

**The Service of Worship**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 12, 2021**  
**A Service of Healing and Wholeness**  
**8:30 a.m.**

**Trinity Chime**

**Opening Voluntary**

*Prelude on "O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

Gordon Phillips

**Welcome**

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. It speaks of brokenness still being made whole. It sings of joy alongside sorrow.**

So today we light the candle of joy even as we listen for the whole story.

**In listening, we worship.**

Let us draw near to God.

**\*Hymn**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

#144

CRANHAM

**\*Call to Honesty**

“As we gather our hearts in this space, I invite you to close your eyes and take a deep breath. Inhale what is good. Exhale what is hurting. As we settle into this service of prayer and reflection together, we begin with a poem written by Rev. Sarah Are Speed. Listen now to this honest reflection, and allow this honesty to mark this space as one set apart.”

**\*Prayer of Confession**

We are raw nerves, exposed and tender. We are weary bones, hunched and fragile. We are silent prayers, lips saying your name. We are wedding rings we can't take off, even though time has passed. We are the same pew, but it feels different now. We are a brave face when

we have to be strong. We are tears in the shower when grief rears its head. We are setting the table, but there are empty seats. We are stuck in the swell, caught in the storm. We are moving on, caught in our guilt. We are okay some days, but some days we're not. We are familiar with the night, we know it by name. We are night-walkers, dream-makers, star-chasers. We are close to home, but home has changed. We are close to the surface, but the waters are rising. We are all of this, plus everything else, and we are here. We are here. Grief is here. God is here. The night is here.

**\*Time for Silent Prayer**

**\*Words of Assurance**

And all of this is true, and we are not alone. Take my hand. Take these words. Let them be your life raft. Let this be the longest night, and let it be whatever you need it to be. We are here. Grief is here. God is here. Take what you need.

**Amen.**

**\*Congregational Response**

#103

*Come Now, O Prince of Peace (v. 1)*

O-SO-SO

**Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Lesson**

**Isaiah 40**

*pew Bible OT p. 627  
children's Bible, p. 829*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Prayers of the People**

Rev. Rob Jackson

*(O Come, O Come, Emmanuel refrain)*

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Candle Lighting**

**\*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.**

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Rev. Karen Ware Jackson

*(You will come forward to receive the bread  
and pre-sealed communion cup.)*

### **\*Prayer after Communion**

One: We are here.

**All: We are here.**

One: I see you and your pain.

**All: I see you and your pain.**

One: I see you and your hope.

**All: I see you and your hope.**

One: You are my neighbor.

**All: You are my neighbor.**

One: We belong to one another.

**All: We belong to one another.**

One: We are not in this alone.

**All: We are not in this alone.**

One: Thanks be to God for the love that binds us.

**All: Thanks be to God for the love that binds us.**

One: Amen.

### **\*Benediction**

Rev. Rob Jackson

### **\*Postlude**

*Personent Hodie*

David Schelat

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

\* Please rise either in body or spirit.

## **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

Koby Gallman, songleader

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](mailto: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.*