

The Service of Worship
Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021
11:00 a.m.

Trinity Chime

Opening Voluntary

Prelude on "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Gordon Phillips

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Karen Ware Jackson

***Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle**

A voice calls out in the wilderness.

It sings of a home for all. It speaks of justice and peace.

We could choose to ignore it.

We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.

Instead, we come into this space.

We let the world grow quiet. We listen.

A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?

We hear it. In listening, we worship.

Today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of joyful. Rest in that good news. Let it wash over you.

We open our hearts to the joy God offers through Jesus Christ. Let us worship the Lord!

***Hymn**

#96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

***Call to Confession**

Melissa Nasea

“Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.” We have declared in song that we all desire to open our hearts to Christ. Being completely vulnerable and honest—even with God—about our words and actions can be a daunting prospect. But God calls us to confess those times when we miss the mark, and promises to remain faithful no matter how many times we need to try again.

***Prayer of Confession**

God, we confess that like the first people, we attempt to conceal our shortcomings from you. Instead of relying on your promises, we measure our worth in worldly terms. You tell us to share what we have with others, but we accumulate goods and wealth for ourselves. You tell us to seek justice, but we look the other way when things get uncomfortable. You tell us to love our neighbor, but we quarrel over who exactly, our neighbor is. Patient, forgiving Lord, as we silently lift our individual confessions to you, we invite you into every

part of our lives so that through you, we may live into the fullness of who you created us to be.

***Time for Silent Confession**

***Words of Assurance**

Rejoice, friends! God's great mercy and love for us knows no end.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Let the Stable Still Astonish

Leslie Leyland Fields, text
Dan Forrest, music

Maggie Hemedinger, soloist

Let the stable still astonish:
straw-dirt floor, dull eyes, dusty flanks of donkeys, oxen;
Crumbling, crooked walls;
No bed to carry that pain, and then, the child,
rag-wrapped, laid to cry in a trough.

Who would have chosen this?
Who would have said:
"Yes, let the God of all the heavens and earth
be born here, in this place?"

Who, but the same God
who stands in the darker, fouler rooms of our hearts and says,
"Yes, let the God of all the heavens and earth
be born here – in this place."

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:5-17

*pew Bible NT p. 52
children's Bible, p. 1181*

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

#94
JEFFERSON

A Time for Young Disciples

Rev. Karen Ware Jackson

Scripture Lesson

Luke 1:18-25

*pew Bible NT p. 53
children's Bible, p. 1181*

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

R.C. Sprout, text

Blessed Is the Lord (Benedictus)

Dan Forrest, music

Benedictus, Benedictus, Blessed is our Lord.
Benedictus, Benedictus, Welcome His Incarnate Word.

Chosen first among the priests to serve within the temple walls,
Zacharias stood in awe when he heard the angel call.

“Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, will come to raise salvation’s horn.
God incarnate, Word made flesh, to a virgin shall be born.”

Christ brings light to sin’s dark night:
Our Dayspring from on high,
Saints and angels sing God’s praise.
All the earth and Heav’ns reply:

Benedictus, Benedictus, Blessed is our Lord.
Benedictus, Benedictus, Welcome His Incarnate Word.

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Karen Ware Jackson

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Anthem

O Come, Emmanuel

Elaine Hagenberg

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

O come thou Dayspring come and cheer
our spirits by Thine Advent here,
and drive away the shades of night,
and pierce the clouds and bring us light!

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to Thee O Israel.

O come Desire of nations,
bind all people in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease,
and fill the world with Heaven’s peace.

Reading

“Fear and Disbelief”

Rev. Karen Ware Jackson

(prose by Karrie Rushing)

Canticle of the Turning

(My Soul Cries out with a Joyful Shout)

Rory Cooney, text

Anne Krentz Organ, arranger

Choir:

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Congregation and choir sing refrain:

***My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.***

Choir:

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy shall last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

Congregation and choir sing refrain

Choir:

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

Congregation and choir sing refrain

Choir:

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

Congregation and choir sing refrain

Choir:

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

Invitation to Offering

Rev. Rob Jackson

Offertory Music

Personent Hodie

David Schelat

***Doxology**

THE FIRST NOEL

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is the King of Israel.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Rob Jackson

***Hymn**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

#106

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

***Benediction**

Rev. Rob Jackson

***Postlude**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

*If you exit the sanctuary during the postlude,
please leave quietly so others may continue to worship.*

* Please rise either in body or spirit.

Call to Worship by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Worship Leaders

Karen Ware Jackson, Senior Co-Pastor
Rob Jackson, Senior Co-Pastor
Amanda Hines, Associate Pastor
Karrie Rushing, Director of Music
Brad Collier, Organist
Liturgist, Melissa Nasea
Pattie Hopkins Kinlaw, violinist
Jen Casey, cellist

Sound Technicians: Alec Fortune, Charles Humbles

AV Coordinator: Rob Ables

AV Team: Carson Fraley, Keller Fraley, Todd Fraley, Colton Money, Eric Money, Anna Rushing, Matthew Rushing

Our Congregation in Ministry

Montreat Worship & Music: Calling children and youth currently in grades 3-12! FPC will take a group to Worship & Music Conference this summer—June 25-July 2. Preregistration forms may be found in Karrie's office door, and should be returned with a deposit no later than January 9.

Ushers: If you can serve as an usher on Christmas Eve, please sign up in the Welcome Center. We need 4 for each service.

Christmas Eve Services: We will have Christmas Eve traditional candlelight services at 5pm (family service with impromptu Christmas pageant); 8pm (featuring our Chancel Choir and Westminster Chimes Bell Choir); 11pm (our youth and college students will lead us in our traditional vigil service). All services will include carols, the Christmas story, communion, and singing Silent Night in the candlelight. They will be livestreamed to YouTube and linked to our web site and Facebook page.

Church Contributions: All contributions for 2021 should be turned in by noon on December 30, 2021. If you have questions about your pledge balance, contact Denise Clooney at DeniseClooney@fpcgreenville.org.

Honor Cards: The Crossroads Community Center Honor Cards are available in the Welcome Center for a \$5 donation.

Angel Tree: Pick a name from the Angel Tree and fill a stocking for our friends at Winterville Manor! Return your stocking by December 19.

Birthday Card Shower: Ruth Shoemaker is turning 100 on December 20! Let's shower her with birthday cards—drop them in the basket at church.

PW Circles: Circle 1 will meet at Marcia Trevathan's home Dec. 13, 10:30am; Circle 3 will meet Dec. 13, 12noon at Antoinette Patterson's home; Cypress Glen Circle will meet Dec. 14, 10am, room 205; Circle 6 will meet Dec. 14, 7pm, in the parlor; Circle 007 will meet Dec. 13, 6pm, at Michelle Money's home.

Christmas Mission Project: The final phase of the youth Christmas Mission Project is a small food drive to provide several meals for the families during the holiday break. Items needed are eggs, bacon, pancake mix, milk, orange juice, cereal, bread, canned food, mac and cheese, jelly, lunchmeat, cheese. Please have items at the church by Tuesday, December 14th. Please contact Brian Dilday with questions, 252-367-1914.

Our Congregation Cares

Please lift in prayer:

Church Family

Jim & Rebecca Bolduc, John Brookbank, Dee Chaffee, Louise Congleton, Alan & Connie Crandall, Carol Cutler, Vernetta Dean, Spencer Hill, Mike O'Bryant, Becky Piner, Doris Robinson, Ruth Shoemaker, Pat Sugg, Ann Sutton, Eric Whaley, Fred Wood

Family and Friends

Heather Bojur (friend of Rebecca Bolduc)
Austin Britt (father of Clay Britt)
Angie Bullock (friend of Clay & Anita Britt)
Hilton Cayton (grandson of Judy & Bill Glidewell)
Stacey Cayton (son of Judy & Bill Glidewell)
Mary Lou Cherry (friend of Annelle West)
Maurice Copeland (brother-in-law of Willie Nelms)
Caroline Davis (friend of Betty Tart)
Kathy Dyson (niece of Betty Bailey)
Tammy & Jimmy Garris (friends of Betty Tart)
Robin Haislip (friend of Mark & Rosemary Hayes)
James family (friends of Emanuel & Dorothy McGirt)
Missy Johnson (friend of Kathleen Williams)
Margaret Kadar (grandmother of Jessica Leggett)
Pamela Matlin (sister of Ann Mannie)
Bruce McCarthy (friend of Mark & Mary Jon Pabst)
Pat Minges (sister of Ginger Minges)
June Modlin (aunt of Ann Tess)
Ollie Mae Moore (mother of Anita Britt)
Nixon/McGirt family (family of Emanuel & Dorothy McGirt)
Sheila North (sister of Melissa Nasea)
Mary Anne Petteway (mother of Marybeth Eason)
Tina Roscosky (friend of Cindy Gobbel)
Charles & Ellen Ross (friends of Dawn Flye)
Debra Sermons (sister of Shelley Basnight)
Grant Smith (friend of Craig Stanley)
Mary Sue Stallings (cousin of Betty Tart)
Sarah Stanley (niece of Craig Stanley)
Linda Thompson (cousin of Melissa Nasea)
George Tutino (husband of Pat Tutino)
Elizabeth Whitford (grandmother of Katy Kemble)
Mary Whitten (mother of Rosemary Hayes)
Gina Woody (sister of Tori Russ)
Eton Binyamin Yehuda (friend of Hines family)

Military personnel and families; our national, state and local leaders and people called our enemies.

Condolences: FPC extends Christian sympathy to Dan Yoder and family in the death of his sister, Judith Huey, who died December 3, 2021, in Pennsylvania; and to Debbie Metcalf and family in the death of her mother, Barbara Henshaw Collis, who died December 2, 2021, in California.