



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

11:00 AM

RINGING OF THE BELL

OPENING VOLUNTARY

CONTEMPLATION  
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

RICHARD PURVIS

The opening  
voluntary is based  
on the Advent hymn  
*Let All Mortal Flesh  
Keep Silence.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
And also with you.

CHORAL INTROIT

COME THOU, O LOVER OF MY SOUL  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

GORDON YOUNG

Come thou, O lover of my soul, and dwell within my heart forever.  
Bide with me forever. Amen.

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP & ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Voice 1: Isaiah 11 describes the kingdom of God as a place of peace  
where hatred, anger, and violence are not just tucked under the rug,  
but swept away all together.

In today's terms, that scripture *could* sound like this:

Voice 2: The wolf shall live with the lamb,

**All: Israel and Palestine will tear down their wall.**

Voice 1: The leopard shall lie down with the kid,

**All: Black lives and poor lives will matter to all.**

Voice 2: The calf and the lion will feed together,

**All: Democrats and Republicans will work together in harmony,**

Voice 1: and a little child shall lead them,

**All: and without fear, the Church will lead them.**

Voice 2: Today we light the candle of peace as a prayer, a protest,  
and a reminder of God's prayer for this world.

Starting first with the candle of hope,  
we light the candle of peace to symbolize God's ever-increasing light.

*(The first and second candles are lit.)*

And as this light burns and grows, we will wait, eagerly, longing for the birth of a child  
and for the peace only love can bring. May peace light up the world. Amen.

\* **HYMN #373**

O DAY OF PEACE

"JERUSALEM"

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God our Maker, we confess  
that we are not ready to meet you.  
You call us to repent,  
but we turn away from you.  
You wait patiently for us,  
but we fail to watch and wait for you.  
Forgive us, God of grace.  
Embrace us with tender mercy  
so that we may be at one with you  
when all your glory is revealed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord...

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)*

**KYRIE 103**

COME NOW, O PRINCE OF PEACE (verse 1)

"O-So-So"

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

The tradition of lighting candles during Advent symbolizes the anticipation that characterizes the season. **This morning Mike and Laura Fiscus light the peace candle.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE (*Seated*)

JOY TO THE WORLD  
THE JOYBELLS

VALERIE W. STEPHENSON

### \* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

*(Please greet one another with signs of peace.)*

## CLOTH FOR THE CRADLE

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 40:1-11

PEW BIBLE, OT, P. 627

### ANTHEM

BAPTISMAL ANTHEM  
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

B. F. WHITE

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,  
And saying: "Repent ye! For the kingdom of heaven is at hand!  
For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying  
The voice of one, crying in the wilderness,  
prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."  
And this same John had his raiment of camel's hair.  
And bound with a leathern girdle; and his meat was locust and wild honey.

### GOSPEL READING

MARK 1:1-8

PEW BIBLE, NT, P. 32

### SERMON

REV. CAROLINE KELLY

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### \* HYMN #106

PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION

"BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN"

### SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

*(Since our service is broadcast on the radio, please make sure  
you have permission to request prayer on behalf of another person.)*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

**Cloth for the Cradle** is a simple liturgical activity that offers us a way to indicate our intention to welcome Jesus this season. It comes from *Cloth for the Cradle*, a resource of the Iona Community in Scotland.

**The anthem** is from *The Sacred Harp*, a seminal collection of American hymns, psalms, and anthems.

**MUSICAL OFFERING**      *LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE*      TRADITIONAL FRENCH MELODY  
THE JOYBELLS AND SANCTUARY CHOIR

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessings in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

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 heavenly food.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high.

\* **AT THE PRESENTATION #102**      *SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME (verse 4)*      “NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND”

**Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin’s son, incarnate Word!**  
**To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally.**

\* **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

**BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\* **HYMN #82**      *COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS*      “HYFRYDOL”

\* **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

\* **SUNG BLESSING #92**      *WHILE WE ARE WAITING, COME (verse 1)*      “WAITING” (CASON)  
*(Please join hands as we sing together.)*

**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.**  
**Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

\* **CLOSING VOLUNTARY**      *FROM HEAVEN ABOVE, TO EARTH I COME*      JOHANN PACHELBEL  
BRYAN LOHR, ORGAN

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\* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.  
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

**TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS**

- Preacher.....Rev. Caroline Kelly  
Liturgist.....David Stickler  
Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr  
Director of The JoyBells.....Julie Courtney  
Musicians..... The Sanctuary Choir and The JoyBells  
Sound Technician.....Joe Aurigemma  
Ushers..... Burt Heister and Dale Corley

<http://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland>

Copies of Pastor Caroline's sermons are available on the church website  
at [www.fpc-cumberland.org/worship/sermons](http://www.fpc-cumberland.org/worship/sermons).

The **Taking Faith Home** insert is provided for your use throughout the coming week. One side contains daily readings and prayers and the other provides an outline for a group or family conversation, based on the Milestones Ministry format.

# ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**11:00AM - SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:** Worship will feature music from the JoyBells and Sanctuary Choir and will include "Cloth for the Cradle," a time for worshippers to lay strips of cloth in the manger as an action representing our preparation for the Christ child.

**12:00PM - INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT EVENT & HANGING OF THE GREENS:** Join us in Fellowship Hall for lunch and an intergenerational gathering designed to prepare us for the birth of Christ, including a brief refresher on Advent, a blessing of the Christmon Tree (with a copy to take home to bless your Christmas tree), decorating throughout the sanctuary and education building and baking cookies to take to our in-home members.

The youth will sort and bag your contributions of gently used toys and books and deliver them to WMHS, where families will come and choose toys and books for their children at Christmastime.

**5:00PM - CONTEMPLATIVE ADVENT EVENING PRAYER HOSTED BY EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL:** Jean Myers' recorder group will provide soothing music of the Advent season. Take time for yourself with God in community.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017

**6:00PM - CHRISTMAS CAROLING OUTREACH:** Meet us in the church parking lot at 6:00PM and join us as we carol up Washington Street to the home of Bill and Alleine Courtney (511 Washington St.) and then go to the Kensington a little before 7:00PM to present a short program and sing with the residents. The Kensington is providing refreshments. The evening should conclude by about 8:00PM. If you have any question, please contact Nancy Hodges ([301-268-6903](tel:301-268-6903)).

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**11:00AM - SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:** Worship will feature music from the West Virginia Brass Quintet.

**THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** Please plan to support this special offering, half of which will go to help support Presbyterian racial-ethnic schools. Your gifts last year helped make it possible for more than 3,000 students to obtain a quality education at the Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico; the Presbyterian Pan American school in Kingsville, Texas; and Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. These schools have a rich history of preparing racial-ethnic women and men for leadership in the church and society.

**4:00PM-MISSION OUTREACH DINNER:** The monthly outreach dinner that we help with will be held at the HRDC building on Virginia Avenue. Dinner will be served from 4:00-5:30PM. If anyone can volunteer to serve dinner, help clean tables and/or provide Christmas cookies; please let Judy Stern, Phil Mills, or Linda Smith know.

**5:00PM - MOUNTAINSIDE BAROQUE: A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS,** featuring a traditional holiday blend of modern and early music with the Scholars of St. Cecilia, at Emmanuel Episcopal.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017

**7:00PM - LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE:** For many people, Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, and sadness. This service offers a way for people to deal with those feelings and still feel surrounded by the love of God. Join us for a time of prayer, reflective music and candle lighting as we claim the promise of our faith this season.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EVE

**11:00AM - SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:** Worship will feature a come-one, come-all, "no practice" Christmas pageant directed by Mikayla Dodge. The participants move and respond to lines prompted by the narrator, using a script adapted from Eugene Peterson's interpretations of the gospel narrative in his book *The Message*. This service will also include music from the Sanctuary Choir; soloist Beau Hartman and flutist Brenda Luger.

**7:45PM - SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT:** We will celebrate the birth of Christ with a traditional Christmas Eve service that includes communion, candle lighting and Christmas music.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017, 11:00AM: FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

**11:00AM - SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:** Worship will feature Christmas Lessons and Carols.

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WELCOME VISITORS:** We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at [www.fpc-cumberland.org](http://www.fpc-cumberland.org) and [www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland](https://www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland). Childcare is provided in the nursery. An usher will be glad to direct you there.

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP:** While we do provide a nursery for young children, we also welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. After the Time for Young Disciples, children may go to the nursery for a Bible lesson or remain in the sanctuary. Our "Young Children in Worship" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship.

**THE PRAY-GROUND** is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

**FRIENDSHIP PADS:** Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the "Welcome to First Presbyterian Church" card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

**PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES:** (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

**WORSHIP BROADCASTS:** This morning's broadcast was made possible by the generous donation of Royce and Nancy Hodges!

**WORSHIP BROADCASTS TO END.** After December 31, 2017, we will no longer be broadcasting our Sunday services on WCBC Radio. For several years the Worship and Music Committee has been aware of declining donations of the significant \$75 fee for weekly radio broadcasts. We have been unable to negotiate a lower figure. After long and careful consideration, the Committee decided that our church's mission is better served by using congregational donations for other ministries. We will continue to broadcast our Sunday services live on YouTube.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS:** The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of David Mann Steele, Sr., and Mary Ann Steele, by John and David Steele. **Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.**

## ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

ELDERS: AGNES YOUNT & PAM JAN

<b>ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:</b>	<b>as of December 3, 2017</b>
Total 2017 Pledges Promised	\$241,753.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 13,339.00
<u>2017 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$228,414.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$212,241.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$207,264.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 4,976.00

### SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

December 4, 2016

94

December 3, 2017

71

**PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2018** are available in the pews and extras can be found in the back of the sanctuary. While pledges are welcome at any time, we encourage you to provide your 2018 pledge by Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, in order to help us in planning for the new year. If you need a pledge card mailed to you, please call Brittany Jackson at 301-777-3700.

**2017 YEAR END GIVING:** Thanks for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church during 2017. Remember that **year-end contributions must be received by the church no later than Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>** in order to qualify as 2017 contributions for tax purposes.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

### MONDAY, DECEMBER (11)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
4:45 PM ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MEETING IN THE PARLOR

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER (12)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
5:00 PM FAITH FORMATION MEETING IN THE PARLOR

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER (13)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
6:00 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL  
7:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE HERITAGE ROOM  
7:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER (14)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER (15)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN  
11:00AM WESTERN MD FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER (16)

6:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE LIBRARY

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER (17)

9:45 AM ADULT BIBLE STUDY & 2-5 YEAR OLD CLASS: AN ILLUSTRATED COMPASSION  
11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING COLLECTION  
4:00 PM HRDC MISSION OUTREACH CHRISTMAS DINNER  
5:00PM MOUNTAINSIDE BAROQUE FESTIVAL LESSONS & CAROLS AT EMMANUEL

## MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

## VISION STATEMENT

We strive to be a community grounded in the good news of God's love in Christ where all of God's children are:

- Welcomed and cherished
- Called to worship, learn and grow together in faith, and
- Sent to share God's love and justice with a broken and hurting world.

Adopted by the Session on September 17, 2015

## REASON FOR THE SEASON

As you plan your gift giving for this Christmas season, please consider giving to one or more of the global and local projects below. This year's Reason for the Season will help support those that suffered DISASTER this year, help combat ADDICTION, and help support EDUCATION! After reading the details about each of the projects, discern which ones that God is calling you to support.

### DISASTER

- ❖ For the **MAASAI tribes in southeastern KENYA**, a **severe multiyear drought** is endangering their semi nomadic way of life. Cattle, their most prized possession and livelihood, are dying. Some families walk up to 25 miles to get water and carry it back. By the time they return the water is not pure, causing much illness especially in children. Being proactive, the Maasai started Pals Foundation, a nonprofit which works "to alleviate poverty by building equitable and sustainable practice in development in pastoralist communities in Kenya". Donations will go toward additional well boring equipment for the Maasai people through their Foundation.
- ❖ **Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria** left damage that was catastrophic, with deaths and massive damage sustained in Texas, Puerto Rico, Cuba, US Virgin Islands, and more. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance [PDA] has been in constant communication with affected communities, distributing emergency grants and deploying Response Team members. Our donations will enable PDA to give even more long term assistance.

### ADDICTION

- ❖ **CityReach Church Hope Homes** provide a place of hope and freedom for people dealing with life-controlling issues or desperate situations. With concentrations on spiritual discipleship and life disciplines reinforced by prayer, bible study, volunteerism and work programs, men and women are held accountable and encouraged to reach their full potential in a faith-filled, family-style atmosphere. Our donations will help support the CityReach Hope Homes for men and women in Cumberland.
- ❖ **Hope Against Heroin** is a local faith-based organization whose ministry is based on the recognition that addiction is a chronic and progressive disease, which deeply impacts not only the addict but the entire family and community. They strive to guide each individual including their family in the recovery process, with the goal of living life to its full potential-free from addiction. In partnership with other organizations and churches in the community, they strive to give hope to the hopeless, educate the community about addiction, offer resources, and provide a safe, happy environment for children in the community. Our contributions will help support their efforts to accomplish these goals through events they have planned for the community's children, an annual march and vigil to raise awareness and efforts to support more locally-based treatment options.

### EDUCATION

- ❖ **Ihanktonwan Learning Camp** in South Dakota is one of our partnerships. An ecumenical, multigenerational group, led by Robin Bissell, has shared the joy of learning with Dakota children to encourage them to keep learning. It costs volunteers approximately \$825.00 to spend this worthwhile week with the children. The experience for the volunteers, and the children, is priceless.
- ❖ **Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) of Pakistan's** mission is to improve Pakistan through quality education. We are currently supporting seven students. Their ambitions range from becoming a lawyer, doctor, software engineer, banker, and teacher. Receiving a scholarship of approximately \$60/month means that students can continue their education, accomplish their goals, and become productive citizens.

What looks like extreme catastrophes and needs to us are manageable with God's help. We are God's hands and feet to bring that help to others. Thank you for your gifts through Reason for the Season.



REASON FOR THE SEASON GIVING FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your total amount payable to "First Presbyterian Church", marked "Reason for the Season".

MAASAI tribes in southeastern KENYA	\$ _____
Hurricane Harvey, Irma, and Maria Relief (PDA)	\$ _____
CityReach Church Hope Homes	\$ _____
Hope Against Heroin	\$ _____
Presbyterian Ed. Bd. (Pakistan) scholarships	\$ _____
Ihanktonwan Learning Camp	\$ _____
OTHER _____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Christmas Music Offering 2017

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL GIFT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God in **Memory** or **Honor** of: (Please circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

✂ \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to dedicate Christmas Music in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete the tear-off sheet and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office.

Please print all the names exactly as you would like them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check designated "Christmas Music 2017" in the memo line. Proceeds from the Christmas Music Offering will be used to help defray the costs of seasonal guest musicians. **Please submit offering and dedication no later today.**

## OUR STAFF

Minister of Word and Sacrament/Pastor.....Rev. Caroline M. Kelly  
Director of Music Ministries .....Bryan Lohr  
Executive Administrative Assistant.....Brittany Jackson  
Sound Tech/Security.....Joe Aurigemma  
Sexton.....John Brown  
Sunday Worship Child Care Providers.....Ginny Reid and Jessie Gates

## THE SESSION

**Class of 2018:** Carl Belt, Carolyn Mathews, Judy Stern, and Agnes Yount

**Class of 2019:** Shirley Giarritta, Gary Hendrickson, Phil Mills, and David Stickler

**Class of 2020:** Barbara Aber, Chelsea Boor, Jeff Getty, Pam Jan, and Joe Weaver

Clerk of Session.....Jeff Getty  
Moderator.....Caroline Kelly