

Order of Divine Worship

3rd Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2005

Gathering around God's Word

WELCOME AND SERVICE OF FRIENDSHIP Fred Coates

PRELUDE: "Star-Carol" Carlton Young

(Chris and Abby Aheam)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 61:10-11)

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,

my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, You call on us to prepare the way for Jesus' birth by helping to make smooth the rough places in people's lives, by seeking to reduce the mountainous problems some people experience. Forgive us when we fail to become involved with the pain of other people by pleading seasonal busy-ness. Forgive us for all the times we put our personal comfort before that of others and for confusing being comfortable with being comforting. So, help us to prepare ourselves faithfully to receive the Christ-child. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's steadfast love is established forever - to all generations. The evidence of that love is surely found in God's entry into the world in Jesus Christ, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in Him are not condemned.

Thanks be to God! 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 Fred Coates

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (8:30 a.m.) Billie Brawley, Joyce Lytle and Tony White

(11:00 a.m.) James, Susan, Cameron and Emily Williams

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.

Hearing and Responding to God's Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON: I Thessalonians 5:16-24 (pew Bible, pg. 192) (8:30 a.m.) Carolyn Brawley

(11:00 a.m.) Opal Westmoreland

*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 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 forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS AND DECEMBER CHALLENGE GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Before the Marvel of This Night" Carl Schalk
(Chancel Choir)

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (8:30 a.m.) Mille Amon, (11:00 a.m.) Carolyn Morrow

AMERICAN CHRISTMAS

by

Z. Randall Stroope

(Chancel Choir and orchestra)

Bearing God's Word into the World

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

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Pastoral Symphony" from "The Messiah" George Frederic Handel

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.

Congratulations are expressed to Joe and Jennifer London on the birth of a daughter, Avery Mackenzie London, on December 2.

Jennifer Jordan, our church Hostess, will be resigning from her position effective December 31, 2005. She is accepting the Executive Director's position of the Mooresville Soup Kitchen. We sincerely thank Jennifer for the able service she has provided and extend our gratitude to her for the fine job she has done during the past two and a half years.

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 18, during church school. Please contact the church office if you have questions about the choir.

Circle Notes: Circle Number 1 will meet this Monday at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Eleanor Templeton. Those wishing to ride the van please meet at the church by 1:45 p.m. Circle Number 4 will meet at 10:00 a.m. this Tuesday, December 13 at the home of Joan Gibson. Joan lives at 229 West Lowrance Avenue in Mooresville. If you have questions, please call Martha Faulkenberry at 704-663-0892. Circle Number 3 will have a covered dish dinner at the home of Althea Nelson on Monday at 6:15.

Christian sympathy is extended to Ray Brawley and family in the death of his sister, Geneva Brawley Harrill, on December 5.

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 next Sunday to provide information and to receive your gifts.

The Weekday Preschool Christmas Program will be held Thursday and Friday, December 15 and 16 at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

The Hard Hats will be getting together again this Saturday the 17th at 10 AM to take on a few more needed repairs and general maintenance of the Church facilities. Lunch will once again be provided courtesy of the Building Committee. Come join us for service and fellowship.

Newsletter articles are due by this Thursday.

First Presbyterian Church Cookbooks: Our cookbooks will not arrive until January 15, 2006. Nonetheless, prepaid, advance orders are now being taken and special Christmas gift cards are available. You may make your purchase at the table located in the second floor hallway of the educational building. Make sure you get your copies today!

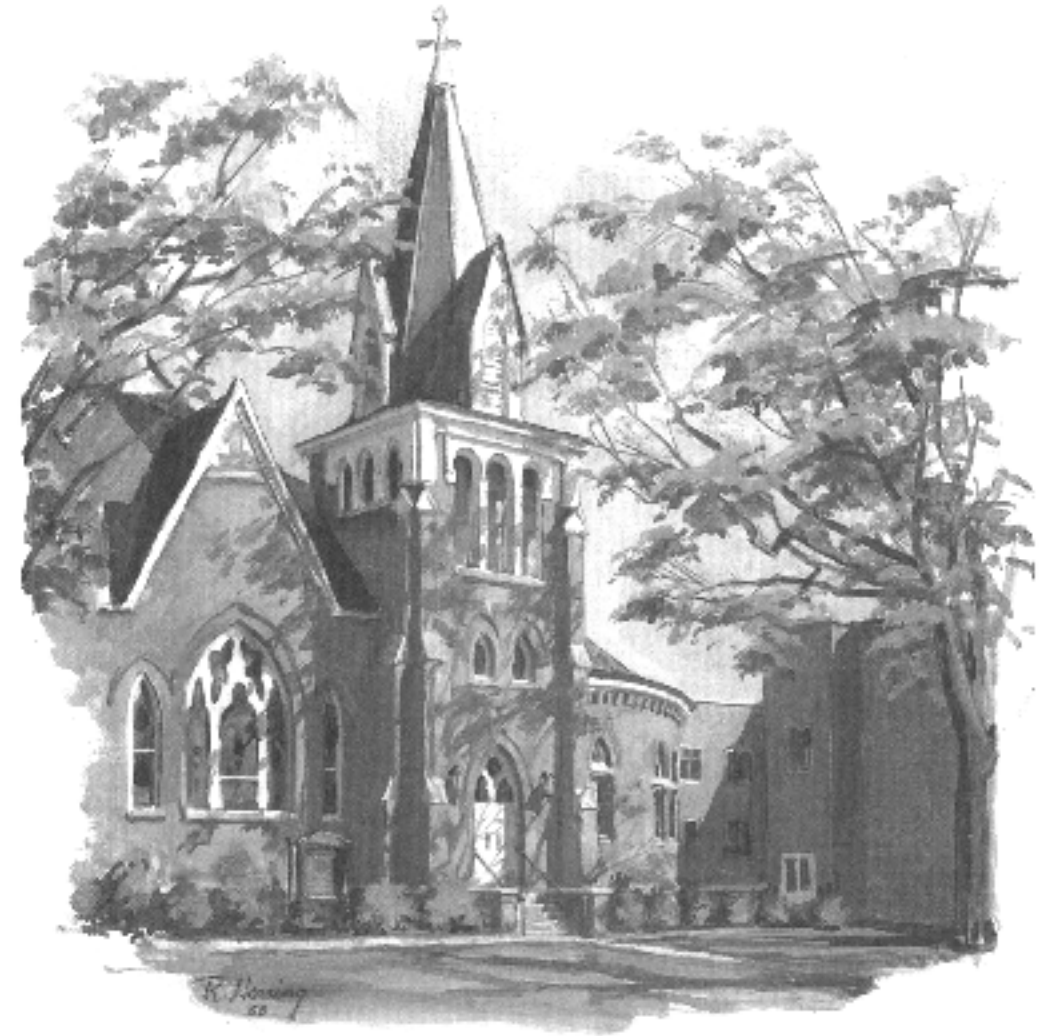
Logos/Middle School Ministry Registration: Registration for second semester Logos/MSM will take place this morning and next Sunday in the church parlor, following the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Returning participants should inform director Valerie Mauney (704-663-7540) of their intent 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. All payments should be made by Wednesday, January 4, unless prior arrangements have been made. Scholarship help is available upon request. Registration deadline is next Sunday, December 18.

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.

Magnify Concert: Tonight at 7:00 p.m. on Treyworth Drive off of Route 115 in Cornelius.

Calendar and Announcements

- Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Worship Celebration and Christmas Cantata
8:30 a.m. - Presbyterian 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
5:13 p.m. - PYF SALT teens
7:00 p.m. - Joint Officers Meeting
- Monday: 2:00 p.m. - Circle 1 at the home of Eleanor Templet on
6:15 p.m. - Blessed in Christ (Circle No. 3) at the home of Althea Nelson
7:00 p.m. - Boy Scout Troop 166
7:30 p.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fred and Jean Coates
- Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. - Circle of Faith (No. 4) at Martha Faulkenberry's home
5:00 p.m. - JOMC in the Session room
5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club goes to Kyoto
6:15 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
- Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir
- Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Preschool Christmas Program
10:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Peggy & Harding Rogers
6:30 p.m. - Sisters in Christ (Circle No. 2) in the parlor
- Friday: 9:30 a.m. - Preschool Christmas program
12:30 p.m. - Saints Alive to see the Rockettes
- Sunday, 12-18 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship with Logos choir
9:45 a.m. - Church School Christmas pageant
11:00 a.m. - Worship Celebration with Exaltation Ringers
Logos registration deadline
4:00 p.m. - Handmaidens of the Lord (No. 6) at the home of Lucille McClure
- PYF caroling and Christmas party



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