

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 2025

THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

INTROIT

“Come Thou Almighty King”

Arr.: Lani Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Franky & Anna Davis, Trey & Ellie

Congregation in unison: ...God of hope, into our darkness come.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Elizabeth Strickland, Liturgist

Leader: Come, let us go into the house of the Lord.

People: Let us give thanks to the Lord, for that is our joyful duty.

Leader: Keep awake. Be ready. For the Son of Man is coming.

People: Thanks be to God! Advent is here, we will worship and prepare.

***HYMN #340** *(see bulletin)*

“The Solid Rock”

Mote/Bradbury

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

If only our hurtful words, our damaging actions, our foolish choices would just go away, But they don't, and so we offer them, as well as ourselves, to God for forgiveness and for our healing. Please join me, as we pray together saying,

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** (Unison)

Ancient prophets called us to prepare for the coming of the King, O God, to clear any distractions, to be open to your new and surprising revelation, but the distractions remain, and we are too consumed with our own concerns to notice what you are doing among us. Forgive our obsession with the trivial and our passion for things of no consequence. Lift our eyes that we might behold your glory, and thus turn our lives toward you, and to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, even now in these moments of silent confession...

Our prayers continue in silence...

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

Raise your heads, children of God! In the bleak mid-winter of our lives, our redemption draws near. In the springtime of our doubts, the kingdom of God approaches.

All: Even when we feel most alone, the One who comes to us is the salvation promised so long ago. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Share the peace of Christ with one another.

***HYMN #102** *(see bulletin)*

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Milan/Luther/Erfurt *Enchiridion*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH OFFERINGS AND PRAISE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation."

Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Arr.: Robert Lau

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives. Take these gifts we offer today, O God, and use them to the fulfillment of Christ's ministry. May what we bring help to free the captives, heal the sick, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, heal the wounded. As Christ's hands and feet, use us too, in service to building your beloved community. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

RELEASE TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH *(5th grade or younger)*

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 2:1-15

ANTHEM

"God So Loved the World"

Harlan

SECOND READING:

Matthew 24:36-44

SERMON

"Watchful for the Signs of the Kingdom"

Rev. Rick Douylliez

INTERIM PASTOR

(introduction on the back page)

***HYMN #172**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

C. Wesley/Prichard

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

One: We do not leave this sanctuary and leave God behind.

All: God's call is to prepare our hearts, our minds, our communities and our world for the coming of Christ.

One: May this call be ever before us; guiding us, inspiring us, enabling us to be Christ's body — his hands, his feet, his heart — in this, God's world.

All: May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

"Short Voluntary"

John Worgan

(*) *We stand as we are able*

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God
and in celebration of the arrival of our new interim pastor Rick Douylliez and his wife Cathy,
from Michael, Elizabeth, Sara and Andrew Strickland.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELDERS OF THE MONTH: Brooks Sheldon and Marshall McCranie

Please support FPC with a pledge for 2026. Blank pledge cards can be found in the lobby.

Monday, December 1 at 10 a.m. PW BOARD

Tuesday, December 2 at 9 a.m. ADVENT STUDY (at Shalom Cafe)

Tuesday, December 2 from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. PRAYER & REFLECTION

Wednesday, December 3 at 4 p.m. PRAYER SHAWL

Wednesday, December 3 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER

Thursday, December 4 at 4:30 p.m. Cornerstones Christmas Lights Tour

Sunday, December 7 at 8:30 a.m. MEN'S BREAKFAST at FMC

Sunday, December 7 at 3 p.m. ADVENT FEST followed by soup & sandwiches at 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 7 at 6 p.m. CHRISMON TREE LIGHTING SERVICE

REMEMBER TO MAKE YOUR YEAR-END DONATIONS BY DECEMBER 15

SANCTUARY OPEN TUESDAY FOR PRAYER & INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

Join us on Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., now through January 6th, for prayer & reflection.

NEXT SUNDAY! ADVENT FESTIVAL, SUPPER

The Advent Festival supper will be potluck soup provided by the congregation & sandwiches provided by church. Homemade bars & brownies for dessert also needed. ***Contact Nancy Coleman or the office if you can bring soup.***

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED FOR ADVENT FESTIVAL!

Our Advent Festival is a few weeks away and we need to gather donated candy for the gingerbread houses. Please bring candy to the church by next Sunday, and plan to attend our Advent Festival December 7th.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Once again this year, the Presbyterian Women are partnering with Colquitt Regional Hospice to provide small heaters for patients in the Home Care Program. Many of these patients have no heat in their homes, and new patients are continually being added who face the same need. Your generosity can make a real difference in keeping them warm this winter. **Please donate to this project by writing a separate check to First Presbyterian or Presbyterian Women and please put "heaters" in the memo line.**

WATCH SUPPERS

There are TWO suppers left in this year. Make your reservations!

Menu: Wednesday, December 3

Casserole Night -Everyone: Baked Ziti, Chicken-Broccoli-Rice, Turkey Pot Pie, Salad Bar & Breadsticks

Desserts: Lemon Cake & Cookies & Ice Cream

Menu: Wednesday, December 10 – CHRISTMAS WATCH

Everyone: Baked Ham, Mac-N-Cheese, Collard Greens, Sweet Honey Carrots, Salad Bar, Honey Cornbread **Dessert:** Pies

REV. RICK DOUYLLIEZ

We welcome our Interim Pastor **Rev. Rick Douylliez**, to our pulpit this morning who recently retired after serving the First Presbyterian Church of St. Marys, Georgia for 30 years. Rick also served the Savannah Presbytery as the Director of Pastoral and Ecclesial Care for the past 3 years.

He and **Cathy** are the very proud parents of Jacob and Jeremy. Jacob is the Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care at Buford Presbyterian Church near Atlanta, and also serves as the Stated Clerk for the NE Georgia Presbytery. He and his wife Catherine have blessed Rick and Cathy with two beautiful grandchildren, Valerie (7) and Gibson (1)). Jeremy and husband Cory live in Staunton, VA. Jeremy is the Marketing Director for Bridgewater Retirement Homes.

Thanks to the gracious hospitality of Dan and Fliss, **Rick and Cathy** will be residing temporarily in the Jeter's Gin House until their rental home is finished just a few blocks away on 1st Street.