

Our Mission

To Know Christ and To Make Him Known

WORSHIP NOTES

Welcome to today's worship service. We are delighted that you are here. If you are visiting, we invite you to join by profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, by reaffirmation of faith, or by transfer. Please speak to the pastor after the service.

SERVING TODAY

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Broschart	Minister of Word and Sacrament
Ashley Stanley-Robey	Music Director
Patricia Taylor	Organist
David Parris	Sound
Bernadine Hayes	Liturgist
C.B. Strange	Security, side door and offering
Jackie Rochford	Greeter

First Presbyterian Church

December 10, 2023



937 Main Street

Danville VA 24541

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www.fpcdanville.com

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to Noon

A Service for the Worship of God

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

As you enter the sanctuary please end your conversations and respect those worshippers who seek quiet time for prayer and meditation. Please silence all electronic devices. If you need a hearing assistance device, please request one from the usher. Remaining seated is as worshipful a posture as standing. Please worship in a way that is comfortable for you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"In Faith I Quiet Wait"* Bach/Thompson

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Thinking we know all the answers, yet wondering if we haven't missed something:

All: we enter this sanctuary of truth.

One: In the company of sinners, in cahoots with saints:

All: we gather as God's people. One: Standing by folks of deep, abiding faith; seated with those who stumble through the Kingdom: we lift our praise to God.

INVOCATION:

Loving God, whose touch can heal the broken places of life, touch us today. God of peace, whose spirit of peace can quiet our spirits of confusion and despair, reassure us today. Forgiving God, whose call to repentance promises grace upon grace, place your mercy in our souls today. You who heal the sick and liberate the imprisoned, who bring justice in the midst of oppression and strength in the midst of weakness, pour out your spirit of power upon us today. Open our hearts to new faithfulness, redirect our waywardness, and hold us gently in your goodness. We confess our need to you, and we turn to you with hearts filled with hope, remembering the promises you have made to us. May your name be glorified in us and through us. We ask it through Christ Jesus, your only begotten son, he who is our Lord and our Saviour, our brother and our friend. Amen.

CHORAL INTROIT *"Light An Advent Candle"*

CANDLELIGHTING LITURGY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 11

Session Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

December 12

Handbell Choir at 5:00 p.m.

December 13

Youth Activities

December 14

Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. The title is "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?".

Choir Rehearsal at 4:30.

December 16

Martinsville Handbell Ensemble will present a Christmas Concert at 5 p.m. in the sanctuary.

December 17

Caroling meet at 2:00 p.m. on Sutherlin side of the church. We will go caroling and visit our shut-in members, we would also like to give them each a bag full of messages, Christmas cards and/or small gift items (ornaments, hard candy, etc.) from their church family.

Their labeled bags will be at the Sutherlin entrance on the table. Please drop off a card or something to show them a little love. Many thanks.

December 24

Sunday Services at 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m..

*The flowers that enhance our worship
are given in memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Guy Fowlkes, W.P. Kirk
and Mr. and Mrs. Linwood H. Adams
by Patricia Fowlkes Adams*

"Creation Will Be at Peace"
J.P. Williams/Anna Laura Page

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.
The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed,
their young will play together; a little child will lead.

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.
The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw.
They will war no more; a child will lead them all.

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.

About the anthem:

The lyrics of this piece, adapted from Isaiah 11:6-9, describe the Peaceable Kingdom of God. This piece vividly illustrates a completely peaceful eternity in heaven. It also reminds me of the Beloved Community of the church on earth. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote about the Beloved Community, "When we work to remedy one evil, we affect all evils." No matter how small our individual actions seem - these actions work together to bring us closer to peace on earth.

HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

GTG#82

CALL TO CONFESSION

Family of faith, one of the ways we find joy in a weary world is through connection. The prayer of confession is a place of connection with God. In the prayer of confession we get to come before God with our full, messy, honest selves. And in the midst of that mess, God tells us that we are loved, claimed, and forgiven. There is no greater joy than that. So join me in the prayer of confession, not because you have to, but because you can. Let us connect with our merciful God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news.

We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.

Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.

We lean into fear. We lean into isolation.

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared. **Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin, no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions, no matter how many times we ask ourselves, *"How can this be?"* God's love keeps showing up for us.

So say this with me: **We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us, the children of God, stand and greet each other with cupped hands filled with God's blessings and remain standing for the "Gloria Patri".

RESPONSE

“Gloria Patri”

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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, we know this season is about preparing a way for the Christ to come into the world and into our hearts. As we move through our lives, we are bombard- ed with invitations to invest our dollars in things that will bring joy to us and those we love, yet we know we must cut through that noise to hear where you want us to invest. We are focused on gifting one another, and we need to hear that you would have us give to those who are the forgotten, the unloved, and those whose need is great. May the giving we do now help us hear your gospel more clearly and see your love for the poor and meek more completely. In your love, we give; in your love, we are sent; and in your love, we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night” Bowring/Parry

Soloists: Mack Williams and Ashley Stanley-Robey

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM

“Creation Will Be at Peace” Williams/Page

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:24-45 | Isaiah 40:1-11

SERMON

“A Weary World Rejoices: Connection”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that joy is a sacred gift, existing on a plane deeper than happi- ness, stemming from the truth that we belong to God.

We believe that joy is not meant for isolation. Joy is meant to be shared, weaving us together in laughter and in hope. And when joy feels impossibly out of reach, we believe that part of being sacred community is leaning on one another.

So together we say: I will share my joy when yours runs out.
You will share your joy when mine runs out. And in doing so, we will both see God. Amen.

HYMN

“While We Are Waiting Come”

GTG#92

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

POSTLUDE

“Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”

Blake

BENEDICTION

Family of faith, as you leave this place, you go into a weary world—
So speak tenderly.
Do the good that is yours to do.
Choose connection.
Hold onto hope.
And remember that Christ took on flesh for you.
You are God’s beloved. So go rejoicing.
Amen.