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FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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~ Gathering before the Word ~

**Prelude**

*O Dulci Jubilo*

14th Century German Tune

**Welcome & Service of Friendship**

Rev. Darryl Evans

**Choral Call to Worship**

*God with Us, Emmanuel*

Joel Raney

**\*Call to Worship**

Caskey 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.**

**~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~**

**\*Hymn No 78**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*(Four year olds through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders can now be excused to Children's Church. An adult will now escort the children to the Children's Church Classroom which is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor first room on the right, where they will be picked up by a parent after the service.)*

**Scripture Reading**

Genesis 38:6-30 & Matthew 1:1-3

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

**Sermon**            The Fathers of Jesus: Judah the father Perez & Zerah    Darryl Evans

“Judah the father of Perez and Zerah,  
whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron”  
–Matthew 1:3

**~ Responding to the Word of God ~**

**\*Affirmation of Faith – Genesis 44:18, 32-34**

David Hamilton

Then Judah went up to him and said: “Pardon your servant, my lord, let me speak a word to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, though you are equal to Pharaoh himself...

Your servant guaranteed the boy’s safety to my father. I said, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, I will bear the blame before you, my father, all my life!’ Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord’s slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come on my father.

**Sacrament of Communion**

**Offering & Offertory**

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

Polish Carol

**\*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**

*He is Born*

French Carol

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

CCLI # 2221136

## To Our Guests

**Welcome!** We are delighted that you are worshipping 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the education building.

## 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!

**Christmas Covered Dish Dinner and Children's Christmas Play TONIGHT,** December 3rd at 5:30pm this year. All are invited to attend! Please bring a well filled basket of your favorite dishes to share.

**A Gingerbread House Workshop** will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm. Dinner will be served at 5:45 p.m. at a cost of \$5 per person, maximum of \$20 per family. Please bring candy suitable to use on the houses.

**The Missions Team has once again reserved a time for our Church to process Shoeboxes at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Charlotte.** Our assigned slot is on Wednesday, Dec. 13 from 5-10pm. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Please see Michelle Walker if you have questions.

**All Sisters in Christ:** We will gather together on Saturday, December 9 from 2-3:30pm for a Christmas Cookie Swap! This will be a special time for connecting with our pairs and sharing about our experiences together. This time also will conclude our formal window of our pairings, yet with the hope of continuing to grow in the everyday journeys together. Please bring 3 dozen of your favorite homemade goodies (whether you or your favorite bakery makes them is up to you!). We will then get to share our yummy goodies with each other to take home to aid in our celebrating of this Christmas season. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lee Evans (252) 944-6264, [marylee.evans@gmail.com](mailto:marylee.evans@gmail.com).

**On Monday, December 11, the Circle of Women** will meet at the coffee shop on Main Street at 2:00 p.m.

**The JOY Group will have a catered Christmas dinner** on Friday, December 15 at noon in the fellowship hall. Cost is \$7.00 per person and paid reservations must be in by Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. Cash only please to Charlene Booth by that date. Signup sheet outside church parlor. There will be musical entertainment and a Christmas Grab Bag. If you wish to participate in the grab bag, please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift.

**On December 15<sup>th</sup>, parents are welcome to drop off their children at the church for a Parents' Night Out** from 5:30-9:00pm. This will include pizza, games, crafts, stories, etc. Registration is required to ensure enough chaperones, food, and materials are available. Please see Tracy or office for registration form. Forms need to be completed and turned in by December 11<sup>th</sup> to reserve your child's spot.



[www.firstpresb.org](http://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

**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 December 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## Prayer Concerns

**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, no visitors at this time, please.

**Rev. Don Greer**, grandfather of Chariti Lowder, open heart bypass surgery scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Sharon Cranford**, recovering from surgery.

**Ron Barger**, recovering from surgery.

**A friend of the church**, Dec 11 court case, pray it will be dismissed with no further charges, reconciliation of family members, multiple family health issues, revival to be manifested.

**Betty Overcash**, now at home.

### Special Church Member of the Week

**Charles Seaford**  
304 Larry Drive  
Kannapolis, NC 28083-6144

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."

**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.  
**Clara Burris**, atrial septal defect.  
**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:** Michael Martens  
**Children's Message:** None  
**Children's Message Next Week:** Malaina Meeks  
**Children's Church Leader:** Jenna Baker  
**Children's Church Leader next week:** Michelle Walker  
**Nursery:** Sharon Stricker  
**Nursery next week:** Lynn Efird  
**Acolytes:** Caroline Smith & Abigail Malinovsky  
**Acolytes next week:** Luke Burris & Fred Caskey



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

**Ushers next week:** Tony Hunter, Sam McAllister, Mal McDaniel & Daniel Pless

## **This Week**

### TODAY

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

9:30 a.m. - **Coffee Hour** -  
Disciples Class

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

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

5:30 p.m. - **Christmas Family Night**  
**Covered Dish & Christmas**  
**Program**

### MONDAY

6:30 p.m. - **Salt Shakers Bible Study**

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

### TUESDAY

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

### WEDNESDAY

5:45 p.m. - **Wednesday Supper**

6:30 p.m. - **Gingerbread House**  
**Workshop**

6:30 p.m. - **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

7:30 p.m. - **Alleluia Ringers**

### 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**

### SATURDAY

2:00 p.m. - **Sisters in Christ Gathering**

### 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**

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



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