian Church

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Rev. John Pruitt, Pastor

Jane Johnson, Secretary

Stan Stigall, Music Director

December 15, 2024 — Third Sunday of Advent

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Joy Budkey and Jim Ingram

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

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

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

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

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

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

(At this time, The Advent Candle will be lit.)

One: Let us pray:

All: *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 that your Good News is not an old story but a fresh truth lived out every day through the power of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*HYMN NO. 132

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

IN DULCI JUBILO

*You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

What shall we do, O God? We can never do enough to deserve your love. We confess that we are not always truthful. We have defaced the purity of your love for us. We have embraced ugliness and oppression rather than loveliness and grace. We have distorted your cries for justice in order to benefit ourselves. We have given less than our best to others and to you. Forgive us, we pray. *(The prayer continues in a time of silent, personal confession.)*

Amen.

RESPONSE

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God has taken away the judgments against us. The evil we have feared cannot triumph. The enemies we have harbored in our own souls will no longer oppress us. Disasters we have experienced are not the last word. God restores us to the family, welcomes us with open arms, and strengthens us for each day's challenges. Praise God, give thanks, and let the world know of God's marvelous deeds. Friends, believe the good news...

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

*RESPONSE

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

All: And also with you.

(Please share a sign of peace with others.)

ANTHEM

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Luke 3:7-18

SERMON

"What Then Should We Do?"

Rev. John Pruitt

SENDING

***HYMN NO. 145**

"What Child Is This"

GREENSLEEVES

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.

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

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN NO. 134**

"Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Serving Today (Dec 15)

Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Sharp, Ellen Watts

Serving Next Sunday (Dec 22)

Greeters/Ushers: Linda Volcek, Skip Smith

*You may stand in body or spirit.

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