

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

November 26, 2006

11:00 A.M.

WELCOME AND INVOCATION.....The Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown, Pastor

PRELUDE: *Simple Gifts*..... Wood
Joanne Daykin, Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP: From Psalm 95:1-3Cathy Irwin
Leader: Oh come, let us sing unto the Lord.

People: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Leader: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.

People: Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Leader: For the Lord is a great God,

People: And a great King above all gods.

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: The Lord's name be praised!

*HYMN: *We Gather Together*.....No. 81

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION..... The Rev. Dr. Fred Coates, Associate Pastor

Almighty God: in love you spread good gifts before us, more than we need or deserve. You feed, heal, teach, and save us. We confess that we always want more, that we never share as freely as you give. We resent what we lack, and we are jealous of neighbors. We misuse what you intend for joy. God, forgive our stubborn pride and greed. In your mercy, help us to take such pleasure in your goodness that we will always be thanking you. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*SILENT CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: . . . Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

Unison: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: From Romans 8

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set us free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. We know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*.....No. 721

PASTORAL PRAYER WITH 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: *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*Matthews
Gene Auten, Solo

*RESPONSE: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*.....No. 34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION.....C.P. Chappell

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 32:1-11..... Insert

SERMON: *Spiritual Respiration*..... Dr. Brown

*HYMN: *Now Thank We All Our God* (Verses 1 & 2).....No. 14

*INVITATION AND BLESSING

*RESPONSE: *Now Thank We All Our God* (Verse 3).....No. 505

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven, the one eternal God whom earth and heaven adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

POSTLUDE: *Voluntary in G*..... Lang

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* Those who are able will please stand.

If you are our guest today, welcome to First Presbyterian! We're so glad you're worshiping with us. For more information, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and speak with one of the pastors following the service. God bless you! Please return to worship with us again.

You can become part of the First Presbyterian family of faith today by your profession of faith, transfer of church membership, or reaffirmation of faith. The Session meets after every service to receive new members. Please speak with Fred Coates, our associate pastor, following today's service.

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

Next Sunday's sermon will begin a new Advent and Christmas sermon series, "Myth Becomes Fact," that focuses on the Incarnation of Jesus Christ as God in the flesh as shared in the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. The series begins with the sermon "Divine Interruption," from Luke 1:1-25,57-80.

Announcements

The Promise-Driven Life—2007 Pledges: As of the latest report, we have received 178 pledges totaling \$559,350, with an average of \$3290.29 per pledge, with an additional 40 pledge cards received as "prefer not to pledge" but committing to give to the operating fund in 2007. If you have not had the opportunity to respond to "The Promise-Driven Life" for 2007, please do so at your earliest opportunity. *Please step out in faith as God leads you to do, trusting in his promises for your time, talent, and treasure.*

Share Christ with Christmas CDs You Can Give Away! Have you ever wanted a low-stress, high-touch, non-threatening way to share with your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members about the wonderful message of Christmas and about what's going at First Presbyterian Church? Here it is!

Today you will have the opportunity to take with you professionally recorded and produced music CDs from FPC's music ministry. The CDs have a Christmas theme, focusing on familiar Christmas carols. The CD jacket will have a listing of our Advent and Christmas activities and a brief invitation from Clay Brown to join us in the joy of the season.

The CDs are available in the parlor and they are free. As you give away these CDs, please invite the recipients to attend our congregation's Advent and Christmas events. Christmas is perhaps the best time of the year for evangelism, so you may hand out CDs to non-Christians and those without a church family as a witness of your faith in Christ.

We believe the Lord will provide both the people to whom you should give a CD and the funds to cover the production costs—approximately \$2 per CD—yet the CDs are meant for you to pass out as a free outreach of FPC's ministry without passing on any costs. Your kind donations will be gratefully accepted.

Coming December 10, 4:00-7:00 p.m.—1st Annual "Pastors' Wives Christmas Drop-in Open House" at the Manse. On Sunday, December 10, from 4:00-7:00 p.m., Cathy Brown and Jean Coates will host a come-and-go Christmas open house at the Manse. Drop in for a few minutes, enjoy Christmas goodies in the newly renovated Manse, and celebrate the joy of the season with others! So the congregation may be received comfortably at the Manse, you are encouraged to vary the times when you drop in between 4:00 and 7:00, so that everyone who desires to attend may do so and those who prefer not to drive at night may visit during daylight hours.

Sermon Series for Advent and Christmas: *Myth Becomes Fact*. During the Advent and Christmas season, our pastors will preach on the glorious Christian story of the Incarnation, what the famous writer C. S. Lewis described as "myth becoming fact." The sermons are as follows:

- December 3—"Divine Interruption," Luke 1:1-25,57-80.
- December 10—No sermon: Chancel Choir Selections from *Messiah*.
- December 17—"The God We're Dealing With," Luke 1:26-56.
- December 24, 11:00 a.m.—"Good News Comes to Earth," Luke 2:1-20.
- December 24, 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.—"The Grand Miracle," John 1:1-14.

An Angel Tree has been set up in the parlor from which you may select an angel, indicating your willingness to purchase a Christmas gift for a child of a prisoner. All packages must be returned to the church by Sunday, December 17.

Please be informed that during its November 19, 2006, stated meeting, the Session called the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, December 3, 2006, at 12:00 p.m., following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to receive information about the 2007 budget, to change the terms of call of your pastors accordingly, and to act on any other related matters.

Announcements continued on calendar page insert.



11:00 a.m. Worship
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

SERMON NOTES ♦ NOVEMBER 26, 2006
Spiritual Respiration ♦ Psalm 32:1-11 (ESV)

¹Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

²Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Selah

⁵I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*

⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Selah

⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

¹⁰Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

THE NEED FOR SPIRITUAL RESPIRATION (VV. 1-4)

- **The way it's supposed to be...**
- **The reality of the way it is much of the time...**
- **The reason why we need spiritual respiration...**
- **“What is sin? Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.” (Westminster Shorter Catechism)**

EXHALING THE BAD (VV. 5-7)

- **The meaning of confession...**
- **Openness and honesty before God...**
- **The experience of forgiveness...**
- **“Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. . . Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” (From Psalm 51, ESV)**

INHALING THE GOOD (VV. 8-11)

- **Not enough just to rid ourselves of the bad...**
- **Must replace the bad with the good...**
- **Guidance, direction, encouragement, and support...**
- **“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2 ESV)**

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Calendar

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship

Monday: 9:30 a.m. - “Moms in Touch” in the Session room

Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club at Kyoto
6:00 p.m. - Brownie Scouts
7:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
4:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM– 50’s Night
5:00 p.m. - Kairos
7:30 p.m. - Chancel choir

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study with Peggy and Harding Rogers
11:00 a.m. - Thursdays with Clay in the Parlor
7:30 p.m. - Thursdays with Clay in the Parlor

Sunday 12/3: 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship with Communion
9:45 a.m. - Church School
9:45 a.m. - Advent Workshop in the fellowship hall
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Communion
12:00 p.m. - Annual congregational meeting
5:15 p.m. - Alpha and Omega PYF
6:00 p.m. - Church Fellowship Supper and Christmas Concert

Announcements (continued)

Advent Workshop: Everyone is encouraged to attend the Advent Workshop next Sunday, December 3, during church school, 9:45-10:40 a.m., in the fellowship hall. More information may be found in today’s bulletin insert.

Operation Christmas Child: A group of volunteers plans to go to Operation Christmas Child’s Charlotte Processing Center on Thursday, December 7, to process shoeboxes for shipment overseas. The group plans to leave at 8:15 a.m. and return by 2:00 p.m. Please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) if you would like to volunteer.

Lost and Found: Please check the Lost and Found table in the fellowship hall for lost items. Unclaimed items will be donated after November 30.

Warming Tree: Presbyterian Women is sponsoring a “Warming Tree” in the fellowship hall during December. The congregation is encouraged to bring new winter hats, gloves, mittens and scarves, which will be placed on the tree during the Christmas season, and then donated to needy area children after Christmas.

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