

# *A Festival of Lessons & Carols*

Sunday, December 17, 2017  
8:45 and 11:00 a.m.  
Third Sunday in Advent



First Presbyterian Church  
of Athens

## GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. As we enter a holy space this morning, **please silence your cell phone.** Consult an usher if you need a personal hearing device, large-print bulletin, or large-print hymnal. The nursery is available downstairs during both services for children birth to age four. **There will be no Children's Church today.**

### Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

### Prelude

Once in Royal David's City

Philip Moore

### Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad.

### Minute for Mission

Christmas Joy Offering

Mary Burton

### Entrance Hymn

Once in Royal David's City  
Please stand and join in singing stanzas 3-6

IRBY

- Choir:**
1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
  2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
- \*All:**
3. **And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey,  
love, and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.**
  4. **For he is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew,  
he was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth all our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.**
  5. **And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**
  6. **Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
when like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.**

### \*Bidding Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 16

. . . and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

8:45 a.m. Katherine Queen, 6th Grade,  
Jim Boyles and Carroll Gaillard, Christian Issues

11:00 a.m. Camille Attaway, 5th Grade,  
Denise Horton and Lois Neighbors, Women's Bible Class

### Response

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### **First Lesson** Genesis 3:8-19

Adam and Eve rebel against God.

#### **Carol**

This Is the Truth Sent from Above

James Kirkby

This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love;  
therefore don't turn me from the door, but hearken all, both rich and poor.  
The first thing which I do relate, is that God did man create;  
the next thing which to you I'll tell, woman was made with man to dwell.  
Then after that 'twas God's own choice to place them both in paradise,  
there to remain from evil free except they ate of such a tree.  
But they did eat, which was a sin, and thus their ruin did begin,  
ruined themselves, both you and me, and all of their posterity.  
Thus we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose;  
and so a promise soon did run: that he would redeem us by his Son.

### **Second Lesson** Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to Abraham that by his offspring all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

#### **\*Hymn 13**

Prepare the Way

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

**Third Lesson** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Savior.

#### **Anthem**

He Comes to Us as One Unknown

arr. John Ferguson

He comes to us as one unknown, a breath unseen, unheard;  
as though within a heart of stone, or shriveled seed in darkness sown,  
a pulse of being stirred, a pulse of being stirred.  
He comes when souls in silence lie and thoughts of day depart;  
half-seen upon the inward eye, a falling star across the sky  
of night within the heart, of night within the heart.  
He comes to us in sound of seas, the ocean's fume and foam;  
yet small and still upon the breeze a wind that stirs the tops of trees,  
a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.  
He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and birth;  
to bear within our mortal frame a life, a death, a saving Name,  
for every child of earth, for every child of earth.  
He comes in truth when faith is grown; believed, obeyed, adored;  
the Christ in all the Scriptures shown, as yet unseen, but not unknown,  
our Savior and our Lord, our Savior and our Lord.

**Fourth Lesson** Isaiah 11:1-9 The peace that Christ will bring is promised.

#### **\*Hymn 48**

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming  
(stanza 1 – in harmony, stanza 2 – in unison)

EST IST EIN' ROS'

**Fifth Lesson** Luke 1:26-35, 38 The angel Gabriel visits the Virgin Mary.

#### **Carol**

The Angel Gabriel

Basque carol

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria!  
"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady," Gloria!  
Then gentle, Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"my soul shall laud and magnify this holy Name." Most highly favored lady, Gloria!  
Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say – "Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

**Sixth Lesson** Luke 2:1-7 Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

**\*Hymn 43**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

FOREST GREEN

**Seventh Lesson** Luke 2:8-16 The shepherds go to the manger.

**Carol**

Sussex Carol

arr. David Willcocks

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,  
on Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring –  
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.  
Then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,  
then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad?  
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?  
When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place,  
when sin departs before thy grace, then life and health come in its place;  
angels above with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.  
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night,  
all out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:  
'Glory to God and peace to men, now and for evermore. Amen.

**Eighth Lesson** Matthew 2:1-11 The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.

**Carol**

Sir Christèmas

William Mathias

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.  
Who is there that singeth so, Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell?  
I am here, Sir Christèmas, Sir Christèmas, Sir Christèmas.  
Welcome, my lord, Sir Christèmas! Welcome to all, both more and less,  
come near, come near, come near, come near, come near.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.  
Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs, tidings I you bring:  
A maid hath borne a child full young, which causeth you to sing:  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.  
Christ is now born of a pure maid, born of a pure maid;  
in an ox-stall he is laid, wherefore sing we at a brayed:  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell.  
Buvez bien, buvez bien par toute la compagnie.  
Make good cheer and be right merry,  
and sing with us now joyfully, joyfully, joyfully:  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell! Nowell!

**Ninth Lesson** John 1:1-14 John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

### Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

**Offertory Carol**

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.  
Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.  
Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day, a breastful of milk and a manger full of hay;  
enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore.  
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,  
if I were a wise man I would do my part, yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

### Prayer of Dedication

**\*Hymn 31**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

Postlude on MENDELSSOHN

David Willcocks

**Poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary  
to the glory of God and in memory of:**

Ruth & Joseph Barnish  
Franklin & Ada Barton  
Conrad Bergmann  
Bob Bossert  
Jim Boyles, Sr.  
Hazel Boyles  
Paulo Bueno  
Ronald Buikema  
Helen Burton  
Parents of Charles & Nan Cantrell  
Bob Cobb  
Robert T. Cobb  
Professor Pauline P. Collins  
Barbara Bergmann Coulter  
Julius Phillip Covington  
Bolling & Mary Neil DuBose  
Carol & Jim Elkins  
Ruby C. Freeman  
Departed Loved Ones of Ian Hardin &  
Carol McKay  
J. Kimball Harriman  
Pauline Straky Hofmann  
Isabelle Oates Hunter  
Bob Jordan  
Jimmy Jordan  
Rev. James Renwick Kennedy  
William W. Kidd  
Rev. Dorothy M. Kipp  
Jack & Judy Koetzle  
Michael LaFleur  
Sue Law  
Jim Lindsey  
Francis B. Lyman, Jr.  
Bob & Sue Marion  
CPL Evan Andrew Marshall  
Dr. Elizabeth Hulsey Marshall  
Thomas Allen Marshall  
Richard A. Mattocks  
Mr. & Mrs. William McDonough  
Amos & Dorothy Mehl  
Mary Gilbert Mell  
Aline Melton

Kate Middendorf  
Wayne F. Middendorf  
Mr. & Mrs. James Mirisola  
Mike McCoy Nicholson  
James T. O'Brien  
Merritt & Be Oelke  
Grace R. Poe  
Herman F. Quante  
Isabelle W. Quante  
John Wesley Reed  
Michael Warren Reed  
Grace Hancock Rowland  
Cornelia W. Scanlon  
Jane Scott  
Merideth Sheskey  
Harry W. Shuford  
Walt & Betty Simmons  
Dr. Edir Barros Siqueira  
Professor & Mrs. Elvindo D. Siqueira  
Gerald & Linda Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Stephens, Jr.  
Dr. Eric and JoAnne Swanson  
Elinor & John Terrell  
Louise & Tom Tillman  
Ray Trapnell  
Maria Umana  
Jack & Mary Lawson Vandiver  
Fred & Helen Wallace  
Charles & Evelyn Ward  
Mr. & Mrs. John Wiarda  
Prof. Howard J. Wiarda  
Lance Wilder  
Carolyn Smith Wilfong  
Genevieve Wilfong  
Joseph A. Wilfong III  
Joseph A. Wilfong, Jr.  
Joseph A. Wilfong, Sr.  
William Sidney Wilfong  
Mr. & Mrs. John Williams  
George & Nadine Wilson  
Nancy Conley Wilson



**Poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary  
to the glory of God and in honor of:**

Britt Boyles  
Chastain Boyles  
Crystal Boyles  
Travis Boyles  
Carolyn Hally  
Dot Handley  
Kitty Kellogg  
Kitty Lay's Family

The Honorable James McDonald  
Carol Robinson  
Kathleen H. Wilfong  
Margaret Williamson  
Tom Williamson  
Carl Wilson  
Dedicated Church Volunteers  
IHNA Guests & Volunteers

**Christmas Joy Offering**

Today we receive the Christmas Joy Offering. Each year we celebrate the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to this offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Thank you for your generosity.

**ANNUAL ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**

**Today, 9:45 a.m., Moses Waddel Room**

It takes dedicated leaders and participants to present engaging, provocative Sunday School classes for us to enjoy each year. If you are involved in Sunday School, come let us celebrate you. If you haven't been involved in Sunday School, stop by for refreshments and speak with people who are. It's a vibrant scene on Sunday mornings, perhaps waiting just for you.

Since the Chancel Choir rehearses during the Sunday School hour, it is difficult for members to fully engage in Sunday School, so this Social is also in recognition of them, the sacrifices they make on our behalf, and the exceptional music we hear and sing during worship.

**A very special invitation to join us for our Christmas Eve services:**

**Christmas Eve, December 24**

**Morning Services: 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.**

Sermon from Dr. Carol Strickland

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Services**

**4:00, 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.**

Family service, 4:00 p.m., planned with small children in mind

Communion services, 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.

Special music and a sermon from Dr. Bruce Lancaster

Nursery at 6:00 p.m. Nursery will not be provided at 8:00 p.m.

Please plan to join us on this most holy of nights as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE

### WORSHIP LEADERS

#### Readers:

Cate DeMaria, St. Andrews Choir  
Maggie DeMaria, Celebration Singers  
Charlie Young, Chancel Choir  
Diane Hudgins, Worship and Music  
Commission  
Jerry Rogers, Session  
Cheryl Gazlay, Presbyterian Women  
Kim Ness, Director of Youth Ministries  
Dr. Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor  
Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Interim Senior Pastor

#### Acolytes:

**11:00 a.m.** Lucy Attaway, Jimmy Bishop

### FELLOWSHIP HOST

Susan Ferguson

### USHERS

**8:45 a.m.** John Simpson (head),  
Charlie Logan, Henry Logan, David Magrino  
**11:00 a.m.** Richard Lane (head),  
Bill Childers, Sandra Kays, Stan Kays,  
Courtney Pittman, Bo Thurston

### GREETERS

**8:45 a.m.** Jim Boyles, Sandy Boyles,  
Diane Hartzell, Terry Nestor  
**11:00 a.m.** Jayne Bailey, Marie Ledford,  
Tim Ledford, Carol McKay

### FLOWERS

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the marriage of Erin Hale Morris and James Edward Bikoff.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BATTLING A BLUE CHRISTMAS?

"Getting through the Holidays When You've Lost a Loved One" booklets are available in the Atrium. Pastors are also always available to talk.

### COMMITMENT SUNDAY UPDATE

The response to Commitment Sunday has been good. Thank you to everyone who has already pledged.

There are still a number of members from whom we hope to hear. It will help our church leaders plan the 2018 budget if we can receive pledges prior to year-end. You may turn in your pledge in the offering plate, in the church office, or you may pledge online. Thank you for prayerfully considering your pledge.

### HOLIDAY BENEVOLENCE MARKET Through December 31

Shop for "symbolic gifts" from 29 local nonprofits to give to friends, relatives, and teachers this Christmas. Shopping lists are available in the Atrium, or you can shop online at [holidaybenevolencemarket.org](http://holidaybenevolencemarket.org).

### 2018-19 WEEKDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

#### Begins January 11, 2018

Please call our director, Elaine Johnson, at 706-206-8180 to schedule a tour. Our Weekday School is celebrating our 51st year of serving Athens children, ages infant through 5 years.

## ADVENT SERMON SERIES

During Advent, FPC is going to the movies. Our Sunday sermons will highlight popular holiday films, seeing how these Christmas stories intertwine with "THE" Christmas story.

4th Sunday of Advent, December 24, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m., "It's a Wonderful Life"  
Christmas Eve, December 24, 6:00 & 8:00 p.m., "Miracle on 34th Street"

## THIS WEEK

### **Sunday, December 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, A Festival of Lessons & Carols
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School, Children's Ministry Suite
- 9:45 a.m. Annual Adult Sunday School Christmas Social, Moses Waddel Room
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium

### **Monday, December 18**

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School Christmas Break

### **Tuesday, December 19**

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Morningside Assisted Living, 1291 Cedar Shoals Dr.

### **Wednesday, December 20**

- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

### **Friday, December 22 - Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday**

### **Sunday, December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve**

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Carol Strickland preaching, No Sunday School
- 4:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service
- 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service, Nursery provided
- 8:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service, Nursery will not be provided

## LOOKING AHEAD

**December 25-** Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

Christmas Day Meals on Wheels Delivery

**December 31** - One Service, 10:00 a.m., No Sunday School

**January 1** - Church Office Closed for New Year's Holiday

New Year's Day Meals on Wheels Delivery

**January 10** - Bookless Book Group, Heirloom Cafe and Fresh Market

**January 13-14** - Youth Ski Trip

**January 14** - Voices of Truth Concert, 4:00 p.m.

Ecumenical Martin Luther King, Jr. Service, 5:00 p.m., First Baptist Church

**January 15** - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

**January 17** - Wed@First Programs and Dinner Begin

**January 23** - PTP Trip to UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital

**January 24** - Bookless Book Group, South Kitchen + Bar

**January 28** - Congregational Meeting and Lunch, 12:00 p.m.

Athens Area Youth Skate Night, 6:00 p.m.