

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 9, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

11:00 AM

RINGING OF THE BELL

OPENING VOLUNTARY

COME NOW, O PRINCE OF PEACE
BRYAN LOHR, PIANO

ROBERTA ROLAND-RAYBOLD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CHORAL INTROIT

E'EN SO LORD JESUS, QUICKLY COME
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

PAUL MANZ

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, almighty God,
who was and is and is to come. Sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
for Christ is coming, is coming soon! For Christ is coming soon.
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more.
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all.

The opening voluntary is a setting of the Korean tune OSOSŎ, arranged by Roberta Roland-Raybold, a church organist and composer who currently lives in Conway, SC.

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

Voice 1: As we journey down this Advent road, we seek courage to make peace.

Voice 2: As the earth groans, children cry, and prisoners are denied justice,
peace cannot be measured by the absence of conflict.

Voice 1: Peace is resisting despair in our hearts.
Peace is resisting complacency in our homes.
Peace is resisting oppression in our communities.

All: On this second Sunday of Advent, we seek peace.

(The first and second candles are lit.)

* **HYMN #87**

COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE

“GENEVAN 42”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We seek to serve you, O Lord, with glad and generous hearts.

Forgive us when our hearts are hardened
and move us to trust the depth of your promise.

We seek to live as baptized people,
repenting of sin and sharing your grace.

**Forgive us when we fall into selfish ways,
and move us to know the goodness of your call.**

Have mercy on us, O God.

By your grace, cleanse us.

By your providence, help us to learn from our mistakes.

By your Holy Spirit, equip us to love and honor you...

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

KYRIE ELEISON #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.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

* **RESPONSE #132**

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE *(verse 3)*

“IN DULCI JUBILO”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

* **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

As we light a new Advent candle each week, our focus is drawn to the increasing light the candles generate throughout the season as we draw nearer to our celebration of the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. **This morning, Cheri Duncan and Zion Moorman light the candle of peace.**

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.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

MALACHI 3:1-4

PEW BIBLE, OT, P. 838

Each Sunday during Advent, we hear the **Old Testament prophets** describe the coming Messiah and his kingdom.

After the reading: Heaven and earth will pass away
but the word of the Lord stands forever.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

EVERY VALLEY
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

JOHN NESS BECK

Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain made low; and the crooked made straight and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 3:1-6

PEW BIBLE, NT, P. 56

After the reading: Heaven and earth will pass away
but the word of the Lord stands forever.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

REV. CAROLINE KELLY

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* HYMN #106

PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION

“BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN”

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

MUSICAL OFFERING

HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THEM FROM ‘MESSIAH’
BEAU HARTMAN, SOPRANO

G. F. HANDEL

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace,
and bring glad tidings of good things!

Many of us give our monetary **offering** weekly. Many of us give our offering monthly or even yearly. This morning, even if you are not putting your monetary offering in the plate today, please touch the inside of the plate when it goes by. This will help us remember that the gift we are offering is actually ourselves.

* AT THE PRESENTATION

“GREENSLEEVES”

These gifts we joyfully bring to you,
to fill the world with meaning;
our hearts and minds are longing for
the life of which you are dreaming.
This, this our gift we bring,
our lives we share, your praise we sing;
show us your vision, Lord,
for hope, and peace, and caring.

The response at the **presentation** of the gifts was written by Rev. Scott Cervas, Meadowthorpe Presbyterian Church, (Lexington, KY) and set to the tune for "What Child Is This"

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

* HYMN #104

O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU

“VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN”

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION-CORPORATION

(All members are encouraged to stay; visitors are welcome.)

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* SUNG BENEDICTION #92

WHILE WE ARE WAITING, COME (verse 1)

“WAITING” (CASON)

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

* 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**.

This Morning’s Worship Leaders

Preacher.....Rev. Caroline Kelly
Liturgist.....Cathy Levitas
Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
Musicians.....The Sanctuary Choir and Beau Hartman, Soprano
Sound TechnicianJoe Aurigemma
Ushers.....Bill and Ann Kellermeyer

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION-CORPORATION of First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, Maryland is called by the Session for **today immediately after worship**. The purpose of the meeting is to elect someone to fill the unexpired term of Chelsea Boor in the Session Class of 2021.

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

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 and 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 ON YOUTUBE: To view worship services live or to view taped worship services, go to www.youtube.com (First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland Live Stream) or go to our website <http://www.fpc-cumberland.org/> and click on "click here to view our worship service" located at the bottom of the home page.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: AGNES YOUNT & GARY HENDRICKSON

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of November 25, 2018
Total 2018 Pledges Promised	\$222,725.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 11,275.00
<u>2018 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$211,450.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 199,498.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 187,512.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 11,985.00

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

December 3, 2017
71

December 2, 2018
69

PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2019 are available in the pews and extras can be found in the back of the sanctuary. Although they were consecrated during worship a few weeks ago, you can make or update your pledge at any time. Envelopes are provided and you can place your pledge in the offering plate, or in the church office. If you need a pledge card mailed to you, please call Brittany Jackson at 301-777-3700.

2018 YEAR END GIVING: Thanks for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church during 2018. Remember that **year-end contributions must be received by the church no later than Sunday, December 30th** in order to qualify as 2018 contributions for tax purposes.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

RULING ELDERS: LAURA FISCUS & JOSH GILHART

JOIN US FOR A PAINT PARTY: The Congregational Care and Outreach Committee invites you to join us for a Paint Party next Sunday, **December 16th from 1:00 – 4:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Lita Havens, a local artist, will lead us through the process of two art projects, a small watercolor and a larger acrylic painting. This event is \$20, which covers all supplies. We will have coffee, tea, and some light refreshments. Feel free to bring your favorite snack to share. . If you have any questions, please email Laura Fiscus at lfiscusallegany@gmail.com. **Space is limited, so RSVP and submit your payment by Monday, December 10th.**

REV. KELLY'S FAREWELL LUNCHEON: As we wish Caroline goodbye in these last few weeks, we invite you to attend a special celebration of Caroline on January 6, 2019 following her last service. If you are plan to attend the luncheon, please RSVP to Josh Gilhart by December 16th so we can begin to plan for how much food we will need to provide. Thank you for your cooperation in this celebration of Caroline and all she has done for us and the church.

MISSION

RULING ELDERS: PHIL MILLS & PAM JAN

MISSION OUTREACH DINNER: The monthly outreach dinner that we help with will be held on **Sunday, December 16th at St. John's Lutheran Church on Arch Street**. Dinner will be served from 4:00-5:30PM. If anyone can volunteer to serve dinner and/or help clean tables, please let Judy Stern, Phil Mills, or Linda Smith know.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE: You can help the PDA bring hope and healing to those affected by Hurricane Michael and the California fires by praying, taking action and by offering financial support. For those wishing to offer financial support, please place PDA Hurricane Michael or PDA California fires in the memo section of your check.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

12:00 PM - 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. During lunch we will have conversation about our Christmas memories and favorite parts of the Christmas season. We will then choose an activity to help celebrate the season with others. After lunch, we will disburse to "hang the greens," bake cookies and prepare FSU cram packs.

Cram Packs for FSU students are designed to help the college students at Frostburg State University get through their exam week with some encouragement. We need your help collecting items to fill the packs. You may bring any of the following donations: a bag of nuts, pretzels, fruit, snacks, cookies, brownies, pencils, and energy bars. Please place all donations in the boxes by the parlor by Sunday, December 9th.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:00 AM - SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: Christmas Caroling at 10:45 AM, prior to worship. Come and sing your favorite holiday carols!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018

7:00 PM - 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. The service will feature music of Samuel Barber and Morten Lauridsen, led by Bryan Lohr and the Chancel Choir. Join us for a time of prayer, reflective music and candle lighting as we claim the promise of our faith this season.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: On Sunday, December 23, our congregation will be donating to the **Christmas Joy Offering**. Here is some information about how our gifts to this offering were used in 2017:

Housing supplements from the Board of Pensions (BOP) helped 255 households remain in their homes, afford assisted living, or long-term care.

Shared and Emergency Grants from the BOP helped 362 households facing times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.

The following racial ethnic schools are supported in part by the Offering: Menaul School/Albuquerque, NM; Presbyterian Pan American School/Kingsville, TX; and Stillman College/Tuscaloosa, AL.

As you can see, your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering makes a difference in the lives of many people.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

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. The service will feature traditional, familiar favorites for organ, piano, flute, and voices.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018, 11:00AM: FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday, December 24, 2018- Open until Noon	Tuesday, December 25, 2018- Closed
Wednesday, December 26, 2018- Closed	Thursday, December 27, 2018- Open until Noon by Volunteer
Friday, December 28, 2018- Open until Noon by Volunteer	
Monday, December 31, 2018- Closed	Tuesday, January 1, 2018- Closed
Wednesday, January 2, 2018- Open until Noon by Volunteer	

WORSHIP & MUSIC

RULING ELDERS: DAVID STICKLER & CATHY LEVITAS

THE GREAT CHRISTMAS RING: You are invited to attend The Great Christmas Ring hosted by our very own JoyBells on Sunday, December 16th beginning at 4:00PM in the sanctuary. Contact Julie Courtney for more information.

Christmas Music Offering 2018

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 2018" 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 than Sunday, December 16th.**

REASON FOR THE SEASON

Once again it's time to celebrate the gift of God's son. What better way to "pay that gift forward" than by alternative giving (though it shouldn't be "alternative" - it's what God expects of us). Through "Reason for the Season", our Mission Committee highlights certain causes, but any of the ministries this church supports could use your help. Please consider prayerfully which one(s) God is nudging you toward.

- **Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) of Pakistan's mission** is to improve Pakistan through quality education of Christian and Muslim students. Veda Gill, Executive Director of PEB, visited us this fall and updated us on PEB's progress. We currently support seven students at Kinnaird Academy in Lahore. A scholarship of approximately \$60/month means that students can continue their education for a better future for themselves and their country. www.friendsofpeb.org
- **Women Discovering New Roles and Support in Central America, CEDEPCA, is part of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.** Protestant women throughout Central America are moving into new roles as leaders in their churches. Workshops, seminars and biblical reflection help these women as they assume opportunities and responsibilities among the people of God. The Baltimore Presbytery has a partnership with CEDEPCA in Guatemala.
- **Hunger Initiatives in Yemen are being sponsored by the Presbyterian Hunger Program.** The tragic war in Yemen is causing a severe food shortage that threatens millions of lives. Fishing is the main livelihood, but without resources the men can't fish. This reduces meals to one per day, if that much. Nursing mothers are especially affected. By supplying fishing nets and lines to communities affected by conflict, there is again a source of nutritious food and an income.
- **CityReach Church's Hope Homes** in Cumberland minister to adults dealing with life-controlling issues or desperate situations who have a desire to change. It helps them discover their God-given destiny through discipleship-based recovery homes in a faith-filled, family setting. The emphasis is on transformation through the life-changing love of Jesus Christ. Discipleship within the Hope Homes includes discipline, Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, community service projects, mentorship, work projects, and personal spiritual development.
- **Hope Against Heroin** is another local faith-based organization whose ministry is based on the fact that addiction is a disease which deeply impacts the addict, their family and community. Partnering with other organizations and churches, they give hope, educate the community about addiction, offer resources, and provide a safe, happy environment for children.
- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Work Project:** Last year a group of FPC volunteers went to West Virginia to aid in flood relief and found it to be such a rewarding experience that we would like to plan another mission trip for next year. Phil Mills has proposed to recruit a team to travel to New Bern, NC for a week to serve those who have lost so much due to Hurricane Florence. The group will need money for supplies for their project, registration and transportation, as well as other expenses. More information will detail the project as it develops. Contact Phil Mills if you are interested in signing up for this hands-on giving.
- Any of the other ministries that we support may also be an alternative gift, such as: Special Ministries; Union Rescue Mission; Interfaith Food Pantry; Family Crisis Resource Center; NAILS; Outreach Dinners; South Dakota Learning Camp; "This Child Here" in Ukraine; Juna Amagara in Uganda; Q Mountain in Lesotho; Mulanje Hospital in Malawi; Shanta Nepal, or Welfare Assoc. for Children in Tikapur (WACT) in Nepal; and others.

REASON FOR THE SEASON GIVING FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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

Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) of Pakistan's mission	\$ _____
Women Discovering New Roles and Support in Central America	\$ _____
Hunger Initiatives in Yemen	\$ _____
CityReach Church's Hope Homes	\$ _____
Hope Against Heroin	\$ _____
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Work Project	\$ _____
OTHER _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Christmas Poinsettias 2018

WE ONLY HAVE A SHORT TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS THIS YEAR. If you wish to dedicate a Christmas poinsettia, please complete the tear-off sheet below and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office **by today.**

Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary for the 7:45PM Christmas Eve service. If you would like to take your poinsettia home, please do so after the service. If you do not wish to keep your poinsettia, please indicate below. Additional donations may also be made toward the Christmas flowers.

Please print names exactly as you wish them to appear in the bulletin and attach a check for \$6.00 for each poinsettia, marked "CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA". **Poinsettias are only available in red this year.**

Number of poinsettias: _____ at \$6.00 each

Total \$ _____ I will pick up my poinsettia:

Additional Contribution for Christmas flowers: \$ _____ I wish to donate my poinsettia:

Total \$ _____

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

By: _____

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

MONDAY, DECEMBER (10)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER (11)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
4:00 PM FAITH FORMATION MEETING IN THE PARLOR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER (12)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
6:15 PM CHRISTIANITY 101 STUDY IN THE PASTOR'S OFFICE
6:15 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
7:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE LIBRARY
7:30 PM SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER (13)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER (14)

9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER (15)

12:30 PM THE GREAT CHRISTMAS RING REHEARSAL
6:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE HERITAGE ROOM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER (16)

9:45AM AN ILLUSTRATED COMPASSION: LEARNING TO LOVE LIKE GOD (2-5 YEAR OLDS)
9:45 AM FEASTING ON THE WORD - EARLY ELEMENTARY (K-2ND GRADE)
9:45 AM PERSONALIZED BIBLE STORIES (ADULTS)
10:45 AM CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING IN THE SANCTUARY
11:00AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY BAPTISM
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
1:00 PM PAINT PARTY EVENT WITH LITA HAVEN IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
4:00 PM THE GREAT CHRISTMAS RING IN THE SANCTUARY