

A Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 16, 2018

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of 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

Christmas Sinfonia

Giuseppe Valentini

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad making note of new and old friends, and check in online.

Moment for Mission

Holiday Benevolence Market

Denise Horton

Entrance Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Please stand and join in singing stanzas 3-6

- 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

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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

8:45 a.m. Christy and Andy Jordan

11:00 a.m. Carmen Meadows

Matt, Jill, Benjamin, Josephine, and Stella Crim

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 3:8-15, 17-19 Adam and Eve disobey God

Kate Ness

Anthem

The Apple Tree

K. Lee Scott

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ, the apple tree.
His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell
the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ, the apple tree.
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.
I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile:
under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Second Lesson Genesis 22:15-18 God's promise to Abraham

Ann Harper Covington

***Hymn 2**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Third Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 A great light in the darkness

Mary Havick

Anthem

Christ Is Nigh

Mark Schweizer

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding, "Christ is nigh," it seems to say,
"cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day."
Wakened by the solemn warning let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, our Sun, all ill dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.
He comes down like fragrant showers, raining on the fruitful earth,
love and joy and hope, like flowers springing on this path to birth:
see before him on the mountains peace, the valiant herald, go;
righteousness, in flowing fountains, from the hills to valleys flow.
Kings and monarchs bow before him, myrrh and gold and incense bring;
for all nations shall adore him, laud and praise, their offering;
unto him shall prayer unceasing with our daily vows ascend;
his great kingdom still increasing, kingdom that shall have no end.

Fourth Lesson Isaiah 11:1-9 A little child will lead them

Charlie Young

***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 An angel appears to Mary

Kim Ness

Carol

In dulci jubilo

Michael Bedford

In dulci jubilo let us our homage shew;
our heart's joy reclineth in praesepio
and like a bright star shineth, matris in gremio.
Alpha es et O, alpha es et O.
O Jesu parvule! I yearn for thee alway!
Hear me, I beseech thee, O Puer optime!
My prayer let it reach thee, O Princeps Gloriam!
Trahe me post te! Trahe me post te!
O Patris caritas, O Nati, lenitas!
Deeply were we stained per nostra crimina;
but thou hast for us gained coelorum gaudia.
O that we were there! O that we were there!
Ubi sunt gaudia? O where, if that they be not there?
There are angels singing nova cantica,
there the bells are ringing in Regis curia:
O that we were there, O that we were there.

Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1-7 Mary gives birth in Bethlehem Cheryl Gazlay

***Hymn 24** Away in a Manger CRADLE SONG

Seventh Lesson Luke 2:8-16 Angels announce the Messiah Rev. Hilary Shuford

Carol O Little Town of Bethlehem Walford Davies

Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Eighth Lesson Matthew 2:1-11 Magi come from the East Dr. Carol Strickland

***Hymn 53** What Child Is This GREENSLEEVES

Ninth Lesson John 1:1-14 And the word became flesh Dr. Bruce Lancaster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Carol Mid-winter Bob Chilcott

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.
Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but only his mother in her maiden bliss worshipped the beloved with a kiss.
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** Improvisation on MENDELSSOHN John Coble

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

Gail May Barnes
Ruth & Joseph Barnish
Frank & Ada Barton
Harold & Jerry Berg
Conrad D. Bergmann
Bob Bossert
Hazel Boyles
Jim Boyles, Sr.
Edna S. Bueno
Paulo Bueno
Ronald Buikema
Norval Caples
Clara Childers
Clyde Childers
Courtney Shumaker Cloer
Robert Thomas Cobb
Professor Pauline P. Collins
Wilbur & Ernestine Couch
Barbara Bergmann Coulter
Julius Phillip Covington
Allen & Nan Jo Crowell
Dr. John M. Crowell
MAJ Glenn David Crowell
Departed Loved Ones
Grace Agnes DeRosa
Lamar & Betty Dickson
David H. Donnan
Bolling & Mary Neil DuBose
Alice Early
Randy Elmore
Joanne & Carmine Fischetti
Florence Matson Gilmer
Frances & Howard Guest
Margie Guthrie
Sanders Hale
Robert Harnishfeger
Roberta Harnishfeger
Allison Bishop Hays
W.C. Higginbotham, Jr.
Judy Elkins Howell
Willene & Herbert Hudgins
Herbert Irwin Hughes
Ida Helen Hughes
Mary Julia Johnson
CAPT Russell A. Johnson
Kate Jones & Andrew Jones
Rev. James Renwick Kennedy, Jr.
William W. Kidd
Rev. Dorothy M. Kipp
Jack & Judy Koetzle

Sue Law
Jim Lindsey
Bob & Sue Marion
CPL Evan Andrew Marshall
Dr. Elizabeth Hulsey Marshall
Nicholas Taylor Marshall
Thomas Allan Marshall
J.E. Mathews
Mr. & Mrs. William McDonough
Mary Gilbert Mell
Dorothy Matson Merry
Earl & Elaine Middendorf
Kate Middendorf
Wayne Middendorf
Agnes & Buddy Milner
Mr. & Mrs. James Mirisola
James T. O'Brien
Merritt & Be Oelke
Herman F. Quante
Isabelle W. Quante
Jack E. Razor
John Wesley Reed
Michael Warren Reed
Cornelia W. Scanlon
Merideth Sheskey
John E. Simpson
John E. Simpson, Jr.
Dr. Edir B. Siqueira
Elio B. Siqueira
Professor & Mrs. Elvindo D. Siqueira
Grace & Bob Stephens
B.J. Stone
Bobby Stone
Frances & Hal Strickland
Dr. & Mrs. Eric M. Swanson
Elinor & John Terrell
Claude Astor Thompson
Louise & Tom Tillman
Ray Trapnell
Jack & Mary Lawson Vandiver
Fred & Helen Wallace
Charles & Evelyn Ward
Mr. & Mrs. John Wiarda
Professor Howard J. Wiarda
Lance J. Wilder
Genevieve Wilfong
Joseph Avery Wilfong, Sr.
Joseph Avery Wilfong, Jr.
Joseph Avery Wilfong III
Mr. & Mrs. William Sidney Wilfong

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

Carolyn Wilkinson
Mr. & Mrs. John Williams
Mrs. Teena Williams

Nancy Conley Wilson
Jim Wines

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

Kay Avery
Britt Boyles
Chastain Boyles
Crystal Boyles
Travis Boyles
Lola Caples
Dr. John Coble
Carol Dolson
Kitty Donnan
Granny & Grandad Dunn

FPC Ministers & Staff
Carolyn Hally
Kitty Kellogg
Dr. Katherine Kipp
Laura McHugh
The Means Family
Kathleen H. Wilfong
Margaret Williamson
Tom Williamson
Carl Wilson

**Called Congregational Meeting
January 6, 11:00 a.m.**

The Session has called a Congregational meeting for January 6 to act on a recommendation from the Pastor Nominating Committee. There will be one worship service at 10:00 a.m. with the meeting immediately following the service. A brochure with information about the Senior Pastor/Head of Staff candidate to be presented by the PNC will be available on January 6.

**Holiday Benevolence Market
Today, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

This year's market is back in Fellowship Hall with nearly 30 local non-profit agencies. Shop for symbolic gifts for friends and family while helping these agencies continue their great work. If you don't complete your shopping today, please mail checks by December 31.

**3rd Annual Adult Sunday School Christmas Social
Today, 9:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall Break Out Area**

Join our Sunday School classes as we celebrate Christmas! Everyone is welcome. Since the Chancel Choir rehearses during the Sunday School hour, it is difficult for members to fully engage in Sunday School, so this Social also celebrates our choirs and the exceptional music we hear and sing during worship.

A very special invitation to join us on Christmas Eve:

Monday, December 24

Child-Friendly Service, 4:00 p.m.

Candlelight Services, 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.

Nursery will only be provided at 6:00 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

Kate Ness, St. Andrews Choir
Ann Harper Covington, Celebration Singers
Mary Havick, Worship and Music
Commission
Charlie Young, Chancel Choir
Kim Ness, Director of Youth Ministries
Cheryl Gazlay, Presbyterian Women
Rev. Hilary Shuford, General Presbyter,
Northeast Georgia Presbytery
Dr. Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor
Dr. Bruce Lancaster, Interim Senior Pastor

Musicians

Kendall Marie Kookogey, soprano soloist
Katherine Emeneth, flute
Rachael Fischer, violin

Acolytes

11:00 a.m. Chiara Bono, Logan Bono

FELLOWSHIP HOST

Rachel Hollifield

USHERS

8:45 a.m. John Simpson (head),
Bill Woolbright, Mary Ben Woolbright

11:00 a.m. Ed Ferguson (head),
Reid Bangle, Dick Ferguson, Pratt Ferguson,
Bo Thurston, Wallace Trapnell

GREETERS

8:45 a.m. Carroll Gaillard, Diane Hartzell,
Larry Jones, Faye Marshall

11:00 a.m. Susan Landrum, Tom Landrum,
Carol McKay

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGER

Paulo Santos

FLOWERS

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Buck Griffin and in honor
of Gwen Griffin by the Griffin family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONE SERVICE, 10:00 A.M.

December 23, 30, and January 6

The next three Sundays we will have one service
at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday School will not meet.

ADVENT + CHRISTMAS @ FPC

Please visit our website, firstpresathens.org, for a
list of Advent and Christmas services and activities
as we prepare for the coming of our Savior.

AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

Can you donate an item, service, or experience
for the silent auction at our Mardi Gras Mission
Gala next March? Maybe a treasure in your
attic, an hour of professional services, cooking
for a dinner party, or a weekend at your
vacation home? Donation forms are online and
in the church office.

2019-20 WEEKDAY SCHOOL

Registration Begins January 15

Please call our director, Elaine Johnson, at
706-206-8180 to schedule a tour. Our Weekday
School is celebrating 52 years of serving Athens
children, ages infant through 5 years.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY UPDATE

Thank you to all who have made a financial
commitment for 2019. We depend on
the generosity of everyone to support our
ministries and missions. If you have not yet
made your commitment, please do so by the
end of the year so the Session can plan the
2019 budget. You may turn in your pledge
in the offering plate, in the church office, or
online at firstpresathens.org/home/giving.

Christmas Joy Offering

December 23

“Every generous act of giving...is from above.” James 1:17 Christmas is a time for giving
in the spirit of Christ. Giving to this annual special offering assists church workers in their
time of need and students in their time of promise. Please be generous.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, A Festival of Lessons & Carols
- 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Holiday Benevolence Market, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School, Children's Ministry Suite
- 9:45 a.m. 3rd Annual Adult Sunday School Christmas Social, Fellowship Hall Break Out Area
- 12:05 p.m. Fellowship, Atrium

Monday, December 17

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

Tuesday, December 18

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, Staff Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Room 304
- 2:00 p.m. Bicentennial 2020 Vault Work, Children's Ministry Suite

Wednesday, December 19

- 12:30 p.m. Prayers for Healing, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Chair Yoga, Room 310
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Room 202

Thursday, December 20

- 2:00 p.m. The Mellows, Iris Place, 755 Epps Bridge Pkwy.

Sunday, December 23 - 4th Sunday of Advent

- 10:00 a.m. Service, Dr. Bruce Lancaster preaching, No Sunday School

LOOKING AHEAD

December 23 - Christmas Joy Offering

December 24, Christmas Eve - Child-Friendly Service, 4:00 p.m.

Candlelight Services, 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.

Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

December 25- Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

Christmas Day Meals on Wheels Delivery

December 30 - One Service, 10:00 a.m., No Sunday School

December 31- Church Office Closed for New Year's Holiday

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

New Year's Day Meals on Wheels Delivery

January 6 - One Service, 10:00 a.m., No Sunday School

Called Congregational Meeting, 11:00 a.m.

January 9 - Fellowship@First: Pizza Night

Bookless Book Group