

# 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.

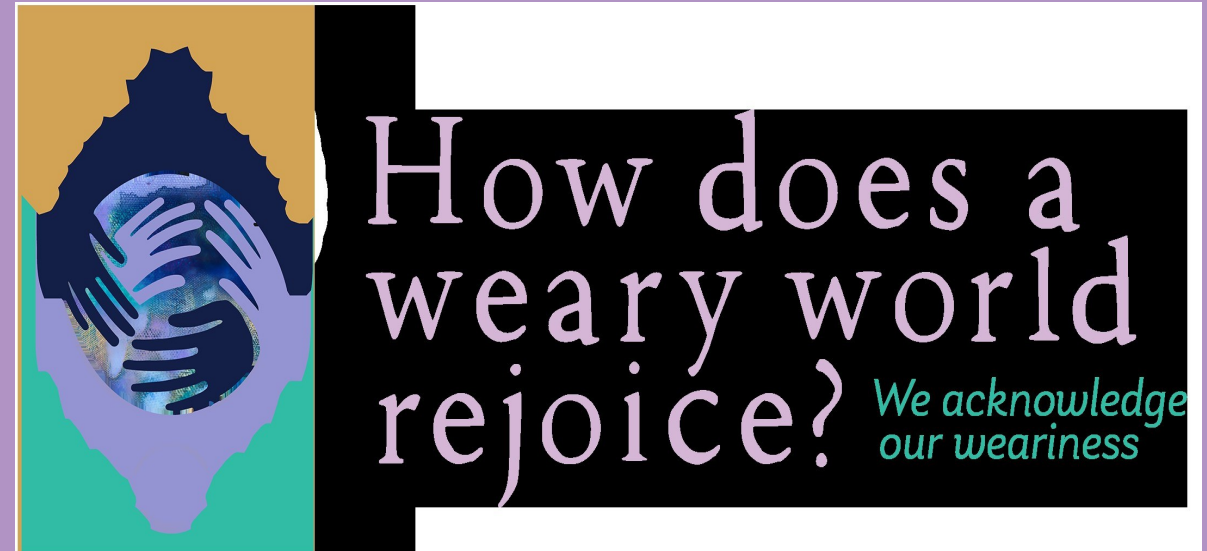
## SERVING TODAY

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Broschart	Minister of Word and Sacrament
Ashley Stanley-Robey	Music Director
Patricia Taylor	Organist
C.B. Strange	Sound
Randy Brooks	Liturgist
Linda Copeland	Security, side door and offering
Jackie Rochford	Greeter
Kathy Dolianitis and John Parris	Communion
Team 1	Wednesday Night Dinner 12/6

# First Presbyterian Church

December 3, 2023

11 a.m.



937 Main Street

Danville VA 24541

434-792-7822

[www.fpcdanville.com](http://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**                      *“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”*                      Brahams/Bish

### CALL TO WORSHIP

In God’s house, we can be joyful.  
**We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.**  
In God’s house, we can be weary.  
**We can be anxious. We can be grieving.**  
In God’s house, we can be honest—  
**inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or curious, and everything in between.**  
This is God’s house. You are welcome exactly as you are.  
**Let us worship our loving God.**

### INVOCATION

Loving God, as we light the first Advent candle of hope, we ask for your presence to fill our hearts and homes. May the hope of Christ's coming bring light to our darkness and renew our spirits. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**CHORAL INTROIT**                      *“Light An Advent Candle”*                      Becki Slagle-Mayo

### CANDLELIGHTING LITURGY

**HYMN**                      *“Now The Heavens Start to Whisper”*                      **GTG#94**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- December 3

DACAS Christmas Concert 3 p.m. at St Lukes United Methodist Church.
- December 4

Day Circle meets at 12:30 p.m. in Westminster.  
  
Evening Circle meets at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Bernadine Hayes, 245 Linden Drive.
- December 5

Handbell Choir at 5:00 p.m.
- December 6

Wednesday Night Dinner and Youth Activities
- December 7

Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. The title is “ How Does a Weary World Rejoice?”.
- December 10

Caroling meet at 2:00 p.m. on Sutherlin side of the church  
  
Choir Rehearsal 4:30 p.m.

Menu for Wednesday Night Dinner-Lasagna, Salad, Bread, Dessert

### Upcoming Events

- December 16

Martinsville Handbell Ensemble will present a Christmas Concert at 5 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- December 17

Caroling meet at church at 2 p.m.

## COMMUNION LITURGY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise. It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.**

**Pastor Continues** ....Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.**

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world. Keep us faithful and alert for the hour of Christ's coming. Let us live honorably as children of truth and light, so that we may eat and drink together in your eternal realm. In the name of your Son, Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, in today's scripture passage, a man named Zechariah is given good news from God and his response is to ask, "How can this be?" Have any of you ever felt that way when receiving good news? It can be hard to receive good news when we don't expect it. It can be hard to accept God's grace and God's love when we think we don't deserve it. But friends, scripture tells us over and over again of a loving, generous, and gracious God. So may we come to the prayer of confession today, not with fear, but with an awe so deep that we ask ourselves, "How can this be?" Let us pray:

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray: **Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Reminds us that we deserve rest.** For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray: **Forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.** For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray: **Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.** For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold on to hope, **Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. 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

## PRAAYER 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 bombarded 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

## 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

### *“Light An Advent Candle”*

Becki Slagle-Mayo

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:1-23 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

# SERMON

## “A Weary World Rejoices: Hope”

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who hears our prayers, who knows the shape and form of our weariness. We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us, not just survival and existence.**

**We believe in a God who looks ahead, who is not done dreaming for the world—a God who sends hope in the form of people and change, movements and Spirit. And so we return to this space. We bring our joy and our weariness like two sides of the same coin, and we trust that God is already at work.**

**Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers.**

**Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

## HYMN

*“For You, O Lord, My Soul In Stillness Waits”*

**GTG#89 v. 1, 5,6**

## WORDS OF INVITATION

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

## CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

## POSTLUDE

## “Wake, Awake”

J. Walther

## 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.