

First Presbyterian Church
Albemarle, North Carolina



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 1, 2023

1st Sunday of Christmas

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jordan Hesley, acolyte

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 63

I will recount the deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of God most high.

Because of all that the Lord has done for us, according to the abundance of God's love.

It was your presence that saved the house of Israel, your love and pity redeemed them.

We join with them as your people, O God, your children who sing you our praises.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, even as the heavenly host sang of your glory in the night skies over Bethlehem; even as the star shone in the heavens, and sheep and cattle gathered in that light, so we gather, young and old together, to recount all that you have done for us in mercy and steadfast love. No tyrant's threat or deadly act can destroy the dreams and visions you have placed within us, for you have drawn us close. With all creation, we praise you and exalt your name forever and ever. Amen.

*HYMN 133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

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.

Refrain:

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

True God from true God, light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes! Very God, begotten, not created! [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest: [Refrain]

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
[Refrain]*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, in great love, you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give in when the way is hard. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you intend. Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence, we fail to recognize our own complicity. Forgive our misuses of power against people, and against your creation. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Set us free from fear, that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who shared our flesh and blood.

Silent Confession and Reflection

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

***RESPONSE 119**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (stanza 3)
*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”*

MENDELSSOHN

THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Dr. Ann Crutchfield

ANTHEM

“We Three Kings”

Philip W. J. Stopford

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, your Word comes to us: Jesus Christ, Immanuel. Holy Word, you cross every border meant to shut you out. Holy wisdom, speak to us in the word read and proclaimed. Hearing, may we dream your dream and faithfully follow wherever you lead. In your triune name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Matthew 2:13-23](#)

pew Bible, page 2

SERMON

“Keeping Herod in Christmas”

Rev. George

*HYMN

“A Voice Was Heard in Ramah”
("Lead On, O King Eternal")
*A voice was heard in Ramah that could not be consoled,
As Rachel wept for children she could no longer hold.
For Herod ruled the nation, yet feared the Infant King.
How great the devastation that fear and anger bring!*

LLANGLOFFAN

*O God, we hear the crying for little ones of yours;
For many still are dying in conflicts and in wars —
In every troubled nation, on every violent street,
How great the lamentation when fear and anger meet!*

*Whenever one is weeping, the whole world suffers, too.
Yet, Jesus, as we serve them, we're also serving you.
So may we not ignore them, nor turn our eyes away,
But help us labor for them to bring a better day.*

*O Prince of Peace, you lead us in ways of truth and grace.
May we be brave to practice your peace in every place —
To love each fear-filled nation, to serve each troubled street.
How great the celebration when peace and justice meet!*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From *A Brief Statement of Faith*, PC(USA)

In life and in death we belong to God. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. 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. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Offertory

*Response 145

“What Child Is This” (stanza 3)

GREENSLEEVES

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby,
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

In this gifting season, O God, we're grateful for the gift of your dear Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Receive, we pray, these offerings we bring. May they be used in the service of your grace and truth dwelling among us. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN 159

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

KINGSFOLD

*O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air:
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today;
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing alway.*

*O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy,
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath, and of the sinless boy:
For now the flow'rs of Nazareth in ev'ry heart may grow;
Now spreads the fame of his dear name On all the winds that blow.
O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,
Of him who walked upon the sea and bade the waves be still:
For though, like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Master's word, falls peace upon the soul.*

*O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay;
Of him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away:
For he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,
And Christ, our Lord, by heav'n adored, is mighty now to save.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

PETER C. LUTKIN

*The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord lift His countenance upon you
and give you peace.
The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.
Amen.*

*POSTLUDE

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Bold print indicates places where congregation reads or sings.

PERMISSIONS: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, Text: John Francis Wade (1711-1786), c. 1743, trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841. Hymn tune: *Adeste fideles*. John Francis Wade, c. 1743, harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906. Public domain. *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*, Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), 1739. Hymn tune: *Mendelssohn*. Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) 1855. Public domain. *What Child Is This*, Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), 1871. Hymn tune: *Greensleeves*. 16th Century English ballad. Public domain. *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*, Text: Louis FitzGerald Benson (1855-1930), 1899. Hymn tune: *Kingsfold*, *English County Songs*, 1893. Public domain. *We Three Kings*, Text and hymn tune: *Kings of Orient*. John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891), 1857. Public domain. Choral arrangement by Philip W. J. Stopford (b. 1977) © 2004. *A Voice Was Heard in Ramah*, Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (b. 1961. © 2015, *Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*, All rights reserved. Used by permission. Hymn tune: *Llangloffan*, Welsh folk melody, public domain. *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*, Text: Numbers 6:24, Music: Peter C. Lutkin (1858-1931). Public domain.

Thank you to Michelle Efird, Frank Poolos and Ann Crutchfield for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Jordan Hesley.

Ushers for January: Jim Hesley (captain), Liz Bryson, Steve Cumming, Ella Cumming, Lee McLaurin, Laura McLeod, Leo McLeod, Jackson Palmer, John Palmer.

Outside Ushers for January 1: Jim Marshall, Steve Cumming.

Elder Greeters: John Earnhardt, Sandy Rogers.

Streaming Coordinator: Evan Sanges **Film:** Andy McLeod **Nursery:** Bailey Mitchell
Kids Crew: Elizabeth Bryson

There is no Children’s Church today. Children are encouraged to remain in worship.

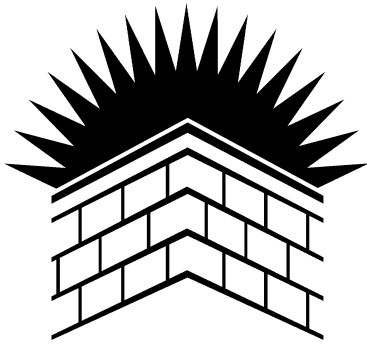
We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Claude Harwood, Wayne Palmer, Penny Welling (friend of the congregation), Gloria Bryson (Trinity Place), Ann Byrd (Home), Tim Rodgers, Doris Forte-Spring Arbor, Brayden Enzor (grandson of Gus & Pam Holbrook); (Home), Carole Yost (Home), Jean Rabe, Anita Gower, Nancy Jolly, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Elizabeth Wilson, Ann Snuggs, Susan Pandich-breast cancer, Jason Miller (friend of the congregation), Laura Frazier, Debbie Hinson, Rita Morgan, Emma Gibson. See newsletter for complete list.



First Presbyterian Church

Lunch Outing to LANTERN THE
Thursday, January 12th at 11:30 am

Let’s get together for lunch – Dutch Treat! We will meet at The Lantern in Norwood at 11:30 am. If you would like to carpool, meet at the church at 11:00. Let us know if you can join us! Jane Snyder 704-438-3358



The Christian Education Corner

We encourage children to remain in worship!
There are worship bags available for them in both lobbies of the church.
Feel free to pick these up anytime before, during or after worship.

If you are not on the SPOND app please download it. That is the easiest way for all of us to keep in touch. Here is the link to join <https://group.spond.com/LTOXZ>

Monday Night Bible Study 9th-12th graders at the home of Debby Johnston (1212 Heritage Dr.) Mondays at 8:30 pm.



Show your FPC spirit
Order an "At Home Under the Dome" t-shirt. Youth will be in the Pit Stop for the next few Sundays taking orders. All proceeds go to youth summer Montreat





No SNL tonight Sunday, January 1.



NEW BEGINNINGS – What is it that God is calling you to change? Are there things that you cannot change that need a change in attitude or perspective? How do I gain wisdom from God to help guide me in what I can and can't change? Please join Gayle Russell and Jane Snyder on Mondays at NOON in the Parlor during the month of January. We will NOT meet Monday, January 1. Our meeting days will be January 9, 16, 23 and 30th at NOON. Lunch will be served. Please let Jane Snyder know you are coming! 704-438-3358 jsnyder@fpcalbemarlel.org If you would like to Zoom with us, please let Jane know ASAP so she can get the link to you.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you have not picked up your offering envelopes for 2023 they are in a box on the counter outside of the church office.



Warm Gifts of Winter

This winter, please help us spread the warmth to our friends in the community by bringing new and gently used scarves, mittens, gloves, socks, and toboggans to the First Family Dinner on Wednesday, January 4 or place in the manger in the Pit Stop. We will donate these warm gifts to the SCCM Clothing Closet.



**FIRST FAMILY GATHERING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4 AT 6:00 P.M.
DINE IN GYM**

IN-PERSON FIRST FAMILY GATHERING on Wednesday, January 4 at 6:00!

Mark your calendars:

- **FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH IN-PERSON**
- **THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH DRIVE-THROUGH**

January Menu: Roast Beef, Potatoes, Broccoli, Italian Salad and assorted Desserts, Tea, Water and Lemonade.

Contact the church office 704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org by noon on Tuesday, January 3 to say you're coming.

Due to the cost of food our Suggested Donation is \$6 per person....

Maximum of \$20 per immediate family.

Please come with correct change or a check written to First Presbyterian Church.

KID'S ACTIVITIES - We will have activities for the kids after dinner!

You're invited to bring *warm* gifts to place in the manger – mittens, scarves, hats, socks, and gloves will be donated to the Clothing Closet.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 1

1st Sunday of Christmas/ Ten Cents a Meal Offering

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

Monday, January 2

Church Office Closed

No Morning Prayer via Zoom

No High School Bible Study

The Wired Word
Sunday School Class
will not meet on
Sunday January 1.

Tuesday, January 3

7:00 pm-8:30 pm PNC

Wednesday, January 4

Donations of Warm Gifts at First Family Gathering

6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

1:30 pm Prayer Shawl in Parlor

6:00 pm First Family Fathering Dinner in Gym

6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 5

4:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

Friday, January 6

Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 8

Baptism of the Lord/Ordination & Installation of Officers

8:30 am Session

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

6:00 pm SNL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January

03- Mike McLeod

Sandy Rogers

04- Sandy Saunders

05- Austin Coats

Miriam Russell

06- Shannon Lisk

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

January

05- John & Debbie Hahn

*childcare provided

Church Staff

Transitional Pastor, Rev Catherine George

Office Manager, Kyle Lambert

Secretary, Beth Poolos

Transitional Director of Christian Ed,

Melissa Eudy

Director of Fellowship/Congregational Care,

Jane Snyder

Music Director, Dr. Frank Poolos

Organist, Interim

Facilities Manager, Shawn Graeff

Elders

Al Andrew, John Earnhardt, Bill Jolly, Mary Kesselman,

Mike King, Ken Knight, Kim Marshall, Andy McLeod,

Catherine Moeller, Sandy Rogers, Ellen Snyder,

Chris Whitley, Ellen Whitley

Deacons

Emily Andrew, Keith Bryson, Shannon Bullard,

Michelle Cumming, Wes Eudy, Martha Sue Hall,

Lillie Hancock, Jim Hesley, Liz Jolly, Myron Lowder,

Laura McLeod, Lee Snuggs

**Tithes and offerings may be
mailed to:**

First Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 1578

Albemarle, NC 28002



**Online giving can be done
through the church's
website**

www.fpcalbemarle.org

Click on the GIVE

The offering as part of our worship is a response to God's grace. The plates will be passed by the ushers or you may make your gift by scanning the QR Code here. Thank you for your generosity.