



First Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 10th, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent



“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose/By any other name would smell as sweet...” -William Shakespeare

4602 Cary Street Road
Richmond, VA 23226
fprichmond.org | (804) 358-2383

Order of Worship

Prelude "Overture" from *Messiah* G. F. Handel
16 Strings

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Mary Kay Collins

Introit *The First Noel* arr. Michael Mazzatenta
Chancel Bells

Lighting of the Advent Wreath David and Marsha Williams

*Hymn 82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

*Prayer of Confession Rev. Mary Kay Collins

Merciful God, you invite us to listen: to listen for your arrival, to listen for your voice, to listen for the deep breath before the glorious chorus. But it is hard to hear your footsteps when we are running ourselves. In your mercy, slow us down, quiet our steps, and calm our hearts that we might discover, again or for the first time, the wonder of a God who is Immanuel, with us and for us in all things.

Assurance of Pardon "Comfort ye my people" from *Messiah* G. F. Handel
Dave Maier, tenor

"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'"

Isaiah 40:1-3

*Passing the Peace

Baptisms Julia Tillar Dewey, child of Liz and Stephen Dewey Rev. Mary Kay Collins
Millie Patterson Holley, child of Ben and Megan Holley Rev. Amy Starr Redwine

*Question to the Congregation

One: Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Tillar and Millie, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Jesus and to be faithful members of Christ's church?

All: We do.

*Apostles' Creed (Hymnal p. 35)

Hymn 129 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" ES IST EIN' ROS'

*Children ages 3 years through 5th grade are invited to Children's Chapel.
They may be picked up in the Chapel following worship.*

***Please rise in body or in spirit.**

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Amy Starr Redwine

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-3

OT pp. 602

From *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

Every valley shall be exalted

Dave Maier, tenor

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

Isaiah 40:4

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed

Chancel Choir

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all the flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it

Isaiah 40:5

O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion

Chancel Choir; Jondra Harmon, mezzo-soprano

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Emmanuel, God with us. O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength: lift it up, be not afraid: say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 40:9

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-45

NT p. 53

Sermon

“Love, the Rose”

Anthem

“Domine Deus” from *Gloria*
Margaret Taylor Woods, soprano

Antonio Vivaldi

Call to Offering

Rev. Derek Starr Redwine

Offertory

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Chancel Bells and 16 Strings

arr. Cathy Moglebust

*Doxology (Prayer of Thanksgiving)

sung to THE FIRST NOEL

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Derek Starr Redwine

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.

*Hymn 132

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

IN DULCI JUBILO

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Amy Starr Redwine

Postlude

Chorale Fantasia on "In dulci jubilo"
Bruce Stevens, organ

J. S. Bach

16 Strings: Elizabeth Kilpatrick and Audrey Pride, violin; Stephen Schmidt, viola; Schuyler Slack, cello

This week's usher team includes: David Williams, Meg Simonton, Judy Price, Ashby Horner

Elders at the doors: Eone Beck, Christina Luxon, Nicholas Reynolds

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given in memory of Joan Crosby by Ralph Crosby and his sons; and in memory of William Palmer Wilkins, Jr. by Brenda Wilkins McGehee and William Palmer Wilkins III.

The flowers in the Sanctuary were arranged by Lynda Starr. The flowers in the Memorial Corridor were arranged by Lauren Neal.

Help us reach our stewardship goal! Make a pledge or gift to the church anytime at fpcrichmond.org/give or by scanning the QR code. Thank you for all the ways you give.



Please keep in your prayers those with special concerns:

- Carter Brenaman, health concerns
- Nancy Bruni (*Ben Bruni's mother*), cancer treatment
- Bobby Cobb, health concerns
- Hannah Gray, health concerns
- Kay Grinnan, health concerns
- Robert Holland, health concerns
- Jay Johnston, health concerns
- Joyce Lloyd (*Rachael Brown's mother*), cancer treatment
- Mason Louthan, flying F/A-18s on USS Gerald R Ford in eastern Mediterranean, deployment extended
- Barbara Mitchell (*Judy Nobles mother*), in hospice care
- Jane Neer, health concerns
- Byrd Newton (*Emily Laux's father*), health concerns
- Ray Slabaugh, health concerns
- Sharon Spencer, health concerns

Those Grieving:

- Linda Lacy on the death of her niece, Anne Terrell, on November 29.

Those Rejoicing:

- Gus and Lucy Kost on the birth of their son, Jackson (Jack) Augustus Kost, on December 1. Jack's grandmother is Sara Crump.

We pray for members and family serving in the military:

Tripp Bowles, Jenny Sigel Burkett, Zach Kirk, Mason Louthan, Anne Marks, Nathan Thomas Meade, Connor Partlow, Peyton Spivey, Pierce Tarry, and Will Watkins.

How can we pray for you?

You can submit concerns and celebrations at fpcrichmond.org/prayer or let one of our pastors know.