

**Morning Worship
December 23, 2018
4th Sunday of Advent**

We Gather in God's Name

Greeting Bill Malloy
The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep* Wyton

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (Love Candle) Hydrick Family

Choral Response *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

Prayer

God of hope, God of peace,
God of joy, and God of love,
Teach us how to love one another
As reflections of your light in the world.
**God of promise, God of love,
Into our darkness come.**

*Call to Worship

My soul magnifies the Lord;
my Spirit rejoices in God our Savior.
The Mighty One has done great things.
**Holy is God's name!
Let us worship God!**

*Prayer of the Day

God, our light and our salvation, you bring hope and peace to the lowly and oppressed. Let us see the world through your eyes that we may love the widow and orphan, that we may work for justice, that our lives may bear witness to the good news of the kingdom at hand; through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Hymn 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Call to Confession

Happy are those whose help is the Lord. Let us seek God's help as we confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace and love you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

(Time for silent confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, be confident in this: God forgives all our sins and promises to bring us to everlasting life. Hear and believe the good news...

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*

We Receive God's Word

Children's Sermon

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.

Mary Anderson

Anthem *Come, Lord of Love*

Page/Shafferman

Love came down to us at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born to us at Christmas; star and angel gave the sign.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Love divine.

Love will be our token at Christmas, Love be yours and love be mine.
Love to God and love to others, love will be our gift and sign.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, love the sign.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord of Love!

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson Micah 5:2-5a

Gospel Lesson Luke 1:39-55

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Tripp Brogdon

“Mary's Song”

We Respond to God's Word

* Hymn 100 *My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout*

* Declaration of Faith (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

**Gloria Patri* (hymn 581)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

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.

Offering Invitation

Offertory *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* Burkhardt

* 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 Depart in God's Name

* Hymn 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

* Benediction and Sending

* Choral Response *Blest Be the God of Israel*

* Postlude *The King Shall Come* Burkhardt

We **welcome** Tripp Brogdon to the pulpit this morning. Tripp was born and raised not so far down the road in Sumter, SC, where he served and worshipped at his home congregation of First Presbyterian Church. He is a recent graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA and is a Candidate for Ministry in the PC(USA) under the care of the Presbytery of New Harmony.

Usher/Greeter Team for December

Douglas Anderson and Avery Dickson

