

**Morning Worship
December 16, 2018
3rd Sunday of Advent**

We Gather in God's Name

Greeting Mac McCall

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *Joy To The World*

Dell

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Joy Candle)

Long Family

Choral Response *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

Prayer

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid, for the LORD is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

Sing praises to the LORD, for God has done glorious things!

*Hymn 87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

Call to Confession Jack McLeod

In every season, we can rejoice that we are always in the care and presence of our loving God, especially in the chaotic excitement of Advent, when the stresses of life cloud our vision. Right now and still again, God calls us to be assured of the great love that is ours in Christ. Let's join our voices in our Prayer of Confession.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, during this season of anticipation, we confess that we busy ourselves with many preparations and neglect preparing our hearts for your coming. Our relationships with you and our neighbors are wounded. We have failed to love as you love us. We do not always live in the joy of the Good News of Jesus Christ, whose coming we both celebrate and await. Forgive us, and mend what is broken. Open unto us light for our darkness, courage for our fear, strength for our weakness, compassion for our apathy. Prepare our hearts to receive Christ, who brings us hope in our despair, peace in our turmoil, joy in our sorrow, and love in our loneliness.

(time for silent confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness Jack McLeod

Hear these words of comfort from the prophet Isaiah: "Surely God is our salvation; We will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is our strength and our might; God has become our salvation." Friends, God has become our salvation, indeed! Open yourselves to the joy to be found in our forgiveness; never more are we to be held captive by that which seeks to tear us from God. Hear the Good News of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Holy Interruption *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

Children's Sermon

Mac McCall

Preschool-Kindergarten age children are dismissed to the Pray n' Play program held in the room beside the church nursery in the main Church building. Children who are in the 1st grade and higher should return to their seats in the congregation.

Prayers of the People (concluding with 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.

We Respond to God's Love

Offering Invitation

Offertory *"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us*

J. S. Bach

* Praise of God *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee

Prayer of Dedication

We Receive God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 12: 2-6

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *The Advent of Hope, The Birth of Peace*

Lau/Andrews

Mr. Mac McCall, Director

Mr. Randy Jewart, Soloist

Mrs. Barbara Dickson, Organist

Ms. Marietta M. Burch, Narrator

Come, Thou Long- Expected Jesus

Congregation

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art:

Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to the World

Congregation:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;

Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing, an heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

(Verse 2 Choir)

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,

And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

God's Best Gift

Jesus Christ Is Born Today

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Congregation:

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the king of angels.

O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come let us adore him Christ the Lord.

(Verse 2 Choir)

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation!

Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!

Glory to God, glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

* Benediction and Sending

Congregation Response: *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!

Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

* Postlude *Tell Out My Soul*

Manz

Usher/Greeter Team for December

Douglas Anderson and Avery Dickson

Prayer List as of December 16, 2018

Dee Pierce

Anne Bryan

Gerry Rogers

Jack Baker

Residents at Presbyterian Communities of SC

Artha Sompayrac – Summerville

B. J. Moore - Summerville

Copies of the **extended prayer list** (which includes non-members) can be obtained by calling the church office.

To be a good steward of God's blessings, please help "fill the wagon" for the McArn Community Ministry. The red wagon will be in the narthex every Sunday. Thanks for your generosity!

The Church This Week (12/16/2018)

Today	9:30 a.m.	Coffee/Fellowship
	10:00 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Youth
Mon.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
Wed.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
	3:00 p.m.	Fun Program
	6:00 p.m.	Adult Choir
Sun.	9:30 a.m.	Coffee/Fellowship
	10:00 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

Nursery/Pray N' Play

Dec. 16	Maylen Harris
Dec. 23	Sadie Smith
Dec. 30	Shelley Morgan

All **pledges and/or contributions** to First Presbyterian Church must be turned in by **Sunday, December 30th for year ending 2018**. Also, any checks that need to be written for 2018 expenses must be turned in by Sunday, December 30, 2018.

During this season, we hear "the good news of great joy" that was proclaimed to the shepherds and transformed their fear to joy. We live with the anticipation that once again the spirit of Christmas will be born in our hearts. Our hope is that the love of God made known to us as the child of Bethlehem will be a reality in our lives and in the world. One way in which the PC (USA) shares this is through the Christmas Joy Offering. One half of this supports Presbyterian related ethnic schools and colleges. The Assistance program of the Board of Pensions receives the other half of the offering and uses it to assist pastors, missionaries, and church workers in special need. We will collect our annual **Christmas Joy Offering** this morning during Worship.

The Spirit of Giving

In the Narthex of our Church hangs a large green Christmas tree. This is a very special tree, for it offers you the opportunity to share the true spirit of Christmas – the "Spirit of giving" – with other members of our Church family in a very meaningful way. By making a donation to the "Christmas Joy Special Offering", in lieu of sending Christmas cards to Church friends, you will be wishing them a joyous holiday season while proving financial support to the Presbyterian's Board of Pension and Racial Ethnic Presbyterian Schools. A monetary donation to First Presbyterian Church (marked Joy Tree) will place an ornament on this tree with your family's name on it. What a good way to share your Good Tidings of great Joy, Peace on Earth and Goodwill to others.

The Giving Ministry Team would like to remind you the **Stewardship Campaign** will again take place during the month of January. The campaign will kick-off on January 6, 2019 and end on January 27 with commitment Sunday and a celebration lunch. Our theme for this year is "Abundant Joy, Overflowing Generosity".

The Church Staff

	, Pastor	Mr. Mac McCall, DCE & Director of Choirs
Mrs. Carolyn S. West, Secretary		Mrs. Barbara C. Dickson, Church Organist
Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton		Mrs. Kim Brabham, Director MMO
Mrs. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper		Mrs. Sally Powell, MMO
Mrs. Mary Gulledege, Mrs. Debra Jewart, Nursery		Mrs. Debra Jewart, MMO

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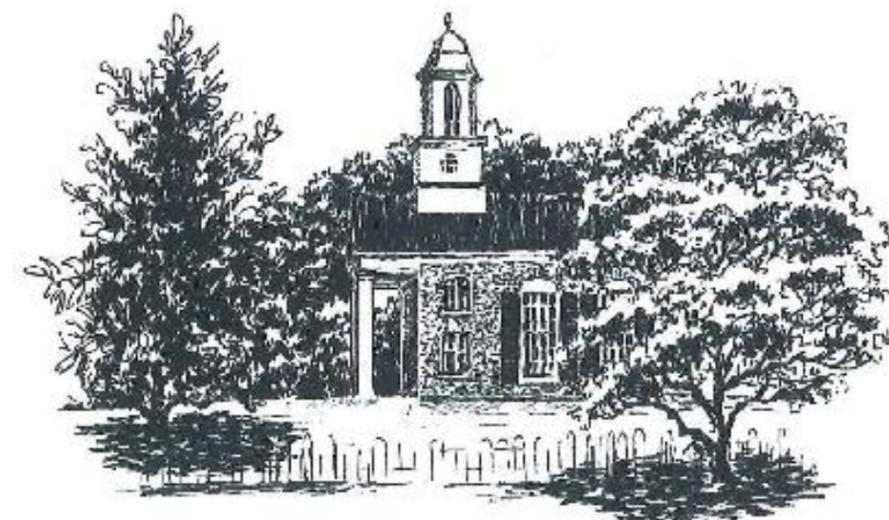
Email: info@firstprescheraw.org

First Presbyterian Church

Cheraw, South Carolina

Our Vision

**Rooted by God's Grace,
Growing in the Spirit,
Reaching Out with Christ's Love**



Our Mission

**By the Grace of God, we are rooted in Christ through love.
We grow in the Spirit by worshipping, by studying,
and by cultivating relationships with Christ and others.
As stewards of God's gifts and affirming our faith
in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior,
we share God's Mission of reaching out
with Christ's Love.**

Missionaries

Mr. Mark Hare/ Mrs. Jenny Bent Hare *Haiti* Mr. and Mrs. Alan Smith *Germany/Russia*