



First Sunday of Advent • December 3, 2023
Glorify God, Make Disciples of Jesus Christ, and Meet Human Needs

GATHERING

*Thank you, God, for the gift of life today. I give thanks that your face shines upon me, for you are my salvation. Lead me like a shepherd through this day. Strengthen me for whatever lies ahead. Grant me the spiritual gifts of peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness, for I want to show your love, in word and deed, to others. In Christ's name.
Amen.*

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE Creator of the Stars of Night R. Warner

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!

Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.

Be alert! Keep awake! The time is drawing near:

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

*** HYMN 115** Away in a Manger MUELLER

Stanza 1 - Alleluia Choir, Stanzas 2 & 3 - Congregation

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Chuck & BarBee Geiger (8:30 A.M.)

Tim & Mary Lou Schubert (11 A.M.)

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God-with-us, in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*** ACT OF PRAISE**

Gloria Patri

Hymn 581

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.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:24-27 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 50

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Light of Hope, Light of Peace
Joelie Campana, soloist

M. Patterson

*Light of hope, light of peace, you are just the light we need. Shine for all the world to see: Christ is coming soon.
Light of hope, light of peace, promise of the love he brings. Shine for all the world to see: Christ is coming soon.
Light of hope, light of peace, gift of joy that gladly rings, shine for all the world to see: Christ is coming soon.*

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Holli Best

(Afterward, children in kindergarten through 2nd grade will be dismissed to Kids-4-God.)

* HYMN 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 694

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Yet

Rev. Mark Hults

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

R. Belliston

April Basiletti, soloist

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. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, and free Thine own from Satan's tyranny. O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. O come, Adonai, Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes came unto Sinai's height. O come, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

* DOXOLOGY

Hymn 606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* 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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:30 A.M.)

(Gluten-Free Bread)

SENDING

- * **HYMN 384** Soon and Very Soon SOON AND VERY SOON
- * **BENEDICTION**
- * **POSTLUDE** Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending W. Held

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Holli Best, Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, TJ Pyche, Scott Stuart

ELDER ON DUTY: Geoff Spiegel

ACOLYTE: Parker Mears

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

8:30 A.M. ORGANIST: Tiffany Fung

PRELUDE SOLOIST & ALLELUIA CHOIR CONDUCTOR: Rebecca Ruescher

CHAPEL USHERS: Jeanne Thomas; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Maralyn Foote, Louis Motz, Mary Lou Schubert

VIDEO TEAM: Kaylee Bleeker, Troy Bleeker, John Rayl; **SOUND:** Kaylee Bleeker

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in memory of Margaret Vellis, grandmother of Alexis Vellis and mother of Nick Vellis and Katherine Vellis.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY GIFT OFFERING is being received for three Sundays and provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and students in their time of promise. There are Christmas Joy envelopes in the pews or gifts may be mailed to the church. Please write "Joy Gift" in the memo line. For more information, visit <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/>

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead. Visitors are welcome to participate in the worship and the work of First Presbyterian Church. You can find a "Three Steps to Membership" card with information about how to join the church in the pew racks. If you feel a call to commit your life to Jesus Christ and His Church, please speak to the pastor or an elder after worship.

Senior Pastor

Rev. Mark Hults - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist

Mitch Rorick - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org

Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry

Rev. Scott Stuart - college@1stpc.org

Preschool Director

Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org

Business Manager

Trudy Bonerba - business@1stpc.org

Operations and Administrative Associate

Laura Montgomery - assistant@1stpc.org

Communications Specialist

Jenny Chamberlain - communications@1stpc.org

Event Sexton and Music Clerk

Andrew Netardus - events@1stpc.org

Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill

Sexton - Margaret Hill

FPC Weekly Figures

In-Person Attendance	128
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$35,061
Received Week of 11/26/23	\$19,924
Weekly Offering	\$17,878
Designated Offerings	\$2,046
Other Revenue	--
Preschool	--
YTD Budget Requirements	\$771,333
YTD Received	\$662,155
YTD Expenses	\$635,638

Christmas Poinsettias: During the Christmas season our worship spaces will be decorated with poinsettias. The flowers are \$15 each and may be dedicated in honor or in memory of a loved one. Fill out the form below and place in the offering plate or mail it to the church office by Sunday, December 3. The poinsettias will be available to take home after the Christmas Eve service.

In Honor of: _____ In Memory of: _____

Poinsettias Given by: _____

115 Away in a Manger

Capo 3: (D) F (G) B \flat (D) F

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(A7) C7 (D) F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(G) B \flat (D) F

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(A7) C7 (D) F (Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Though erroneously attributed to Martin Luther, this anonymous carol has North American roots, probably originating among Pennsylvania Lutherans. Although more than forty melodies have been connected with these words, this tune was among the earliest written for them.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885;
 stanza 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892
 MUSIC: James R. Murray, 1887

MUELLER
 11.11.11.11
 (alternate tune: CRADLE SONG, 114)

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:24-27 (NRSV)

24“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long - ex-pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening “Come,” this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = “coming”). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
 MUSIC: Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

STUTTGART
 8.7.8.7
 (alternate tune: HYFRYDOL, 82)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSV)

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

384 Soon and Very Soon

1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
4 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

This spirited African American gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21:3-4, with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.

GLORIFY GOD

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: The choirs and congregation will celebrate the Advent season with a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Come sing and hear lessons and carols for Advent and Christmas showing the development of the loving purposes of God as seen through the windows and words of scripture. At 4:30 p.m. the Gainesville Brass Quintet and First Presbyterian Jubilate Ringers present seasonal music.

Prayer Meeting on Tuesday, December 5 at 6 p.m. in the church parlor.

There will not be an 8:30 a.m. Service on Sunday, December 10 or 24. Please join us for worship at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary.

You are invited to this year's Advent Organ Concert on Tuesday, December 12 at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary with Gabriel Johnston, a Ph.D. student at the University of Florida.

MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Nursery Care (6 weeks old through pre-kindergarten) is available on Sundays from 10:45 a.m. through the end of the 11 a.m. worship service. Email Jenna Mueller at jdmueller2009@gmail.com with questions or to sign up. Families, please find the sign-in cart upstairs in the Christian Education building by room 204. ***The nursery is seeking the donation of a pack 'n play for the nursery as well as the following items for a Nursing room: glider, white noise machine, bassinet, and changing table.*

Children and Youth Sunday School for K-12th grade and meets in the Art Room on the second floor of the Christian Education building at 9:30 a.m. Come join us!

Time for Young Disciples: All children are invited to the front steps for a special lesson during 11 a.m. worship. Afterward, children in kindergarten through 2nd grade will be dismissed to Kids-4-God and all others will return to sit with their families.

Kids-4-God: Children (K-2) will gather in Room 217 after the Time for Young Disciples to engage with their faith through the end of the service. Families will reunite with their children in Gordon Hall following the worship service. Volunteers are needed to help with this and Sunday School. Please contact Evelyn Lewis at citytr122@gmail.com.

LOGOS: (Ages 3 through high school) Gather on Wednesday, December 6 from 3:30-6:45 p.m. for Christmas Favorites Night. LOGOS includes worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and fellowship for children and youth with \$5 family time dinner at 6 p.m. Contact Bev Vloedman, dvloedman@aol.com with questions.

College Café: All college students are invited to lunch. Meet in the Serving Room on the other side of Gordon Hall following 11 a.m. worship. If you are interested in serving an upcoming meal to the students, please contact Scott Stuart.

Gordon Hoover Sunday School: Meet in the Church Library at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. All are welcome! Email Perry Foote at palbertfoote@gmail.com with questions.

December 3	1 Corinthians 4	Tim Schubert
December 10	1 Corinthians 5	Perry Foote

MEET HUMAN NEEDS

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Marilyn Ast, Melda Bassett, Jayne Fox, Kay Koons, Elizabeth Miller, and Marjorie Pedrick. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Matt Gowdy, Brian Hill, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez and Paul Samala. Essential worker: Bill Clark.


Online contributions can be made through your computer or smartphone. Go to 1stpc.org and click the red Pushpay icon. Give to the General Budget or specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Questions? Contact Trudy Bonerba.

Pies and More! Extra Sweetie pies (all but cherry) and mince and pecan Cutie pies are still available, along with fill your own empty pie crusts. Stop by the Montreat table in Gordon Hall after worship. Pies are frozen and keep for several months. Buy some for Christmas!

Speaking of Christmas, stop by the Montreat table and do some Christmas shopping. We have handmade candles, cookbooks, notecards, Cat's Meow churches, ornaments, and table runners. All proceeds help offset transportation and housing expenses for those going to Montreat, NC in June.

Hope for the Holidays: Look for the Christmas tree in Gordon Hall. There is ONE ornament (tag) left. Purchase and wrap your items, SECURELY ATTACH THE TAG, and return by Saturday, December 16. You may also donate gift cards or write a check to the church to help purchase gifts (write *Hope for the Holidays* in the memo). We appreciate everyone bringing the love of God to these families who are working with Family Promise to find the security of a stable home.

Buy a Church Yard Sign to spread the word about *The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* and *Christmas Eve Worship*. Sign options are displayed in Gordon Hall or visit www.1stpcmusic.org/signs. Contact the church office to pay by credit card at (352) 378-1527 or use Pushpay. Please mark your design choice in the memo.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 **now from 9-10 a.m.**
for our televised broadcast 
or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts



Current Worship video and audio
as well as archives at 1stpc.org

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Is there something you would like to announce in the Bugle or Bulletin? Contact communications@1stpc.org