



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

~ Gathering before the Word ~

Prelude*The First Noel*

16th Century English Carol

Welcome & Service of Friendship

Pastor Darryl Evans

Choral Call to Worship*God with Us, Emmanuel*

Joel Raney

***Call to Worship**

Stricker Family

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Everlasting Father.

From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

During Advent we look to the One who knows our deepest thoughts.

From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

During Advent we look to the One who cares for our deepest needs.

From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

During Advent we look to the One who knows our most pressing concerns.

From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

During Advent we look to the One who knows our innermost being.

From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

***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. 86**

Away in a Manger

***Prayer of Confession**

David Hamilton

**Cleansing God,
we hear the call to repentance,
but we struggle to respond.
A voice tells us to turn around,
but we prefer our own ways.**

**Purify us in the furnace of your love,
Look with mercy on us.
Clear a place within us so that something new might be born,
something that will return us to the way
you have shown us in Jesus Christ.**

(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 ~

10 Cents a Meal

Tracy Caskey

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed. The little Lord Jesus, lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky, look down where he lay. The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

(Four year olds through 2nd graders may now be excused to Children's Church. An adult will now escort the children to the Children's Church Classroom, which is on the 3rd floor of the education building, where they will be picked up by a parent after the service.)

Anthem

While Shepherds Watched
Chancel Choir

arr. Martin

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:12-18

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Fathers of Jesus: Joseph

Darryl Evans

“...and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary,
of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.”

– Matthew 1:16

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

*Affirmation of Faith – from Ephesians 1

David Hamilton

In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ ...to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

...And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

Offering & Offertory

Stille Nacht

Gruber

Jessica Bell, violin

Kay Yates, piano

*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. 95

GREENSLEEVES

What Child Is This?

*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.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in 3/4 time. It features a melody line and a bass line. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Postlude

Gloria

18th Century French Carol

*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.

Children's Church is available for children, 4 years to 2nd Grade. After the "A Word with Our Children," they will be escorted to the Children's Church. After worship, parents may pick up children in the Children's Church Classroom, which is on the 3rd floor of the education building.

Upcoming

A note of thanks: We would like to thank the congregation for all the calls, texts, cards, and especially your prayers during my recent surgery. What a great blessing First Presbyterian has been to us during this time! Renee and I are so thankful for our church family and wish you all a very Merry Christmas! *Mark Goodnight*

Join us this morning for Christmas brunch beginning at 9:15 am followed by carols in the fellowship hall (no Sunday School). All are invited!

FPC will have a Christmas Eve candlelight service TONIGHT, December 24th at 5:30 pm. All are invited to attend!

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

Sue Edwards, friend of Mike Freeze, has brain cancer.

Jerry Sherrill, Tony Sherrill's Brother, at home with Hospice.

Mark Goodnight, recovering from surgery.

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 from surgery.

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, recovering at home.

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.

Special Church Member of the Week

Loretta Young

Five Oaks Manor
Room 302, Bed A
413 Winecoff School Road
Concord, NC 28027

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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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 Pruet
Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Kay Yates
Organist

Irene Davis
Nursery Director

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.

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: David Reed

Children's Message: Tracy Caskey

Children's Message Next Week: Adam Caskey

Children's Church Leader: Tracy Caskey

Children's Church Leader next week: Alpha Barger

Nursery: Lynn Efird

Nursery next week: Laura McLain

Acolytes: Amelia Caskey & Ella Sechler

Acolytes next week: Luke Burris & Abigail Malinovsky

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

Ushers next week: William Baker, Mike Freeman, Tony Rary & John Roberson

This Week

TODAY

- 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**

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. - **Coffee Hour** -
Drummond Class
- 10:00 a.m. - **Sunday School**
- 11:00 a.m. - **Worship Service**



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