

THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

~ Gathering before the Word ~

Prelude *In the Bleak Midwinter* Holst

Welcome & Service of Friendship Pastor Darryl Evans

Choral Call to Worship *God with Us, Emmanuel* Joel Raney

***Call to Worship** Swaringen Family

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Prince of Peace.

The Lord gives strength to his people, and blesses them with peace.

In the midst of conflict, we look to the One who brings harmony.

The Lord gives strength to his people, and blesses them with peace.

In the midst of confusion, we look to the One who brings clarity.

The Lord gives strength to his people, and blesses them with peace.

In the midst of division, we look to the One who brings unity.

The Lord gives strength to his people, and blesses them with peace.

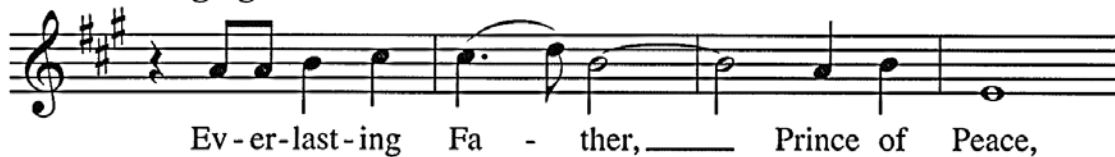
In the midst of separation, we look to the One who restores the broken.

The Lord gives strength to his people, and blesses them with peace.

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:



***Hymn of Praise No. 81**

REGENT SQUARE

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

***Prayer of Confession**

David Hamilton

**God who is with us, and God who is on the way,
we confess that we do not wait or watch for you.
Works of darkness encumber and distract us.
Petty jealousies, hard quarrels, ambitions rooted
in selfish desires—
they command our attention.**

**We have ceased to hope for peace and harmony
among the nations
or for security apart from the defenses
we construct.**

**We hear your promises, Lord, but dare not
trust them.**

**God of power and love, awaken us to hope
and fit us for your coming,
that we may watch for you with confidence and joy.**

(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.

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Appalachian Winter - A Cantata for Christmas

At the coming of winter there is a blessed quietness that seems to settle upon the heart. The chill of frosty air and the season's lengthening shadows invite us to reflection and simplicity. As we retreat to the hearth and away from the cold, there is a subtle turning that seems to happen. Weary from struggle and frozen by distress, we find warmth and assurance inside our sanctuaries of contemplation. Peace falls like a gentle snow and we remember, with great hope, the promises of

our faith. The candles of hope, peace, love and joy are once again kindled in our spirits. We gaze with longing into the silent night, seeking a star and listening for a song that will fill the deep silence and set our hearts to celebration.

It is then, above the whistle of the winter wind, the first notes of a distant “Gloria” arrives. Soft at first, it comes like a dream, and then in a great crescendo, it sweeps across our emptiness and fills our hearts with a symphony of angel wings. The mountains and canyons echo like cathedrals declaring the news: “Jesus the Savior is born. Glory to God in the Highest.”

Overflowing with worship and surrounded by grace, we discover our miracle. Melody and message reach out and draw us close into their lavish embrace. Rejoicing, and filled with wonder, we join the music, lifting our praise into the night. How amazing that in the very heart of winter’s desolation, we have found our Song.

Joseph M. Martin

Prelude

‘Tis a Season for Singing

Long Time Ago

Hope and Expectation

Carol of the Winter Wind

Mountain Carol

Gentle Carols of Bethlehem

While Shepherds Watched

A Rustic Star Carol

Children, Go Tell It on the Mountain

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

***Affirmation of Faith – Isaiah 9:6-7**

David Hamilton

**For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.**

**And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.**

**He will reign on David’s throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.**

**The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.**

Offering & Offertory

And the Glory of the Lord
Alleluia Ringers

Handel

***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. 82**

GLORIA

Angels We Have Heard on High

***Benediction**

***Choral Benediction**

242 While We Are Waiting, Come

Behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me. Rev. 22:12

1. While we are wait - ing, come; While we are wait - ing, come.
2. With pow'r and glo - ry, come; With pow'r and glo - ry, come.
3. Come, Sav-ior, quick - ly come; Come, Sav-ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, While we are wait - ing, come.

Postlude

Ding Dong Merrily on High

16th Century French

*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.

There will be no Children's Church today. Children are welcome to stay in the sanctuary for the cantata.

Upcoming

Today, the chancel choir will perform a cantata that celebrates the legacy of early American carols and hymnody. Composed in the spirit of folk music, the *Appalachian Winter* combines traditional sounds with more rustic elements creating a blend that is fresh and pleasing. Popular American carols like *Away in a Manger* and *O Little Town of Bethlehem* dance with traditional spirituals such as *Children, Go Where I Send Thee* and *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*. Sacred Harp tunes are re-tooled for Advent and stand alongside new versions of Shaker hymns and Appalachian melodies. Thoughtful narration weaves the movements together in a meaningful tapestry of song and Scripture.

Next Sunday, December 24th there will be a Christmas brunch beginning at 9:15 a.m. followed by carols in the fellowship hall (no Sunday School). The Fellowship Team will welcome anyone who wants to bring some food to share. All families are invited!

FPC will have a Christmas Eve service on Sunday, December 24th at 5:30 pm, in addition to the 11 am service. All are invited to attend!

This year the Missions Committee has again chosen Heifer International and Meals on Wheels for our Christmas Tree Projects. We received positive feedback from you last year in supporting both an international and local ministry as \$1920 was collected for Heifer International along with all 10 of our Meals on Wheels clients adopted! To support Heifer International, please take an animal picture from the Missions Committee tree in the narthex. You will find varying amounts on the back of the photos. Please place the photo with your cash or check in the offering plate so that we will be able to keep count of how many animals were purchased. The last day to donate to Heifer International is TODAY. This year if you adopt one of the ten Meals on Wheels clients to purchase Christmas presents for, you may also deliver them if you wish. All of our clients live in Kannapolis. If you do not want to deliver, you can still adopt a client to shop for. If you choose to shop for MOW, please take the ornament and give it to Renee Goodnight and she will provide you with their wish list and address. Please plan to spend at least \$20 per client. Christmas Eve is the deadline for turning in money for Heifer International as well as having gifts delivered to clients. If you have any questions, please contact Renee Goodnight @ 704.920.0006. Thank you for your support of these projects!

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.



www.firstpresb.org

201 Vance Street
Kannapolis NC 28081-4383
Phone - 704-938-4623

The Session

Rev. Dr. Darryl Evans, Moderator
Wren Philpot, Clerk of Session

Class of 2018

Danny Bost
Peggy Gibson
Mark Goodnight
Sam McAllister

Class of 2019

Garrett Brady
Mike Freeman
Allison Hammett
Carol Lowder

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Darryl Evans
Pastor

David Hamilton
Director of Music

Tracy and Adam Caskey
Youth Directors

Terri Pruett
Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Kay Yates
Organist

Irene Davis
Nursery Director

Prayer Concerns

Mark Goodnight, came through his Prostrate Cancer surgery well.

Shane Kluttz, friend of Kay Yates, in an induced coma at Duke due to auto immune disease affecting his lungs.

Jennifer Williams, recovering at home.

Rev. Don Greer, grandfather of Chariti Lowder, recovering at home.

Sharon Cranford, recovering from surgery.

A friend of the church, reconciliation of family members, multiple family health issues, revival to be manifested.

Betty Overcash, now at home.

Tink Wade, friend of Jill McLain, breast cancer, facing chemo, surgery and radiation.

Peggy Barnhardt, at Transitional with broken foot.

Brian Landis, stage 5 renal disease.

Iris Efird, recovering at home.

Connie Rary had a good one year report, and is still fighting cancer.

Sharon Stricker, recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Farrar Griggs, Restoration process after fire at Rocky Creek Presbyterian Church plus health concerns. **Emily Griggs**, back in Morocco

Lori Holder, daughter of Sam McAllister, has MS.

Teresa Alexander, friend of Renée Goodnight, brain tumors.

Mark McDaniel, lymphoma (Mal's brother), making good progress.

Ron Lisenby, leg and knee issues.

Gene Griggs, cousin of Farrar Griggs, suffered a stroke.

Donna Whitley, kidney disease.

Sherri Bridges, mother of Danielle Byrd, friend of Laura McLain, breast cancer.

Debby Baker, has cancer again.

Linda Bost, small, stable cerebral aneurysm.

Loretta Young, Alzheimer's is progressing and she is declining in health.

Dwight Goodnight, and his son, **Tod Goodnight** who is struggling with Parkinson's Disease.

Juanita Holt, continues to appreciate your calls, cards, and prayers while she continues to recuperate.

Christ the Word church plant in Rolesville, NC with Patrick Cherry.

Dave Viscount, friend of Mark Goodnight, suffering from ALS.

Special Church Member of the Week

Charles Seaford

304 Larry Drive
Kannapolis, NC 28083-5144

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."

Beth Barnhardt, friend of Judy Hammond, is still having difficulty seeing clearly.

Susan (Hodge) Thomas, recovering from hip surgery.

Joyce Weaver, health issues.

Don Hamilton, Cookie's husband, is on dialysis.

Liam Debord, Hunters' grandson, fighting brain tumors.

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

Servants

Greeters: Peggy Gibson & Sam McAllister

Elder Lock-Up: Carol Lowder

Videographer: Michael Martens

Children's Message: None

Children's Message Next Week: Tracy Caskey

Children's Church Leader: None

Children's Church Leader next week: Tracy Caskey

Nursery: Hannah Efird

Nursery next week: Lynn Efird

Acolytes: Ella Sechler & Caroline Smith

Acolytes next week: Amelia Caskey & Ella Sechler

Ushers: Andrew & Jenna Baker; Doug & Amelia Goodnight

Ushers next week: Todd Adams, Mark Goodnight, Bobby Hallman & Amy Hurst

This Week

TODAY

9:00 a.m. - **Prayer Fellowship** – Parlor
All are welcome

9:30 a.m. - **Coffee Hour** -
Walter Goodman Class

10:00 a.m. - **Sunday School**

11:00 a.m. - **Worship Service - Cantata**

MONDAY

8:00 p.m. - **Alcoholics Anonymous**

TUESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

9:15 a.m. - **Christmas Brunch**

10:00 a.m. - **Caroling in the
Fellowship Hall**

11:00 a.m. - **Worship Service**



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