

\* Hymn 133 ADESTE FIDELIS  
*O Come, All Ye Faithful* (v. 1-4)  
verse 3; CHOIR ONLY

\* Confession of Sin  
**God of Christmas light,  
You took on flesh and came into the world  
for such a time as this,  
yet we do not trust your timing.  
We rush through the joy of your birth  
and hurry to exact our will on your world.  
We struggle to wait, and watch, and listen.  
Slow us down. Quiet our hearts.  
Help us to be still and know that you are God.  
So that we might marvel at your birth  
and rejoice that you are with us.  
Amen.**

\* Assurance of Forgiveness

\* Musical Response 113 GLORIA  
*Angels We Have Heard on High* (refrain only)  
***Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.***  
***Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.***

Scripture: Matthew 12:15-21

Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9

Sermon Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

First Lesson Genesis 3:8-15  
Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Carol *God Walked in Eden's Garden Fair*  
words by Hal Hopson | music from CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM arr. Hal Hopson

Second Lesson Isaiah 9:2,6-7  
Lucy Heilig

Carol *Comfort, Comfort, O My People*  
words by Johannes Olearius trans. by Catherine Winkworth  
music from the *Genevan Psalter* arr. Hal Hopson

Third Lesson Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9  
Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Carol *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*  
Words from 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> cent. Latin texts  
music from ES IST EIN' ROS' and VENI EMMANUEL arr. Hal Hopson

Fourth Lesson Matthew 1:18-23  
Campbell Aron

Carol *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*  
Words from Latin text para. John Neale | IN DULCI JUBILO arr. Hal Hopson

Fifth Lesson Luke 2:8-16  
Dr. Randy Kirby

Carol *Angels We Have Heard on High*  
words and music from a French Carol arr. Hal Hopson

Sixth Lesson Matthew 2:1-11  
Drew Aron

Carol *From a Distant Home*  
Words and music by Walter Ehret and George Evans arr. by Hal Hopson

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer Dr. Randy Kirby

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory John Stafford; organ  
*IN DULCI JUBILO*  
music by Johann Sebastian Bach

\* Doxology BRING A TORCH

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow;— praise God, all crea-tures  
here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye heav-en - ly host;— praise Fa-ther,  
Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christ-mas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!\_\_\_\_\_

words by Thomas Ken and Ken Bible | music from a French melody |  
setting by John Stafford

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* Hymn 134 ANTIOCH  
*Joy to the World* (vs. 1, 2 & 4)  
Interlude after v.2 CHOIR ONLY

\* Benediction

\* Benediction Response

Postlude John Stafford; organ

*Toccata on REGENT SQUAQR*  
music by Lani Smith

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\*Those who are able are invited to stand.  
**Bold** indicates words spoken in unison.

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**The flowers today are given to the glory of God  
and in honor of their children and grandchildren:  
Dallas, Austin, Taylor, Alisha, Bethany, Holt, Haze,  
Hunter, and Lew, by Steve and Donna Thomas**

**Joys and Concerns:**

Del Denny, Jim Carli, Rosalie Laughlin, Jennifer Hands, Henry Ricardo Smith (Esther Adkins Smith's husband), Steve and Donna Ashley

Becky Lounsberry, on the death of her great-granddaughter, Gabriela-Desiree Marie Portillo, on November 27

**Continuing Concerns:**

Bob Cook, Myrna Crocker, Lois Boyd (Ellie Grover's mother), Sue Hayworth, Maria Hudson, Jan Kichefski, Rocky Mead (Chris Mead's father), Mike Purser (Kathy Sanborn's brother), Sharon Whittington, Acey Worthy

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**Church Life**

**New Members** – This morning, we welcome the following to our family of faith at 11:00: Harry and Denise Fink, Dennis and Elayne McCoy, James and Rachel Mead, Caren Steele, and Gerhard and Sherry Wolf.

**Ride Share Ministry** – Requests for rides on Sunday are beginning to come in. We still need drivers. If you are interested in helping this new ministry, please contact Anne Saunders at 704-640-4546.

**Church Books Closing** – The church books will close on Friday, December 30, at 12:00 noon. Contact Christina Lewis for information about your balance at 704-636-1321.

**Our Sermon Podcasts** are now on Podbean, Spotify, and iHeart Radio! You can listen on our website, [www.fpc-sal.org](http://www.fpc-sal.org), or click on a link to take you to each of the new formats or search for *First Presbyterian Church Salisbury NC Sermons*. Remember, you can always watch the full service on our YouTube channel too!

**Don't assume we know** - Your pastors and congregation want to care for you through prayer, visitation, letters, and more, but we can't do that unless you tell us something is going on. Let us love you.

**This Week's Events**

- Dec 11 8:30 Worship – Lewis Hall
- 9:15 Advent Gathering
- 9:45 Elementary & Pre-Teen Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship – Sanctuary
- 4:00 JOY @ The Gables Clubhouse
- 5:00 Youth Christmas Party @ the Forest Glen Clubhouse
- 5:30 RTF @ the Collins' home
- Dec 12 10:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 7:00 Deacons
- Dec 13 10:00 Staff Meeting
- 6:00 Stephen Minsters
- Dec 14 9:00 Randy's Bible Study
- 9:30 Prayer Warriors on Zoom
- 5:30 1<sup>st</sup> Kids Club
- 5:30 Handbell Rehearsal
- 5:30 Property Committee
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 Youth Bible Study on the Porch
- Dec 15 4:00 Three-Wide Dinner
- 6:30 LCW Rehearsal
- 6:30 Session @ RHM
- Dec 16 6:00 Christmas on Church Street

**Commitment Challenge Update**

200 hearts (including 20 commitments from kids & youth!)  
97 hands – \$975,386

We are at 80% of our goal for our cake and ice cream party and 88% for our goal of at least 111 hands!

**MUSIC and STREAMING LICENSES**

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A SPECIAL THANKS to our orchestra today:  
Strings: RJ Wohlman; Greg Pannell; Tim Gudger;  
Sharon Wilkins; Jonathan Parker  
Percussion: Parker Cox  
Handbells: Alicia Wilson; Patsy Wilson; Lynn Miller

**Advent & Christmas 2022**

**Advent Gatherings** - Our Adult Sunday School classes will take turns providing a lovely breakfast each Advent Sunday from 9:15-10:00 in Fellowship Hall. Many thanks for their hospitality!!!

**December 11 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

- 8:30 & 11:00 – Worship with Lessons & Carols
- 9:15 – Advent Gathering
- 9:45 – Adult Sunday School Classes
- 9:45 – Elementary & Pre-Teen Sunday School Classes
- 4:00 – JOY @ the Gables Clubhouse
- 5:00 – Youth Christmas Party @ the Forest Glen Clubhouse
- 5:30 – RTF @ the Collins' home

**December 16 – Christmas on Church Street**

- 6:00-7:00 pm – Walk to hear the Christ child's story
- 7:00-8:00 pm – Gather in Bell Tower Park for singing

**December 18 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

- 8:30 & 11:00 - Worship
- 9:15 – Advent Gathering
- 9:45 – Adult Sunday School Classes
- 9:45 – Happy Birthday Jesus Party (No children's SS)
- 5:00 pm – Family Christmas Extravaganza  
Fun, games, fellowship, and dinner!  
A-F: Dessert                                    N-S: Potato/rice side dish  
G-M: Vegetable side dish                    T-Z: Rolls/bread  
(fried chicken & ham provided)

**December 20 - Longest Night Service**

- 7:00 pm - Lewis Hall  
A time of reflection, healing, and hope.

**December 24 – Christmas Eve**

- 4:00 pm - Family Christmas Eve Worship Service  
Worship & the Children's Pageant  
Lewis Hall
- 9:00 pm – A Service of Candlelight & Communion  
Sanctuary
- 8:30 pm – Prelude begins

**December 25 – Christmas Day**

- 11:00 - Unified Worship & Hymn Sing  
Sanctuary  
No Sunday School Classes

**First Presbyterian Church**

December 11, 2022

11:00 am

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**



**Missional Priorities**

- Spirit-Centered Discipleship
- Friendship Across Difference
- Hands-on Local Mission
- Embracing the Unchurched

**Worship of the Living God**

the music today comes from

**A Festival of Lessons and Carols**

*Arr. Hal H. Hopson*

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Prelude orchestra

*Carol Prelude*

Welcome Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Welcome of New Members Revs. Josh and Lara Musser Gritter

\* Lighting of the Advent Candles Troy & Kia Creamer  
Let us pray:

**We joyfully praise you, O Lord,  
for the fulfillment of your promise of a savior.  
Thank you for the gift of salvation  
through the birth of your son, Jesus.  
Create us anew as we wait,  
and help us to see your glory  
as you fill our lives with your living Spirit.  
Amen.**