



FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

~ Gathering before the Word ~

Prelude

Sleepers, Wake!

JS Bach

Choral Call to Worship

God with Us, Emmanuel

Joel Raney

Welcome & Service of Friendship

Pastor Darryl Evans

***Call to Worship**

Lowder & Walker Family

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Wonderful Counselor.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.

We anticipate the One who hears our prayers.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.

We anticipate the One who heals our infirmities.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.

We anticipate the One who renews our faith.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.

We anticipate the One who ignites our hope.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

Ev - er - last - ing Fa - ther, Prince of Peace,

Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor, Al - might - y God.

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el. God with

us, Em - man - u - el.

***Hymn of Praise No 59**

FREU DICH SEHR/GENEVAN

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

***Prayer of Confession**

David Hamilton

**Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.**

**Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what our eyes are often blind to.**

**Set us free from a past that we cannot change.
Open to us to today, in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace
to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, Your One and Only Son.**

(Please continue in a moment of silent, personal confession.)

Leader: Believe the Good News of the Gospel:
People: **In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven!**

***Song of Response**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Darryl Evans

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.

(Pre-k through 5th graders may now be excused to Sunday School. An adult will now escort the children to the Sunday School classrooms located on the 3rd floor of the education building where they will be picked up by a parent after the service.)

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

***Hymn No 78**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:1-4:1

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

God Completing His Work in You: Belonging

Darryl Evans

“I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.”

- Philippians 3:10-11

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

***Affirmation of Faith**

Colossians 3:1-4

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Sacrament of Communion

Offering & Offertory *We Shall Light a Thousand Candles*
Chancel Choir

Rasbach

***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Hymn of Commitment No. 60**

RICHMOND

Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

***Benediction**

Postlude

Veni Emmanuel

12th Century Latin Hymn

***All who are able please stand.**

CCLI # 2221136

To Our Guests

Welcome! We are delighted that you are worshiping with us this morning. We hope you find today meaningful and refreshing. You are warmly invited to stop by the Welcome Center just outside the sanctuary. If you have a prayer request, please see Darryl or call us at 704-938-4623.

Children's Activity Bags are available for children age 3 to Grade 5. They include a children's bulletin related to the Sunday sermon, crayons, and scrap paper. An usher would be happy to bring you one.

November Financial Update

Year to date budget - \$252,314

Year to date income - \$248,908

Year to date expenses - \$242,887

For more information on the budget and church life, please see the FORECAST that was mailed out last week. There are additional copies in the foyer and on the website.

Upcoming

Today is communion Sunday when we traditionally collect donations for the Good Sam Fund. We have been blessed to have been able to help several of those in need this year. If you could prayerfully consider giving to this fund, we will be able to help many more of those who are in need. Thank you for your generosity!

This year, the Missions Team has designated our Christmas Tree in the Narthex the "Giving Tree". You may select items to purchase for the Salvation Army Hope Shelter or items to adopt for Sole Hope. Please return items or donations by Christmas Eve.

Blankets for the Homeless - There is a labeled box in the vestibule to collect blankets for the homeless in our community. If you have any gently used blankets of any size that you can donate, they will be greatly appreciated as the weather gets colder. If you would like to purchase a blanket to donate, Walmart has fleece blankets for less than \$10. What a difference a warm soft blanket makes! If you have any questions, please see Tana Nichols.

Wednesday night activities will continue for our children and youth in December! For your convenience, meals will be provided each Wednesday beginning at 5:30. Parents are welcome to stay and help, too. Please join us for these fun activities!

Wed., Dec. 5 - Choristers (K-8) rehearse with choir 6:15-6:30. Gingerbread House Workshop for all youth and families beginning at 6:30. (Please register with postcard, available in Narthex or Fellowship Hall foyer). Meal: Baked Potato & Salad Bars.

Wed., Dec. 12 - Choristers (K-8) rehearse with choir 6:15-6:30. All youth make gifts baskets for shut-ins until 7:30. Meal: Tacos.

Wed., Dec. 19 - All youth go Christmas caroling with Chancel Choir at 6:30pm and deliver gift baskets to shut-ins. Meal: Country Ham, Pinto Beans, Cabbage/Greens; Dessert on return from caroling.

Please join us for a Gingerbread House Workshop on Wednesday, Dec. 5th. We will begin with dinner at 5:30 (baked potato and salad bars), then start making our Gingerbread Houses at

6:30. In order to get an accurate number of supplies, please register by filling out the postcard located in the narthex or fellowship hall vestibule. Today is the deadline! Return to the church office or place in Michelle Walker's box.

The **JOY Group will have a covered dish lunch** at the home of Ron & Alpha Barger on Friday, December 14 at noon. Please bring a cover dish. Ham and drinks will be provided. Directions will be put with the sign up sheet which is located outside the parlor.

If you would like to contribute flowers for worship, please see the sign-up poster on the bulletin board just outside the church office. The cost for an arrangement is \$56. Or, if you like to purchase something permanent that can be rotated during the weeks we don't have a live arrangement, please contact Jill McLain.

Prayer Concerns

Iris Efird - recovering from surgery.

Mike Williams - at home.

Sharon Stricker - broken knee.

Mary Johns - upcoming surgeries, including eye cancer.

Emily Griggs - teacher in Casablanca.

Donna Whitley - recovering from surgery, now at home.

Juanita Holt - back at home.

Loretta Young - at Five Oaks.

Peggy Barnhardt - at Morningside with Dementia.

Lynn Efird - continuing treatment.

Ellen Little - continued prayers for the health issues of Ellen and family.

Connie Rary - still fighting cancer, went to Duke specialist.

Debby Baker - participating in a cancer clinical trial.

FAMILY OF MEMBERS

Jason Gibson - youngest son of Frank, suffers from Crohn's Disease and is facing major surgery for the third time. Surgery will take place at Vanderbilt University Hospital in February.

Travis Boan & Family - friend of Chariti Lowder, recent cancer diagnosis and trying to determine treatment plan.

Brenda Park - friend of Carol Lowder, facing a serious colon surgery.

Amy Ritchie - friend of Jane Jacobs, dealing with stage 4 Breast Cancer.

Nancy Barger - friend of Jane Jacobs, dealing with cancer.

Jay - brother of Ellen Little, home from hospital and awaiting update for surgery.

Mark McDaniel - brother of Mal McDaniel, in remission and making great progress!

Barbara Coffey - friend of Judy Hunter: stage 4 Breast Cancer, undergoing chemo.

Thomas Dishman - friend of Judy Hunter: problems with LVAD, awaiting heart transplant.

Chuck Rogers - friend of Judy Hammond: suffered stroke following surgery.

Shelia & Steve Dobson - friends of Judy Hammond: Steve had brain surgery.

Russell Gardner - friend of Mike Freeman: cancer and recurring pneumonia.

Ernest Miller - friend of Mike Freeman: lung cancer and PTSD (Viet Nam Vet)

Lori Holder - daughter of Sam McAllister: Suffering with MS.

Arthur Fu - brother of Jessica Bell: Fighting cancer.

Special Church Member of the Week

Betty Overcash

1438 Oak Pond PI NW
Concord, NC 28027-4187

Send a card, make a visit or a call, or offer a prayer. All to say "God loves you and the church cares about you."



www.firstpresb.org

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Phone - 704-938-4623

The Session

Rev. Dr. Darryl Evans, Moderator
Jeff Barnhardt, Clerk of Session

Class of 2019
Garrett Brady
Mike Freeman
Allison Hammett
Carol Lowder

Class of 2020
Jeff Barnhardt
Frank Gibson
Phil McLain
Gip Rumble

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Darryl Evans
Pastor

David Hamilton
Director of Music

Michelle Walker
Director of Children's Ministries

Terri Pruett
Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Kay Yates
Organist

Irene Davis
Nursery Director

Teresa Alexander - friend of Renee Goodnight: Diagnosed with brain tumors and staph infection.

Hope Community - church plant in Wilmington, NC with Nate Stratman.

Prayer request? Please write it down on the blue pew prayer card, & place in the offering plate.

Servants

Greeters: Jeff Barnhardt & Phil McLain

Elder Lock-Up: Carol Lowder

Videographer: David Reed

Nursery: Sharon Stricker

Nursery next week: Allison Hammett

Acolytes: Will Evans & August Williams

Acolytes next week: Toby Caskey & Abigail Malinovsky

Ushers: Jason & Erin Burris and Doug & Amelia Goodnight

Ushers next week: William Baker, Jeff Barnhardt, C.J. Semcho & Tony Sherrill

This Week

TODAY

- 9:30 a.m. - **Coffee Hour** -
Disciples Class
- 10:00 a.m. - **Sunday School/
Children's Church**
- 10:00 a.m. - **New Covenant
Partners Class**
- 11:00 a.m. - **Worship Service**

MONDAY

- 6:30 p.m. - **Salt Shakers Bible Study**
- 8:00 p.m. - **Alcoholics Anonymous**

TUESDAY

- 12:00 p.m. - **Narcotics Anonymous (NA)**

WEDNESDAY

- 5:30 p.m. - **Youth/Children Supper**
- 6:15 p.m. - **Choristers**

- 6:30 p.m. - **Gingerbread House
Workshop**
- 6:30 p.m. - **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**
- 7:30 p.m. - **Handbell Rehearsal**

THURSDAY

- 10:30 a.m. - **Women's Bible Study**
- 12:00 p.m. - **NA**
- 6:30 p.m. - **Boy Scouts**
- 8:00 p.m. - **AA**

NEXT SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. - **Prayer Fellowship** - Parlor
All are welcome
- 9:30 a.m. - **Coffee Hour** -
Good News Class
- 10:00 a.m. - **Sunday School/
Children's Church**
- 11:00 a.m. - **Worship Service**



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