

The Sanctuary Choir :

Susan Bishop, alto	Gray Bullard, bass	Debbi Burke, tenor
Steve Burke, bass	Lori Clay, tenor	Judy Davison, soprano
Sallie Dotger, alto	Mary Beth Eubanks, soprano	Buell Little, baritone
Keane Matthews, bass	Cecilia Moneta Matthews, soprano	
Judy Mongold, soprano	Carrie Myers, alto	Earl Myers, baritone
Meredith Myers Herrera, alto		Marc Niblock, baritenor
Susan Otteni, alto	Doug Phillips, bass	Holly Robbins, alto
Carole Shaw, alto	Mark Shelley, bass	Glenda Steel, soprano
Rob Steel, baritone	Dakeita Vaderburg, soprano	Scott Verner, bass
Cathy West, alto		

We welcome these Celebration Musicians today to worship and thank them for sharing their musical gifts with us to the glory of God. Tatiana Karpova, violin; Ellyn Stuart, violin; Ellen Ferdon, viola; Jill Fung, cello; Jeffrey Ferdon, double bass; Amber Koeppen, harp. And as always, our own, Jacqueline Yost.

Sanctuary Safety—In our ongoing efforts to care for all who work, play, and worship on our campus, we are being intentional about access to buildings throughout the week and on Sundays. All sanctuary doors are locked after worship begins on Sunday mornings, with the exception of the main doors leading to the narthex. Worshipers are free to exit by any of the doors at any time. To re-enter, please come through the doors to the narthex.

Children are always welcome here.

We have a wonderful nursery and childcare for infants through preschool each Sunday in the Will Young Building. Worship bags for young children are available in the narthex near the front doors. Please speak with an usher for assistance.

Offering our Talents, Time, and Treasure: In response to the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ, we are invited to give of ourselves and our resources. If you are seeking ways to share your time and your talents, please speak to one of the pastors. Financial contributions may be placed in the offering plate or donated by texting 704-288-7459 or by using the "Give" button on the church's website (firstpresconcord.org).

Large Print Hymnals, printed copies of the sermon, and a hearing assistance system are available. We have an AED Machine in the Narthex. Please speak to an usher for assistance with any of these items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Pageant: today at 5 PM. We hope everyone will join us for this beautiful retelling of the Christmas story. You are invited to bring an unwrapped non-perishable food item to the pageant and present that during the offertory.

Lunch Bunch : This Wednesday at 11:45 AM in Davis Hall. After lunch we'll go to Mary Margaret and Bob Underwood's home at 94 Union St. North. Call the church reservation line, **704-788-2100 #7** to make your reservation. The deadline to register is Monday, December 11 at 4:00 PM.

Longest Night Service: Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 PM in the Chapel located in the Fellowship House. This contemplative service of scripture, prayer, music, silence and candle lighting is for anyone yearning for comfort amid personal grief and hope for a more peaceful world.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS: Prayers and readings for the coming week are available in the narthex. The texts carry us from this week's lesson to the next.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Later today

3:00 PM	Circle 5 (Library Conference Room)
4:45 PM	Middle/High Youth Pageant dress rehearsal (Sanctuary)
5:00 PM	Christmas Pageant (Sanctuary)
6:00 PM	Youth Gathering (Fellowship House)

Monday, December 11

9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young)
11:00 AM	Circle 4 (off campus)
7:00 PM	Boy Scouts (Will Young rm 304)
7:00 PM	Boy Scout District Roundtable (Davis Hall)

Tuesday, December 12

9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young)
11:30 AM	Circle 3 (Davis Hall)
2:00 PM	Staff Meeting (FH sunroom)
6:00 PM	Cub Scouts (Davis Hall)
6:30 PM	Session (Library Conference Room)
7:00 PM	Al Anon Meeting (Commons)

Wednesday, December 13

9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young)
10:30 AM	Bible Study (Davis Hall)
11:45 AM	Lunch Bunch (Davis Hall)
6:00 PM	Choir to Taylor Glen

Thursday, December 14

9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young)
6:00 PM	National Alliance for Mental illness (Commons)
6:30 PM	Boy Scout Advancement Boards of review (Ed Bldg)

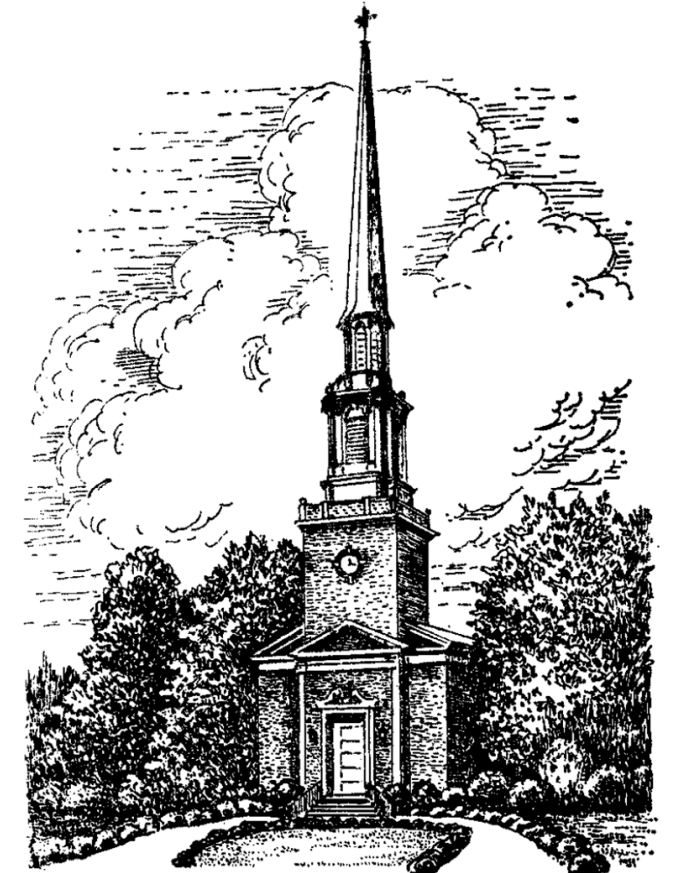
Friday, December 15

9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young)
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Sunday, December 17

9:45 AM	Rehearsal Guest musicians (Sanctuary)
9:45 AM	Sunday School Classes (various rooms)
11:00 AM	Worship (Sanctuary)

Second Sunday Of Advent



**First Presbyterian Church
70 Union Street North
Concord, North Carolina**

Sunday, December 10, 2023



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CONCORD

www.firstpresconcord.org

(704) 788-2100

Rev. Ellen Crawford True, Senior Pastor
Rev. Casey Aldridge, Associate Pastor
René Prager, Director of Christian Education
Rev. Bryan Hovey, Parish Associate
Dr. Jacqueline Yost, Director of Music and Organist
Dr. Jeffrey W. Price, Choirmaster
Amy Woolwine, Clerk of Session
Jenny Chikes, Moderator, Board of Deacons

For a comprehensive list of officers, visit the church website:



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

As the music plays, you are invited to pause, reflect, and pray silently as we prepare for worship.

Praise the Lord!
How good it is to sing praises to our God,
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
~ Psalm 147:1

PRELUDE Prelude from *Christmas Oratorio* by Camille Saint-Saens

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Friendship Pad found on the center aisle of each pew and pass it to your neighbor.

VOLUNTARY

CALL TO WORSHIP (ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING)

Leader : In the wilderness, O God, you promise a way where we see no way.
You promise a new creation,
a redeemed and peace-filled world
where the weary catch their breath
and the powerless find their strength.

Congregational Sung response:

*One tiny Child can change the world; one shining Light can show the way.
Through all my tears for what I've lost, there's still my joy; there's still my joy for
Christmas Day.*

All: *Fill our dreams with peace, O God, and with a world made new in your Son.*

***HYMN 83** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* STUTTGART

PRAYER

Gracious God, Lord of all, bless all that we offer in this hour: our words, our songs, our prayers, and our silence. Fill our hearts with joy as we look toward the birth of your Son, our Savior and send us from this place to share the Good News with your waiting world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE 88** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
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.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Mark 1:1-4 pew bible, page 34 lay reader, Cheryl Kelling
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 40:1-11 pew bible, page 667
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Christmas Oratorio by Camille Saint-Saens

Sanctuary Choir

Guest Celebration Musicians and Jacqueline Yost

Scripture Recitation by Soloists:

(Jeffrey Price, Scott Verner, Cecilia Moneta Matthews)

Luke 2: 8-14

There were shepherds at night in that same country, abiding in the fields, and silently keeping their watch by night over the sleeping flocks around them. And lo, an angel of the Lord appeared, standing there beside them: and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid at his coming. And unto them the angel said: "Fear not, oh ye shepherds! For, behold I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born today a Savior, Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall the sign be: ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger low." And suddenly there was with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying.....

Choir: Glory to God in the highest! And on earth peace, peace be on earth, goodwill to all men. Praise the Lord our God! Oh praise ye the Lord. Praise God in the highest!

Solo: (Meredith Myers Herrera)

Psalm 40:1

Patiently have I waited for the Lord. And lo, He heard my cry.

Solo: (Cecilia Moneta Matthews) and Choir

John 11:27

In my heart I believe, O Lord, that Thou indeed art Christ, Son of the living God. He who was to come into this world.

Duet: (Cecilia Moneta Matthews, Jeffrey Price)

Psalm 118:26-27

Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord. God, the Lord of Light, He hath shined upon us. Thou alone my God art, and all my trust is in Thee. Oh Lord, Thou art my God; I will exalt Thee, Lord, and praise Thy name!

Choir:

Psalm 2:1-2 and Gloria Patri

Wherefore do the heathen clamor? Why do the nations imagine vain and foolish things? Wherefore? Glory unto the Father and unto the Son, and Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Trio: (Jeffrey Price, Cecilia Moneta Matthews, Keane Matthews)

Luke 1:46-47

My soul doth magnify the Lord. My spirit hath rejoice in God. For mine eyes have seen Thy glory!

Choir:

Isaiah 49:13

Alleluia. Ye heavens sing praises. Be joyful on earth. For the Lord hath poured His consolation upon His people. And He to His afflicted will be merciful. Alleluia! For the Lord hath comforted His people. And He, to all that are afflicted, will be merciful. Alleluia!

Choir:

Psalm 102:16; Isaiah 52: 2, 8-9

Arise now, daughter of Zion! Alleluia! Praise God, praise God in the night!

Praise Him in the first watches of the nighttime. Alleluia! That Zion's true glory might be manifested, that her Savior might rise and shine before the nations. Alleluia!

Choir:

Psalm 148

Praise ye the Lord of hosts; sing His salvation; bless His name; show forth His praise in His holy house. Rejoice ye heavens and be joyful on earth; rejoice in the face of the Lord, for He cometh. Alleluia! Rejoice ye angels, rejoice all ye nations, now in the face of the Lord, for He cometh. Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL TO OFFERING

TEXT TO GIVE: 704-228-7459

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY 606** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH
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.

*PRAYER OF Thanksgiving (Unison)

Holy God, with these gifts we join all of creation in singing your praises. Gather all that we offer for the gracious work of your salvation, in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 134** *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hallelujah from *MESSIAH* G.F. Handel

[NOTE: If you would like to sing the *Hallelujah* with the Choir, **please walk forward via the side aisles during the last hymn.** Music scores are available and will be distributed by a few choir members.]

**Those who are able, please stand.*

CCLI License #11219393

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We are so glad you are here. You are invited to join us for study, service, education, and fellowship in addition to worship. If you have questions or would like to learn more about this community, please speak with one of the pastors following worship.