

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.



First Presbyterian Church

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

Rev. John Pruitt, Pastor

Jane Johnson, Secretary

Stan Stigall, Music Director

December 22, 2024—Fourth Sunday of Advent

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSION “Angels from the Realms of Glory” (verses 1-3) **CHOIR**

GATHERING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Ken & Val Haynes

One: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God’s love.

All: *Soon we will welcome the beautiful and radical love of God as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.*

One: We embrace our identity as beloved children and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

All: *In our homes and in our church we offer warm hospitality by welcoming those we don’t know, those who are in need, and those who are different from us.*

One: We demonstrate our care for creation in real and tangible ways through the products we buy, the food we eat, and the way we live every day.

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

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

One: Let us pray:

All: *God of extravagant generosity, in Jesus we discover the depth of your care and the lengths you will go to save us. Forgive us when we ignore the needy, trample your creation and refuse to share all that we receive from you. Teach us to love our neighbors, caring for each other in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

***HYMN** “The First Noel” (verses 1 & 2) **ALL**

***HYMN** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (verses 1 & 4) **ALL**

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Today (12/22)	9:30a 10:30a	Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday School Worship Service
Mon (12/23)		Church Offices Closed
Tue (12/24)	3:00p	Church Offices Closed Christmas Eve Candlelight Service <i>The Sacrament of Communion</i>
Wed (12/25)		Christmas Day Church Offices Closed
Thu (12/26)		Church Offices Closed
Fri (12/27)		Church Offices Closed
Sun (12/29)	9:30a 10:30a 2:00p	Sunday School Worship Service Private Party

Financial Update can be found on the bulletin board.

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

*You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, in whom all things are possible, we confess that we have doubted what we cannot explain. We have sought strength and enjoyment apart from you. We have taken pride in ownership more than giving praise through stewardship. We have neglected to thank you, either in good times or when you have supported us during days of uncertainty. We have resisted the newness you offer. Forgive us, we pray, for installing ourselves as reigning deities. Lead us, rather, in paths of trust and obedience. Pardon and change 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 does not turn away from steadfast love, even when we are unfaithful. The Rock of our salvation keeps covenant with us despite our iniquity. God's mercy is for all who humbly seek it. If we have chosen to receive forgiveness and to move away from self absorption, we will understand God's pardon and live joyously within it. Friends, believe the good news...

All: *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

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

All: *And also with you.*

(Please share a sign of peace with others.)

SOLO

"O Holy Night"

Ken Haynes

THE WORD

SERMON IN SONG

"Joy to the World!" (verses 1, 3 & 4)

CHOIR

"What Child Is This?" (all verses)

CHOIR

"O Come All Ye Faithful" (verses 1, 4 & 5)

CHOIR

"Silent Night"

Solo, Stan Stigall

*"Go Tell It on the Mountain" (all verses)

ALL

SENDING

*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

SOLO

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

Kitty Thach

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Serving Today (Dec 22)

Greeters/Ushers: Linda Volcek, Skip Smith

Serving Next Sunday (Dec 24 — Christmas Eve)

Greeters/Ushers: Mike Polinsky, Skip Smith
Element Prep: Nancy Bolen, Wanda Sampson
Assisting Elders: Nancy Bolen, Rich Tincher,
Skip Smith, Mike Polinsky

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