

December 4, 2005

Gathering around God's Word

WELCOME AND SERVICE OF FRIENDSHIP: Russell Mase
A DECEMBER CHALLENGE..... Russell Mase
PRELUDE: (8:30 a.m.) "Advent Medley on We Shall Behold Him"..... Marilyn Ham
(Christy Floyd, piano)
(11:00 a.m.) "Angels and Shepherds"..... arr. Lynne Hollander
(Middle School Handbells)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing!

**For the Lord is a gracious God, whose mercy is everlasting,
and whose faithfulness endures to all generations.**

Let us worship God!

*HYMN: "Savior of the Nations, Come".....No. 168

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us?

Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son.

If we have truthfully confessed our sin, Christ our Redeemer has secured our forgiveness.

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE: "Wait for the Lord".....No. 166

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Proclaiming God's Word

CHILDREN'S SERMON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH..... (8:30 a.m.) Frank, Liz and Ellie Rader
(11:00 a.m.) Jim, June, and Emmie Tyson

Shine on us, O God of justice; Guide our path through gloom of night;

Bear within us Wisdom's glory; Come to us, O Christ the Light.

SCRIPTURE LESSON:Ezekiel 36:26-27 (pew Bible page 764), John 3:1-5 (page 89)
(8:30 a.m.) Jack Ahearn, (11:00 a.m.) Becky Rader

ANTHEM: (11:00 a.m.) "Why Do the Angels Sing?"..... John Carter
(Logos Choir)

SERMON: "New Birth"..... Russell Mase

Responding to God's Word

*HYMN: "Blessed Be the God of Israel".....No. 158

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostle's 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 AND 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 for ever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: (8:30 a.m.) "The Birthday of a King"..... William Harold Neidlinger
(Alan Sledge, soloist)

(11:00 a.m.) "Sheep Fast Asleep".....Chogoru Torii

(Middle School Handbells and Logos Choir,

Carson Bridges and Nell Herring, soloists.)

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

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

Bearing God's Word into the World

*HYMN: "Angels from the Realms of Glory".....No. 189

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord"..... Johann Bach

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.

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Benjamin, Chandler and Jonathan Ladd by the Ladd family.

Congratulations to Tony and Ginger White, proud parents of a new daughter, Vivian Anastasia, born on November 28.

Presbyterian Men's Breakfast: Join us at 8:30 am Sunday, December 11 and learn about the current Downtown Plan for Mooresville and what the future may hold! Bob Amon will deliver another of his entertaining talks as he visits the past and predicts the future. Please bring your old "Magic 8-Balls"! Please call the office and make your reservations as soon as possible.

Christian sympathy is expressed to Beverly Chappell and family in the death of her brother, Melvin "Bud" Lee, on November 30.

An Evening of Carols: You are invited to the church night supper tonight at 6 p.m. followed by our church choirs in concert at 7 p.m. Singing and ringing, from young and old, with plenty of sing-a-long carols.

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

Cherub Choir: All children, preschool 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 11, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 217 during church school, and on December 18, immediately following the Christmas pageant in the fellowship hall. Please contact Nancy Kortright if you have questions about the choir.

Poinsettias: Monday is the last day to order poinsettias to be placed in honor/memory of loved ones.

Logos/Middle School Ministry/Kairos Registration: Registration for second semester Logos/MSM/Kairos 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 director Valerie Mauney of their intent to return. New participants should pick up registration forms and program information. Fees include a \$30 registration fee (new participants only) and a \$45 per semester tuition fee. Scholarship help is available upon request. Second semester begins on Wednesday, January 4, 2006.

The Week Ahead

- Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship
 9:45 a.m. - Church School
 11:00 a.m. - Worship Celebration with MSM Handbells and Logos choir
 Logos registration in the parlor
 12:00 p.m. - Youth Council meeting
 3:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry in the parlor
 5:13 p.m. - PYP
 6:00 p.m. - Fellowship Supper and Christmas Concert
- Monday: 7:00 p.m. - Boy Scout Troop 166
 7:00 p.m. - Purpose Driven Life Bible Study at the home of Liz Price
 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fred and Jean Coates
- Tuesday: 2:00 p.m. - Library Committee
 5:30 p.m. - PYP Supper Club at Chick-fil-A
 6:15 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
 7:30 p.m. - Women of the Word (No. 5) at the home of Anne Telford
- Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
 4:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM – *Christmas*
 5:00 p.m. - Kairos
 5:30 p.m. - High School Bible Study
 5:30 p.m. - Confirmation Class
 7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir
- Thursday: 8:15 a.m. - Volunteers to Operation Christmas Child
 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Peggy & Harding Rogers
 6:00 p.m. - Fun and Fellowship at Fat Boy's
- Sunday 12-11 8:30 a.m. - Christmas Cantata
 8:30 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast
 9:45 a.m. - Church School
 11:00 a.m. - Christmas Cantata
 Logos registration in the parlor
 5:13 p.m. - PYP
 7:00 p.m. - Joint Deacons/Session meeting



First Presbyterian Church

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

Habakkuk 2:20