

Order of Divine Worship
2nd Sunday in Advent

December 5, 2004

Gathering around God's Word

WELCOME AND SERVICE OF FRIENDSHIP Fred Coates
MINUTE FOR MISSION..... Terry Stevens
PRELUDE: "Veni, Emmanuel" Plainsong, c.1200

(Christy Floyd, organist)

INTROIT: "Festiva Procession" (11:00 a.m.)..... Robert Ivey
(Middle School handbells)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 11:1-2, 10)

A shoot will come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord will rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*HYMN: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" No. 153

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When our faith is rooted deeply in You, O God, our lives reflect Your kingdom values of justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that Your values take second place. When our faith is rooted deeply in You, O God, we turn towards You as flowers turn towards the sun and we produce spiritual fruit shaped by hearts filled with Your love. Yet we can become so driven by seasonal busyness that our fruitfulness suffers. Forgive us, O God, for being disconnected and distracted. Reconnect us to the Source of power and life which is Your Holy Spirit. Strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents us from rooting our lives firmly in You. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in You, as we watch and wait for Your breaking into our world once more, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Apostle Paul reminds us, that "godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret." Having expressed our deep sorrow for our sin, let us hear again and believe the gracious good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

*RESPONSE: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain) Tune: Gloria
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Proclaiming God's Word

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ANTHEM: "Noel, Noel, A Boy Is Born" (11:00 a.m.)..... Natalie Sleeth
(Logos Choir)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH..... (8:30 a.m.) Jeff and Nancy Davidson
Jackie and John-Patrick Justice
(11:00 a.m.) Ralph, Mac, Jill, Nell and Van Herring

*HYMN: "A Candle Is Burning" (refrain) Tune: MUELLER

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:**

**for Jesus is coming to show us the way
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 3:1-12 (pew Bible, page 2) (8:30 a.m.) Elaine Drye
(11:00 a.m.) Dot Campbell

*HYMN: "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates".....No. 176
SERMON: "Along Came John" Fred Coates

Responding to God's Word

*HYMN: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" No. 155

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

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; 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.

*GLORIA PATRI: "Glory Be to the Father"No. 734

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ANTHEM: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (8:30 a.m.).....Debbie Church

"Coventry Carol" (11:00 a.m.).....arr. Michael Burkhardt
(Logos and Middle School Choirs)

*DOXOLOGY: "Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow" No. 34

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (8:30 a.m.) Carol McClure
(11:00 a.m.) Bob Campbell

Bearing God's Word into the World

*HYMN: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"No. 198

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "In Dulci Jubilo"..... arr. Alec Wyton

Recordings of the 11:00 a.m. service are available at the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

Visitors: Welcome to First Presbyterian on this Lord's Day. If you need a church home, we invite you to unite with our congregation. Please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad. ...

Birth: Congratulations are extended to Danny and Teresa Moore, 140 North Sherrill Street, Mooresville, NC 28115, into whose home was born a daughter, Alyssa Diane Moore on December 1, 2004.

Christian sympathy is expressed to the Skaff family in the death of Jenny Lou Skaff on November 27; the Wheeler and McNeely families in the death of Jane Wheeler on November 28; the Faulkenberry family in the death of Martha's father, Homer Bass, on November 28; and to Mimi Dobbins in the death of her niece on November 23.

Logos registration is today and December 19 after both church services in the parlor. You may also call Christina McElroy (704-664-4369) or Jennifer Boger (704-660-0715) to register. Don't forget to invite your friend from *Bring a Friend Night* to register!

Christmas Concert and Supper: Begin December with a celebration of the season. It starts tonight with dinner and a Christmas concert by soprano, Melody Morrison-Beaty accompanied by Carrie Johnson. Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. with the concert to follow at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The Weekday Preschool Christmas Program will be held Thursday, **December 16** and Friday, **December 17** at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Alternative Christmas Gifts may be given in honor of family and/or friends. Members of the Witness and Service Committee will be in the parlor following worship today and the next two Sundays to provide information and to receive your gifts.

Christmas Eve Nursery: Adult and teen volunteers are needed to keep the preschool nursery during the 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve services. Please call the church office (704-664-5275) if you are able to provide this important service.

Liturgy Notes for Advent 2 - Year A

For centuries the Christians have prepared to celebrate Christmas with the observance of the Advent season. The word “Advent,” a derivative of the Latin word that means “coming,” is an affirmation of our belief that Christ came as our Savior and that He will indeed return. The word “Advent” also is a component of the word “adventure.” The dictionary defines adventure as “a remarkable and exciting experience.” The Advent season is intended to be just that as it recalls the Old Testament prophecies foretelling the coming Messiah and the New Testament proclamations of His arrival and coming yet again.

The major themes of Advent – Hope, Peace, Joy and Love – are symbolized by the four candles on the Advent wreath, each lighted on the successive Sundays of the season. A fifth and final candle, representing Christ Who is the Light of the world, is lighted at last on Christmas Eve.

Today’s Advent theme of Peace has its foundation in repentance. John the Baptist preached a strong message of repentance because it is only after we have come to God in repentance and accepted His grace in Jesus Christ that we can at last be at peace with ourselves and with God.

Today’s lectionary texts include **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**, speaking of the righteous rule of God; **Isaiah 11:1-10**, a reminder of the messianic “shoot of Jesse” upon whom the Spirit of God will rest; **Romans 15:4-13**, reminding us that the “root of Jesse” is the true hope of the world and **Matthew 3:1-12**, a text in which John the Baptist issues the call to repentance in anticipation of the One Who is to come.

Our Advent worship banners for today remind us of the “shoot from the stump of Jesse” and the “adventure” of faith that the season represents.

In Memoriam

Jennie Lou Skaff

February 13, 1947 – November 27, 2004

An active member of our church since February, 1974

Jane McNeely Wheeler

November 24, 1923 – November 28, 2004

An active member of our church since June, 1988

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth...that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them! Revelation 14:13



First Presbyterian Church

249 West McLelland Avenue

Mooreville, North Carolina

The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him...

Habakkuk 2:20

Poinsettias: You are invited to place poinsettias (\$10 each) in our church this Christmas in memory or in honor of loved ones. While the names of all those memorialized and honored will be printed in the bulletin, only a limited number of poinsettias will be purchased, with the extra money going to the Deacons' Relief Fund to assist needy persons and families. Place your order with the church office by December 6.

An Angel Tree has been set up in the parlor from which you may select an angel with name of a child whose parent is incarcerated. After purchasing a Christmas gift for the child, please return it to the church to be distributed in time for Christmas.

Calendar and Announcements

- Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Worship Celebration
Logos/MSM Registration in the parlor following worship
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Celebration
Logos/MSM Registration in the parlor following worship
4:00 p.m. - Youth Council meeting
5:00 p.m. - Catechism Club
6:00 p.m. - Church Night Supper and Concert
- Monday: 7:00 p.m. - Purpose Driven Life Bible Study at the home of Liz Price
- Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. - Circle of Faith (No. 4) in the parlor
5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club at Atlanta Bread Company
6:15 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
7:30 p.m. - Senior High handbells
- Wednesday: 7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir
- Thursday 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Peggy & Harding Rogers
6:30 p.m. - Fun and Fellowship at Fat Boys
- Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - Promise Keepers

Operation Christmas Child: Contact Ellen Auten by tomorrow if you are interested in volunteering at Operation Christmas Child's Charlotte Processing Center this Tuesday, December 7. The group plans to leave at 2:15 p.m. and return by 8:00 p.m.

Logos/Middle School Ministry Registration: Registration for second semester Logos/MSM will take place the next three Sundays in the church parlor, after the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Returning participants should inform directors Jennifer Boger, Christina McElroy, or Valerie Mauney of their intent to return. New participants should pick up registration forms and program information. Fees include a \$25 registration fee (new participants only) and a \$40 per semester tuition fee. All payments should be made by Wednesday, January 5. Scholarship help is available upon request.

Catechism Club: Catechism Club mentors should plan to come at 5:00 p.m. tonight to listen to recitation of Catechism questions.

Cherub Choir: All children, preschool age through first grade, are invited to participate in a Cherub Choir during the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Practices will take place this morning and next Sunday, December 12, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 217 during church school. Please contact the church office if you have questions about the choir.

A yard sale to benefit a handicapped student, Leanna Moore, from Mt. Mourne Elementary will be held on Saturday, December 11 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the former Skating Rink on Hwy. 21.

Advanced Driving School
580 OAKLAWN ROAD - WINSTON-SALEM, NC 27107
336.769.1513



To: Parents and Teens, First Presbyterian Church
From: Terry Stevens
Subject: Advanced Driving School

The Men's Breakfast program in November was about continuing driver education for our teenagers. The program was very well received and prompted the Session to approve funding for one-half of the cost of the school for our teen drivers who request it. We have obtained dates for our church's teens and/or parents to attend the school as a group. Please feel free to make others aware of this program and invite them to join us at a class.

The following dates are available over the Christmas break for Iredell County and Mooresville schools:

Monday, December 27th
Wednesday, December 29th
Friday, December 31st
Monday, January 3rd

The school can accommodate a maximum of 9 drivers per class. Please select the best 2 dates for your teenager and/or yourself and call me ASAP so we can go ahead and lock in the dates.

Our special group rate is \$275 per student (regularly \$295), and the Session has approved the payment of half of that (\$137.50) for each of the teen drivers. Please call me at the listed numbers as soon as you can. We would like to fill two days of classes and get them on your calendars.

Let's keep our kids safe and alive on the roads!

Sincerely,

Terry Stevens
Home: 704-857-6591
Cell: 704-619-5007

PS: I will be attending the classes and will be offering rides in my truck and sports cars to demonstrate how suspension systems work.