



First Presbyterian Church

Lexington, North Carolina
Organized in 1827

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday in Advent
November 29, 2020 - 11:00 AM

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill McMurray

PRELUDE

Silent Prayer and Meditation:

In this season of Advent you call us to "prepare the way of the Lord." Enter our hearts so that we focus on what that preparation calls for, as individuals and as the Body of Christ. May your Holy Spirit speak to us and transform our lives, that we truly do welcome and receive the Savior of the World. Amen.

ADVENT CAROL: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#9

Please sing softly:

*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.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - Hope

One: ... This Advent season, let us hope and pray together:

All: **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison):

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

Silent Prayer - (How have you disappointed God, others, or yourself?)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE (responsive)

One: Our hope is in Jesus Christ, who was sent to walk alongside us as God-with-Us. From him we learn of God's mercy and love. So friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

RESPONDING WITH PRAISE: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Refrain only)

#23

Gloria, in ex-cel-sis deo; Gloria, in ex-cel-sis deo;

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Isaiah 64:1-9*

SPECIAL MUSIC

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: *Mark 13:24-37*

Pastor: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: "Keep Awake!" The Rev. Dr. Nancy Jo Dederer

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION (What is God saying to you this morning through scripture, sermon and song?)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

ADVENT CAROL: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (vss. 1 & 3) #8

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, behold, the King of glory awaits;
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here!*

*Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.*

WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE *The Apostles' Creed (Contemporary)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

and in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Beverly Black

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your support of our church, especially during this time. If you are present at the outdoor service, you may deposit your offerings into the designated containers. Otherwise, offerings may be mailed to the church at PO Box 586, Lexington NC 27293, or you may give online by visiting our website (www.fpclexnc.com) and clicking on the red "Give Online" button.

Prayer of Dedication and Dedication of 2021 Financial Commitments

God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. We praise you for your steadfast love. In faith and hope we now offer our gifts and pledges of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.

Advent Doxology: "The First Nowell" (v. 6)

#56

*Now let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.*

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Whether this is your first time worshipping with us or you have been with us for years, we welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ. Whether you are here in person or worshipping via the internet, we are so glad you have gathered with us to give thanks to God and respond to Jesus' call to follow him. First Presbyterian Church of Lexington is a loving community in Christ where we *Call People to Faith, Develop them as Disciples, and Send them to Serve*. If you would like more information about our congregation, please speak with Pastor Nancy Dederer or one of our church leaders. Pastor Nancy can be reached at the church office (336/248-2140), by email at PastorNancy@fpclxnc.com, or by text or phone at 708/642-2742.

WORSHIP RETURNS TO ONLINE ONLY

Beginning next Sunday, December 6, we will return to online-only worship services for the month of December. Worship services will continue to be held at 11 AM each Sunday. The live stream may be found at our YouTube channel: <http://tinyurl.com/fpclxncYouTube/live>.

COLLECTION FOR DAVIDSON MEDICAL MINISTRIES

Earlier in the year, we had begun to collect items for Davidson Medical Ministries as part of Touching Davidson County with Love. Due to COVID restrictions, we were unable to collect these items as planned. DMMC is still in need, and we are now in a position to resume our collections. You may bring your donations to the church and place them in the designated area under the tv in the lobby. The item collection cards are posted on the Faith in Action bulletin board in the Third Avenue hallway and are also listed below. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. Items needed are: *soap, shampoo, hand towels, combs, toilet paper, paper towels, ink pens, large paper clips, and tape*.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED TO FILL TIME AND TALENT POSITIONS

We are still in need of folks willing to help in many ways in the church, but especially in the area of our worship services. If you would like to volunteer to serve in any capacity, please contact Elders Pat Ulmer (pulmer62@gmail.com) or Phyllis McGee (pymcgee@gmail.com), who oversee the Worship Ministry Team, or Clerk of Session Margaret King (kingmt@live.com) and let them know. If you would like a copy of the Time and Talent form emailed or snail-mailed to you, please contact Jeanna (336-248-2140 or office@fpclxnc.com) and let her know. Many thanks to everyone for their service to our Lord and to our church family.

Ministers The People
 Transitional Pastor Rev. Dr. Nancy Jo Dederer
 Interim Director of Christian Education/Formation Mrs. Karen Carrickhoff
 Director of Music Mrs. Shelley Jennings
 Organist Mrs. Connie Burleson
 Director of Contemporary Worship Mr. Jack Harman

THE SESSION

Class of 2021

Donna Bryan Jan Kiefer
 Sol Coltrane Margaret King
 Anna Gobble Robin Team
 Richard Goff Pat Ulmer
 Bill Keesler

Class of 2022

Meredith Andrews Jo Leonard
 Beverly Black Sammy McFarland
 Jim Beall Graham Phyllis McGee
 Jan Greer Bill McMurray
 Jimmy Holshouser



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