

First Presbyterian Church

November 27, 2022

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WE ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

**Rise in body or in spirit...(as indicated below)*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fantasia on Veni Emmanuel

Alec Rowley

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

One: Those who wait for the LORD shall renew
their strength,

The Chimes

Isaiah 40:31

All: **They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk
and not faint.**

CHORAL INTROIT (Hymnal 102 & 106, v.1 of each)

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*CALL TO WORSHIP: Hymn 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

(first verse canted alone; congregation joins in verses 2 and 3)

*OPENING PRAYER 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.**

*OPENING HYMN 336

We Gather Together

KREMSER

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your
presence as your children. We know that Mary accepted your call to be the
mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will. We know your Son,
our Savior, was born in poverty in a manger. Forgive our greed and rejection
of your ways. We know the shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision. We know the magi followed the
star to find Jesus, the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you. We have
sinned. Forgive and heal us. In the name of Christ, we pray.**

- A Moment for Silent Confession -

*ADVENT KYRIE (Hymnal 579)

KYRIE ELEISON

1. Lord, have mercy. 2. Christ have mercy 3. Lord, have mercy.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*ADVENT RESPONSE (Hymnal 93, v.3)

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.

Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:

*(All Children through 2nd grade are welcome in Children's Church
with Ms. Kara after the Advent Candle Lighting)*

Congregational Refrain: *Light One Candle*

Light one candle for Hope.

One bright candle for Hope.

Christ brings hope to every heart.

He comes; He comes.

ANTHEM

Keep Your Lamps!

Spiritual/arr. Andre Thomas

Iris Rose, soprano

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mathew 25:1-11

(Pew Bible, P. 26)

THE SERMON

“Advent Waiting...in the delay”

Rev. Dr. William C. Pender

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*ADVENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Advent Credo (*Adapted from Daniel Berrigan*)

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction
and loss. This is true:

***For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that
whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.***

(John 3:16)

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger
and poverty, death and destruction. This is true:

I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly. (John 10:10)

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war
and destruction rule forever. This is true:

***Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government
shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.***

(Isaiah 9:6)

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule
the world. This is true:

***To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo, I am with you,
even until the end of the world.*** (Matthew 28:16)

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are
the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers. This is true:

***I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your children shall prophesy,
your youth shall see visions and your elders shall have dreams.***

(Acts 2:17)

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of
human dignity, of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history.

This is true:

***The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship
God in spirit and in truth.*** (John 4:23)

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of
love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith,
with courage: Jesus Christ, the life of the world.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Johannes Brahms

*RESPONSE: *The Doxology*

LASST UNS EFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*CLOSING HYMN 97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

[sung antiphonally, left and right sides of congregation, as directed]

*ADVENT DEPARTING TO WAIT

Who is coming?

Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God

Who waits?

We are waiting with all who trust in God's redeeming love.

When will He come?

When we are ready to receive Him.

How shall we prepare?

We look...for the Light.

We listen...for God's call.

We change...our hearts, our homes, our lives.

We remember...the story.

We give...to others.

We love...and share God's love with all.

Go forth with God's blessing. Wait, with expectation, the coming of Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymnal 106, v.1)

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the Way; O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory; foretold in sacred story.

O best is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

*ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Savior of the Nations, Come

J. S. Bach

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given by the Janicke Family to the Glory of
God and in thankfulness for our church family.*

Worship Care Today: Caroline Allen **Dec 4:** Diane Hicks
Extraordinary Children Today: Sheri Pender **Dec 4:** Volunteer needed
Acolyte(s) Today: Elizabeth Roberson, Ann Lowry Faircloth
Acolytes(s) Dec 4: JoJo Zelinski, Michael Green

Please remember the following in prayer: Health Concerns: Worth Kendall, Mary Tice, Audrey Moore, Alvane Deal, Shirley Burton, Izzy Brooks, Ashley Kay, Beth Easley, Rev. Dr. Mark Verdery, George White, Will Read, Susan Read, Gene Black's niece, and Lena Hopkins.

Christmas Post Office: The Christmas Post Office begins **today through December 18th**. The youth will be happy to organize and post your cards for a suggested donation of 25 cents per card.

Help for HOPE: Thank you for your generous contributions of macaroni and cheese during the month of November. Our total was 182 packages! The clients of Project HOPE will certainly be appreciative and enjoy the macaroni and cheese. On behalf of the Missions and Outreach Committee, thank you for continued support for this very worthwhile mission.

Our Extraordinary Children Need You! We are excited our Extraordinary Children Classroom is open. We need a volunteer to assist York School District One Special Education teacher, Mary Gump, each Sunday. Contact Tara Park for details if interested in helping. Training will be provided.

Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Monday, December 5th in Hopkins Hall. Register to give blood at www.redcrossblood.org. Contact Kara to volunteer for a two hour shift as we help host.

Christmas Dinner - Sunday, December 18th at 5:00pm. Your RSVP is kindly requested by Dec. 4th. Fill out a pew card to let us know your family will be attending. Bring a side and/or a dessert to share, Fellowship Committee will provide the rest.

Poinsettias: We are accepting orders for poinsettias in honor or in memory of friends and loved ones until December 4th. Order forms are available in the narthex and can be dropped in the offering plate or left in Joanne's box (#33). Please include payment.

Basketball Registration: Basketball sign-ups are closed for all ages except Bidy 7 and under. If you are a church member who still needs to sign up or has questions, please call, text, or email Eric Park, our FPC Basketball Coordinator.

Moving Ahead in Hope: Many thanks to all who have returned their pledge cards. Members still considering their pledge may return their card in the offering plate or by mail.

Simplest Option: Go to the church website, click GIVE, and follow directions for a confidential communication directly to Robyn Brown, our Financial Secretary.

The Youth will gather for lunch to wrap up our Bible Study of Joseph's life, a mission experience, & ice skating if desired on Sunday, December 4th. Contact Kara to RSVP.

Advent Devotions: Printed Advent devotions are on the round table in the narthex. If you would like to receive the daily devotion by email, let Kara know.

Plastic Trays looking for a good home! Leftover Christmas trays available in Hopkins Hall this morning. Look for one you like and take it home...or take it to a friend along with a Christmas goodie!

The Property and Fellowship Committees will sponsor a **"Get the Kitchen Spic & Span"** workday on November 30th at 9:30am to get everything ready for Christmas and a **"Clean out the Closets"** workday on January 18th at 9:30am to clean up and clean out the table linen closet and the Children's "Izzy" Library closet, followed by a delicious soup lunch. If you would like to help, just show up and we'll put you to work. Contact Ann Hunsucker.

November - Deacons of the Month
Diane Bailey, Tom Hickman, Freeman Sturgis

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, November 27

Christmas Post Office open
9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am Officer Training
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
12:15 pm Ladies Out to Lunch

Tuesday, November 29

9:00 am Walking Group
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise/Yoga Class

Thursday, December 1

9:00 am Walking Group
3:00 pm Yarns of Love
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise/Yoga Class

Sunday, December 4

Christmas Post Office open
9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
12:15 pm Ladies Out to Lunch
12:00 pm Youth Lunch/Mission/Ice Skating
4:30 pm Cherub Choir
4:30 pm Handbell Choir

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Office Staff and Contact Information

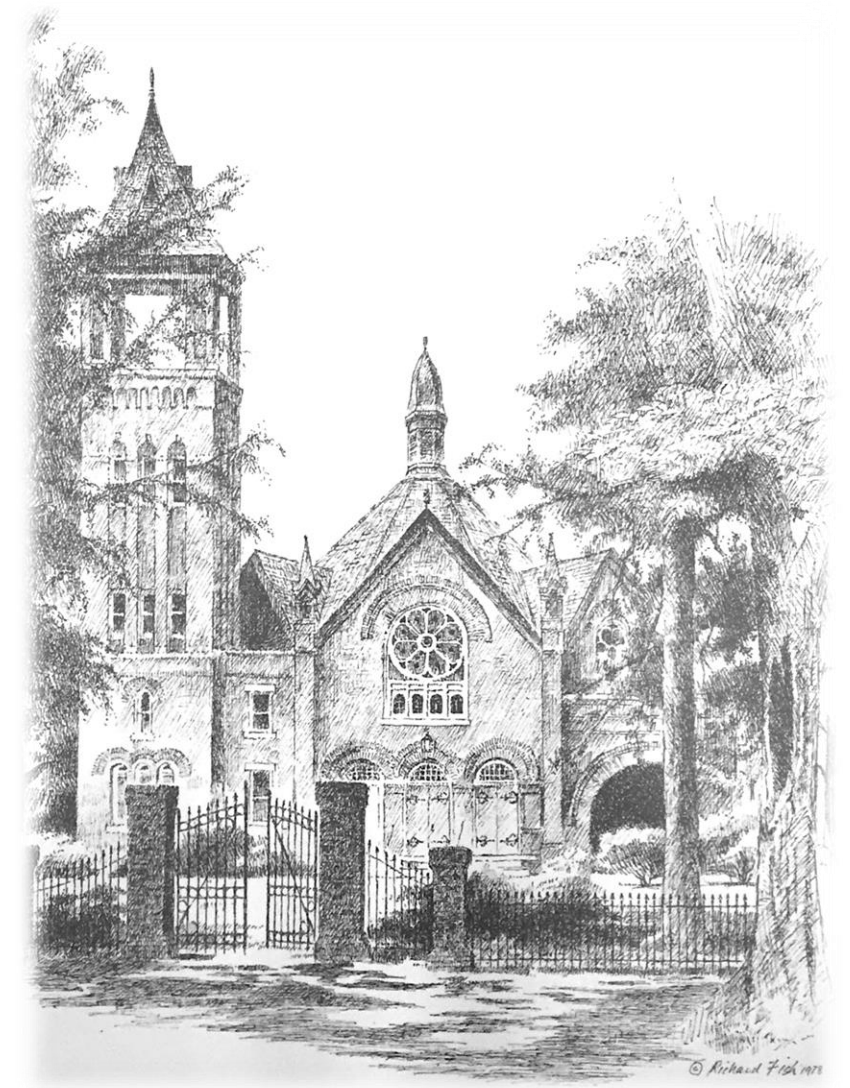
Joanne Stogner - Administrative Assistant

Robyn Brown - Financial Secretary

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First Presbyterian Church

234 East Main Street
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730
Organized 1869

We are a diverse family of believers in Jesus Christ, who seek to glorify God by celebrating and sharing God's renewing and transforming love as we:

Worship the living God with joy and thanksgiving
Teach the Word of God to deepen our faith and grow in our love of Christ
Serve others through sharing our unique gifts of the Holy Spirit
Fellowship with one another to energize our life together as a congregation
Nurture and Embrace all of God's children.

Rev. Dr. William C. Pender - Interim Pastor
Rev. Kara Wheeler - Director of Family Ministries
Dr. Donald M. Rogers - Director of Music
M. L. Marley - Organist
Angela Harris - Director of Cherub Choir
Ashley Platts - Director of Handbell Choir