

Order of Divine Worship

4th Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2005

Gathering around God's Word

PRELUDE: "Ave Maria" Franz Schubert
(Tyler Hutto, horn)

WELCOME AND SERVICE OF FRIENDSHIP Russell Mase
CALL TO WORSHIP

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Then Mary said: Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.

And Christ was born in Bethlehem, let all the world rejoice!

Let us worship God.

*CAROL: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" No. 185

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Who are we, Lord, God, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word, and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. Forgive, we pray, our many sins, which we freely confess, and restore us to your favor. We ask this in the name of him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If we have sincerely confessed our sin, I declare to you that through the sacrifice of Jesus, our Lord, we are forgiven.

Thanks and praise be to God, now and forever more. Amen.

*RESPONSE: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain)..... Tune: Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Sealing God's Word (11:00 a.m.)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM..... Insert

Proclaiming God's Word

CHILDREN'S SERMON Fred Coates

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH..... (8:30 a.m.) The Amon Family

(11:00 a.m.) Bill and Carolyn Brawley

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: (pew Bible, page 185) Philippians 2:1-11

(8:30 a.m.) Ellen Hinson (11:00 a.m.) Sharon Culp

ANTHEM: (8:30 a.m.) "Go Tell It On the Mountain".....arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

(Kairos Ringers)

(11:00 a.m.) "How Far Is It to Bethlehem?".....arr. Mack Wilburg

(Chancel Choir)

(Janet Aultman and Mary Ellen Auten, Flute)

SERMON: "The Ultimate Gift"..... Russell Mase

Responding to God's Word

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: (8:30 a.m.) "Jesus, Your King is Born".....arr. Frances Callahan
(Kairos Ringers)

(11:00 a.m.) "The Holly and the Ivy"arr. Kevin McChesney
(Adult Handbells)

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION.....(8:30 a.m.) Bob Amon (11:00 a.m.) Kerry Miller

Bearing God's Word into the World

*CAROL: "While by the Sheep"No. 200

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "He, the Most Magnificent of All"..... Robert Schumann
(Tyler Hutto, horn)

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 memory of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Bittinger by Janet and Charlie Bittinger.

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.

1st Annual Chili Cook-off: The church supper in January will be a Mwandi fundraiser and the beginning of a First Presbyterian annual event. Volunteers are needed to bring a crock pot of their own special chili to be judged in one of several categories (hottest, most original, with or without beans, etc.) This Missions Committee sponsored event will be held on January 29 at 6:00 p.m. and will be followed by our annual talent show. If you have questions, please contact Mark Auten at 704-663-2494.

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. Children will rehearse this morning in the fellowship hall, immediately following the Christmas pageant.

Christmas Pageant: Everyone is invited to a presentation of the Christmas story this morning at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The pageant will be presented by first through fifth graders, along with the four year old and kindergarten church school classes. Refreshments will be served, and a nursery will be provided for children under 3.

Saints Alive Luncheon: The monthly Saints Alive luncheon (\$3) will be held this Tuesday, December 20, at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The program will feature a video presentation, "Christmas at Biltmore House." Come and bring a friend to this holiday luncheon and program.

College-age Fellowship Outing: All college age students and their guests are invited to a holiday gathering this Friday, December 23, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The group plans to meet at the Texas Steakhouse in Mooresville for a complimentary dinner, then travel to Tanglewood's *Festival of Lights*, near Winston-Salem. Please contact Harry Weyer (704-799-0678; harryweyer@alltel.net) to make a reservation.

Logos/MSM/Kairos registration for second semester will take place this morning in the church parlor, before and after the worship services. The Logos/MSM/Kairos program is a mid-week program of Bible class, recreation, music, and dinner for children in grades one through twelve. Returning participants should inform program 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. Second semester begins Wednesday, January 4, 2006; registration deadline is today. Scholarship help is available upon request. Please contact program director Valerie Mauney (704-663-7540) with questions about the program.

A December Challenge: Dear Friends, Carmen and I intend to respond to the “faith line” item in the 2005 budget by making an extra gift to the church in December. We invite you to join us in gratitude to God for his gift of Jesus Christ during this Advent Season by giving what you can to help meet the “faith line” item adopted for the current year. *Thanks and blessings* Russell E. Mase

PYF Outing: The Presbyterian Youth Fellowship will be leaving on a chartered bus this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. to visit the WBT “Holiday on Ice” ice skating rink in uptown Charlotte. Cost of the skating is \$8.00 (includes skate rental). A parental permission slip is required. Copies of the permission slip may be downloaded from the Youth Page on the church’s web site (www.moorevillefirstpres.org/youth.htm) or from the church office.

Calendar and Announcements

- Sunday: **Logos registration deadline**
 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship
 9:45 a.m. - Church School Christmas pageant
 11:00 a.m. - Worship celebration
 4:00 p.m. - Handmaidens of the Lord (No. 6) at Lucille McClure’s
 5:13 p.m. - PYF
- Monday: 7:00 p.m. - Purpose Driven Life Bible Study at the home of Liz Price
- Tuesday: 12:30 p.m. - Saints Alive
 5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club goes to Little Spaghetti House
 6:15 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers at Debbie Hyatt’s home
- Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
 6:00 p.m. - PYF outing to “Holiday on Ice”
- Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Peggy & Harding Rogers
- Friday: 5:00 p.m. - College-age Holiday Tour
- Saturday: 5:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 7:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - Christmas Day Worship Celebration



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

AN ORDER FOR HOLY BAPTISM

Presentation

Persons to be baptized are brought to the font and presented for baptism. Parents promise to fulfill the responsibilities for Christian nurture. Sponsors promise to support those being baptized in their growth in the faith. The congregation promises to love and nurture the newly baptized and to assist them to be faithful disciples.

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Obedying the word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, we baptize those whom God has called. In baptism God claims us, and seals us to show that we belong to God. God frees us from sin and death, uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection. By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ’s ministry of love, peace and justice.

Let us remember with joy our own baptism, as we celebrate this sacrament.

On behalf of the session, I present **Matthew McDonnell Hutto** to receive the sacrament of baptism.

PARENTS OF INFANTS AND YOUNGER CHILDREN

Do you desire that your child be baptized?

Relying on God’s grace,
do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach that faith to your child?

SPONSORS

Do you promise, through prayer and example,
to support and encourage him to be a faithful Christian?

CONGREGATION

Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ,
promise to guide and nurture him by word and deed, with love and prayer,
encouraging her to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church?

Profession of Faith

Those coming to be baptized, parents, and sponsors make vows, renouncing the ways of evil and affirming the way of Christ. The congregation joins them in affirming the faith of the church in the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

Through baptism we enter the covenant God has established. Within this covenant God gives us new life, guards us from evil, and nurtures us in love. In embracing that covenant, we choose whom we will serve by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.

As God embraces you within the covenant, I ask you to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of 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.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

God’s saving acts are remembered with thanksgiving, and the Holy Spirit is invoked, that those who are baptized may have their sins washed away, be reborn to new life, be buried and resurrected with Christ, and be incorporated into the body of Christ.

The Baptism

In the name of the triune God, the minister sprinkles water on the head of each candidate.

Matthew, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Blessing

As a sign of the gift of the Holy Spirit in baptism, the minister lays hands upon the head and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the newly baptized, praying for the gift of the Holy Spirit. A baptismal candle lighted from the paschal candle is given to the newly baptized as a sign of the light which comes from the risen Christ, expressing the link between every baptism and Christ’s death and resurrection.

O Lord, uphold Matthew by your Holy Spirit.

May he know and follow Christ and be a faithful member of your church, both now and forever.
Amen.

Matthew, child of the covenant, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism, and marked as Christ’s own forever. **Amen.**

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

Welcome

The congregation welcomes the newly baptized into the household of God, sharing signs of peace.

Matthew has been received into the one holy universal and apostolic church through baptism. God has made him/her a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ’s church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.