

Order of Divine Worship
3rd Sunday in Advent
December 12, 2004

Gathering around God's Word

WELCOME AND SERVICE OF FRIENDSHIP Fred Coates
REPORT FROM THE TRANSITION COMMITTEE..... Chris Ahearn
PRELUDE: "Carol Prelude".....arr. Hal Hopson

(Christy Floyd, organist)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 146:5, 7-8, 10)

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

*HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"No. 182

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God: If we conceal Your love because our pursuit of other priorities prevents us from seeing and serving people in need, forgive us. If we conceal Your compassion because of our prejudice and intolerance, forgive us. If we conceal your mercy because of hard and unforgiving attitudes, forgive us. If we conceal Your glory because all we reflect is our own self-centeredness, forgive us. Merciful God, cleanse our lives of all shameful attitudes of mind and heart so that Your transforming power is revealed in and through all we do and say and are, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear these transforming words: if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away. See, everything has become fresh and new. So, let us affirm again and believe the 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: ""O Holy Night "" Adolph Adam
(Chancel Choir and congregation)

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born! O night divine! O night! O night divine!

Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever! His power and glory evermore proclaim! His power and glory evermore proclaim!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH.....(8:30 a.m.) Frank, Liz and Ellie Rader
(11:00 a.m.) Opal Westmoreland, Jeanne McKenry,

Susan Meade, Mary Anne Karriker,

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

A candle is burning, a candle of joy.

A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.

**Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

Hearing and Responding to God's Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 11:2-11 (pew Bible, page 10) (8:30 a.m.) Bill Lackey
(11:00 a.m.) Opal Westmoreland

*HYMN: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"No. 154

*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

OFFERTORY: "Sleepers, Wake for Night is Flying"(8:30 a.m.)..... arr. Anonymous circa 1599
"Prelude from Oratorio de Noel" (11:00 a.m.)..... Camille Saints-Saens
(Christy Floyd, organist)

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (8:30 a.m.) Laura Auten
(11:00 a.m.) Rick McLean

SING FOR CHRIST IS BORN

A Cantata for Christmas

(Chancel Choir)

Bearing God's Word into the World

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "He Is Born" French carol

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.

Christian sympathy is extended to the Hastings and McNeely families in the death of Thurston McNeely on December 4, and to Joel McConnell in the death of his brother, Billy McConnell, on November 29, and to Fred Hoke in the death of his brother on December 7.

Birth: Congratulations are extended to Shannon and Graham Weaver, 176 Oak Meadow Road, Mooresville, NC 28115, into whose home was born a son, John Lee Weaver on December 1, 2004.

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 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 217 during church school. Please contact the church office if you have questions about the choir.

Newsletter articles are due by this Thursday.

Calendar and Announcements

- Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Worship Celebration
8:30 a.m. - Men's Breakfast
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Celebration and Christmas Cantata
Logos/MSM Registration in the parlor following worship
4:00 p.m. - PYF SALTeens caroling
5:00 p.m. - Commitment Committee
6:00 p.m. - Executive Committee
7:00 p.m. - Joint Officers Meeting
- Monday: 2:00 p.m. - Circle 1 at the home of Lynne Pierce
6:15 p.m. - Blessed in Christ (Circle No. 3) in the library
7:00 p.m. - Purpose Driven Life Bible Study at the home of Liz Price
- Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club at Applebee's
6:15 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
6:30 p.m. - Women of the Word (Circle No. 5) at the home of Mary Fortanbary
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. - Sisters in Christ (Circle No. 2) in the parlor
- Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - Promise Keepers

Logos/Middle School Ministry Registration: Registration for second semester Logos/MSM will take place this morning and next Sunday in the church parlor, following the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Returning participants should inform directors Jennifer Boger (704-660-0715), Christina McElroy (704-664-4369), or Valerie Mauney (704-663-7540) 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, unless prior arrangements have been made. Scholarship help is available upon request.

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.

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.

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

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.

Weekday Preschool enrollment for church members is now going on. Forms are available in the church office or you may call Nancy Kortright at 704-664-2701.



First Presbyterian Church

249 West McLelland Avenue
Mooresville, North Carolina

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

Habakkuk 2:20

Circle Notes: Circle No. 1 will meet at the home of Lynn Pierce, 334 Camino Real, Mooresville, on Monday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m. The van will leave the church at 1:45 p.m. Circle No. 5, Women of the Word, will meet at the home of Mary Fortanbary on Tuesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. (note time change).

Advanced Drivers School: The spots are filling fast for the school. So far January 3rd is almost full and December 27th is the second favorite day. We would like to fill both days. The school starts at 8:30am at Farmington Dragway. We will leave the church parking lot with the church van at 7:00am. The driving sessions will end at 5:00pm and we should arrive back at the church no later than 6:30pm. **CLOTHING:** All participants should wear long sleeve shirts, jeans, and shoes with laces. (NO sandals, or open toed shoes, and NO baggy clothes!) Parents are encouraged to attend and may drive to Farmington, but we would like all of the teens to ride in the church van. Bring money for lunch. Farmington Dragway is on Hwy 801 about 5-7 miles north of I-40.

College Student Fellowship: All college age students are invited to a get-together next Sunday, December 19, at Starbucks inside Barnes & Noble Bookstore at Birkdale Village in Huntersville. Plan to meet for coffee and conversation at 4:00 p.m., and enjoy Christmas festivities at Birkdale Village. Please RSVP to Sondra Pettus (704-896-7963) by Saturday, December 18. In addition, all college age young adults are invited to a complimentary lunch at Pueblo Grande Mexican Restaurant following the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 26. Please call the church office (704-664-5275) to make a lunch reservation.

Puppet Show: Everyone is encouraged to attend a puppet show during the church school hour next Sunday, December 19, at 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The puppet show, "Mr. Penny-pincher's First Christmas," will be presented by youth members of the Presbyterian Puppet People from North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church. Refreshments will be served following the puppet show; a freewill offering will be taken for the puppet team.

Liturgy Notes for Advent 3 - Year A

Today's Advent theme of Joy has its source in the prophecies of the Old Testament coming to fulfillment with the birth of our Lord, as well as His coming again. Our God is One who does the unexpected and unanticipated. The birth of the Christ Child in Bethlehem was expected, but its humility was not. The birth of the Savior King was eagerly anticipated, but the servant nature of His kingship was not. The joy of Advent which fills the hearts of believers has its source not in the annals of history but in the chronicles of the lives transformed by the Messiah's birth.

Today's lectionary texts include **Psalm 146:5-10**, declaring the goodness of the Lord and His eternal rule; **Isaiah 35:1-10**, recalling some of the signs of the Messianic Age; **James 5:7-10**, which urges the believer to be patient in awaiting the return of the Lord, and **Matthew 11:1-11**, a text in which John the Baptist inquires about the Messianic works of Jesus.

Our third Advent worship banner adds to the growing anticipation of the season as it begins to fill the opening created by the first two. Hope, Peace and now Joy... the season's rich blessings are abounding!

In Memoriam

Robert Thurston McNeely

August 12, 1916 –December 4, 2004

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