

GATHERING

Expectant God, we sing because of the new life you have put in us, the promise of your salvation. Fill me with hope this day as I lift my life to you and seek to do your will. Look with favor on our world and all who are in need, that your love may be magnified as I follow humbly in your way. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

P. Manz

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.
He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end.

* **HYMN 88**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Stanzas 1-4

VENI EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Scott, Alison, & Annabel Stuart

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. 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 OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 89:1-4 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg.545

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

My Lord, What a Mornin'

H. Burleigh

Alanna Parfait, soprano

My Lord, what a mornin', Oh, my Lord, what a mornin', when the stars begin to fall. Done quit all my worldly ways, join that heavenly band. Oh! My Lord, what a mornin', Oh, my Lord, what a mornin', when the stars begin to fall.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Holli Best

(Afterward, children will return to sit with their families.)

* **HYMN 144**

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

GOSPEL READING

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)
NT pg. 56

SERMON

The King Predicted

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 SOLO

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Alanna Parfait, soprano

C. Courtney

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He; of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore! O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing; pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore! Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

* **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.

SENDING

* **HYMN 123**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

* **BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE**

Basse et Dessus de Trompette

L.N. Clérambault

TODAY IN WORSHIP

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

ELDER ON DUTY: Geoff Spiegel

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

SANCTUARY USHERS: Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote, Mary Lou Schubert

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

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Laura's parents, Jane & Eldon Stout; John's parents, Mary & John J. Netardus; and Laura's brother, Charles L. Stout; by Laura, John, and Andrew Netardus.

THE ROSE ON THE BAPTISMAL FONT is given to the glory of God and with joy and thanksgiving to announce the birth of Brielle Genevieve Elizabeth Berger on December 17, 2023. She is the daughter of Jason & Jessica and little sister to Grace.

The Poinsettias Decorating the Church are Given

In Loving Memory of

- Carolyn Grace Alford by the Alford family
- Dr. & Mrs. Robert G. Ashley by Dr. & Mrs. Robert G. Ashley, Jr.
- Dr. & Mrs. Fred O. Brumfield by Dr. & Mrs. Robert G. Ashley, Jr.
- Charles Valentine Bates by Claudia MacKenzie Bates
- Marjorie Prince MacKenzie by Claudia MacKenzie Bates
- William M. MacKenzie by Claudia MacKenzie Bates
- Alan-Michal Simmons by Claudia MacKenzie Bates
- Grace Bates by Claudia MacKenzie Bates
- Our parents by Trudy & John Bonerba
- Ed Bursa by Shirley Bursa
- Helen Ney by Shirley Bursa
- Patricia Gager by Nancy & John Carswell
- Our parents by Mark & Karen Coffey
- Shawn Coffey by Mark & Karen Coffey
- Barton T. Douglas by Monica K. Douglas and Monica & Michael Poole
- Karlene O. Darling by Monica K. Douglas and Monica & Michael Poole
- Roy Poole by Monica K. Douglas and Monica & Michael Poole
- Zygmunt W. Krazewski by Monica K. Douglas and Monica & Michael Poole
- Peg Garlington by James C. Garlington
- David Griffin by Thomas Griffin
- Ralph & Shirley Lingg by Margaret, Howard, and John Lingg
- Ben Samuels by Margaret, Howard, and John Lingg
- My grandmother and mother by Helen L. McIntosh
- Ken Mears by the Mears Family
- Tom Gavan by the Mears Family
- My sister Marybeth Rich by Jennifer Moore
- Arnold Peterson by Norman Portillo
- Michael Evans by the Pyche Family
- My husband Ben by Eleanor Samuels
- Claude & Margaret Allen, Irbie Johnson, and Homer & Stella Samuels by Eleanor Samuels
- Parents Nancy & Eugene Spiegel by the Spiegel and Hoffmann Families

- Dick & Clarice Anderson by Eileen Anderson Stephens
- Parents Ken & Mary Durrance by Glenna Venoy
- Florence and Armin Wagner by Eric A. Wagner
- Gwen Edwards, my aunt, by Eric A. Wagner
- Cher McBride by Eric A. Wagner
- Ashley Young by Eric A. Wagner
- Ray M. Whitworth by Carolyn Whitworth and Family

In Honor of

- The Ney Family by Shirley Bursa
- The Bursa Family by Shirley Bursa
- Our grandchildren, Wyatt, Finn, Wade, and Hazel, by Mark & Karen Coffey
- Jean St. John by Mark & Karen Coffey
- Eric Van Vorst by Kevin & Andra Golden
- Eleanor Samuels by Margaret, Howard, and John Lingg
- Lisa, Kate, and Parker Lundy by Fred Lundy
- My in-laws, Robins & Susan McIntosh, by Helen L. McIntosh
- Judy Mears by the Mears Family
- Rosemary Gavan by the Mears Family
- Meg Portillo by Norman Portillo
- My children, Torsten, Åsa, and Britt by Louise Rothman
- Drew Rutledge by RoseAnna Rutledge
- Logan Rutledge by RoseAnna Rutledge
- My children, Cindy, Margaret, Benford, and Allen, and my grandchildren by Eleanor Samuels
- Our mother, Lorraine, and in memory of our father, Fred, from the Sivia Family
- Travis & Carole Frances Hoffman's first year of marriage by the Spiegel and Hoffmann Families
- Her grandchildren Beau and Molly McCann by Glenna Venoy

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite
 MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988
 Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMMANUEL
 LM with refrain

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 89:1-4 (NRSV)

¹I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. ²I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. ³You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: ⁴I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'" Selah

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

In the Bleak Midwinter 144

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan;
 2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus-tain;
 3 An-gels and arch-an-gels may have gath-ered there;
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign:
 cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall-en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid-win-ter a sta-ble place suf-ficed
 but his moth-er on-ly, in her maid-en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

‡ in the bleak mid-win-ter, long a-go.
 the Lord God in-car-nate, Je-sus Christ.
 ‡ wor-shiped the be-lov-ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

TEXT: Christina Rossetti, c. 1872, alt.
 MUSIC: Gustav Holst, 1906

CRANHAM
 Irregular

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up-on the mid- night clear, that glo- rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace- ful wings un - furled,
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf- fered long;
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush- ing load, whose forms are bend- ing low,
 5 For lo, the days are has- tening on, by proph- ets seen of old,

from an- gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav- en-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 be - neath the heav- en-ly hymn have rolled two thou- sand years of wrong;
 who toil a - long the climb- ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir- cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gra- cious King”:
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov- ering wing,
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;
 look now, for glad and gold- en hours come swift- ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen- dors fling,

the world in sol - emn still- ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless- ed an - gels sing.
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
 O, rest be- side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

TEXT: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849, alt.
 MUSIC: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

CAROL
 CMD
 (alternate tune: NOEL)

GLORIFY GOD

The Church Office will be Closed Monday through Friday, December 25-29. Our business manager, Trudy, will work limited hours but will check voicemail and email if you have a need. We will also be closed Monday, January 1. Thank you for your understanding.

Start the new year with service: Many of you came out to help decorate the church for Advent. As the celebrations come to an end, please join us on Monday, January 8 at 9:00 a.m. to help take the Christmas decorations down.

January is a Great Time to Join a Choir at First Presbyterian Church! There are choirs and handbell groups for a variety of ages. Please contact Mitch Rorick at music@1stpc.org to find the right group for you.

Concert for a Cause: The Florida State University Singers present a concert, under the direction of Kevin Fenton, on Sunday, January 21 at 4 p.m. They will be joined by the Santa Fe Singers and the Gainesville High School Chamber Choir. The free-will offering supports Filter of Hope, whose mission is to provide families living in poverty easy access to clean, safe drinking water.

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's Worship Guides are located in the narthex, and Gordon Hall. Pick one up before the service to help your child participate in worship. After the service, please return all bags to the baskets. We encourage your family to discuss worship together - even if you don't use the guide.

Time for Young Disciples: All children are invited to the front steps for a special lesson during 11 a.m. worship. Afterward, children will return to sit with their families.

Gordon Hoover Sunday School: Meet in the Church Library at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Enter through the Mary Gate or the sanctuary. All are welcome! Email Perry Foote at palbertfoote@gmail.com with questions.

December 24 Christmas Party All are welcome!
December 31 1 Corinthians 7 Ross Teigen

MEET HUMAN NEEDS

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Marilyn Ast, Melda Bassett, Jayne Fox, Carol Hayes-Christiansen, 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.

Year-End Giving: Contributions made through Sunday, December 31, 2023 will be credited to the 2023 calendar

year. They may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday, December 31, made online by midnight on December 31, or postmarked by December 31. The office will be closed December 25-29, as well as Monday, January 1. Contact Trudy Bonerba with questions.

Ushers Needed in January: Ushers greet parishioners, distribute bulletins, and help people to a seat. They also take up a collection at the offering time. Please contact Laura Montgomery in the office by phone or email to fill this need.

The Young Adult Ministry is for post-college through empty-nesters. Save the date - Friday, February 9 - for an evening of dinner, encouragement, and equipping for parents and caregivers with special guest Alicia Pfahler, LMHC. Contact Fred Lundy.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Search for First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville, FL.

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	130
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$35,061
Received Week of 12/17/23	\$34,656
Weekly Offering	\$31,491
Designated Offerings	\$975
Other Revenue	\$495
Preschool	\$1,695
YTD Budget Requirements	\$876,514
YTD Received	\$786,227
YTD Expenses	\$747,670

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for our televised broadcast or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts

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