

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 10, 2006

Second Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

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

PRELUDE: *Reprise*..... Manz
Joanne Daykin, Organist

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH..... Paul and Marilyn Beaver
Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the first candle, the candle of hope. We light it again to show hope comes only through Jesus Christ.

People: Jesus Christ is the hope of the world.

Leader: The second candle is the candle of peace. Christ brings peace into our hearts, and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again.

People: We are preparing for the days spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Leader: Today we light the candle of peace. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the peace we have in Jesus Christ.

People: We are the people of peace, God’s people, gathered in his name. Let us worship God!

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

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

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 to come. We have lived casual lives. We have ignored your promised judgment. We have been slow to serve you. Forgive us for the sake of your faithful servant Jesus, your Son and our Lord, whose triumph we eagerly wait for. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

Unison: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

*RESPONSE: Chorus from *Angels We Have Heard on High*..... No. 188

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

CHILDREN’S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 2:1-5 Judith McLean

*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.

*HYMN: *Joy to the World* (Verses 1, 2, and 3)..... No. 179

PASTORAL PRAYER 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: *Pastoral Symphony* (Messiah) Handel

*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..... Becky Rader

SELECTIONS FROM MESSIAH

George Frideric Handel

Chancel Choir and Orchestra

*INVITATION AND BLESSING

*RESPONSE: *Joy to the World* (Verse 4)..... No. 179

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

POSTLUDE: *Lo, He Comes With Clouds*..... Held

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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.

The flowers in the vestibule this morning are in honor of the marriage of Katy Elizabeth Debnam and Robert William Dowens, Jr., who were married at FPC on Saturday, December 9.

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

Next Sunday’s sermon continues the *Myth Becoming Fact* sermon series, with the Rev. Dr. Clay J. Brown preaching on “The God We’re Dealing With” from Luke 1:26-56.

Announcements

The Promise-Driven Life—2007 Pledges: 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.*

December Offerings to the Operating Fund: December is the month in which we typically make up some financial ground before the year’s end. Our desire is to fund fully our ministries and missions for this year and to end in the “black.” Please continue to give your usual tithes and offerings, and consider an additional gift to the Operating Fund this month. FPC consists of giving, generous people!

This Sunday, 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.

We Still Have a Few Christmas CDs Left! You still have the chance for 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. Today you may take with you professionally recorded and produced Christmas Carol CDs from FPC’s music ministry. The CDs 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.

Worship with us on Christmas Eve: We invite everyone to join us for worship on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24. We will begin with Church School at 9:45 a.m., followed by morning worship at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. The sermon will be “Good News Comes to Earth.” We *will not* have an early worship service at 8:30 a.m. on that Sunday. In the evening, we will have two “Candlelight and Carols” services, one at 5:00 p.m. and the other at 7:30 p.m. with a sermon titled “The Grand Miracle.” Both services will provide an opportunity to sing familiar carols, enjoy the Cherub Choir and contribute to our denomination’s “Joy Offering” which supports retired ministers and racially ethnic colleges.

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 be held during church school, beginning this Sunday. Please contact Ellen Auten or Nancy Kortright if you have questions about the choir.

Logos/Middle School Ministry/Kairos Registration: Registration for second semester Logos (grades 1-6), Middle School Ministry (MSM – grades 7-8), and Kairos (grades 9-12) will take place the next two Sundays in the church parlor, after the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services. Returning participants should fill out a second semester form, and 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 registration deadline is Wednesday, January 3.** Scholarship help is available upon request. Second semester begins on Wednesday, January 10.



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

Calendar

- Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship with Cantata
8:30 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Cantata
Logos Registration
4:00 p.m. - Christmas Open House at the Manse until 7:00 p.m.
4:15 p.m. - Alpha PYF
5:15 p.m. - Omega PYF
7:00 p.m. - Missions Committee
- Monday: 9:30 a.m. - "Moms in Touch" in the Session room
2:00 p.m. - Circle No.1 at the home of Lynn Pierce
6:15 p.m. - Blessed in Christ (No. 3) at the home of Kim Streb
- Tuesday: 10:00 p.m. - Circle of Faith (No. 4) in the parlor
5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club at Pueblo Grande
7:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
- Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Fronnie Gardner
No Logos/MSM/Kairos
7:30 p.m. - Chancel choir Christmas party
- Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Preschool Christmas Program
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study with Peggy and Harding Rogers
- Friday: 9:30 a.m. - Preschool Christmas Program
- Saturday: 6:00 p.m. - Girl Scout Christmas party in room 300
- Sunday 12/17: 8:30 a.m. - Early Worship
9:45 a.m. - Church School Christmas Pageant in FH
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Kairos, Logos Choir and MSM Handbells
Logos Registration
4:00 p.m. - Handmaidens of the Lord (No.6) at the home of Diana Hyman
5:15 p.m. - PYF Christmas Party and Caroling
7:00 p.m. - Deacon's Meeting
7:00 p.m. - Session Meeting

Christmas Eve Nursery: Volunteers are needed to help in the nursery during the 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve services. Please call the church office (704-664-5275) if you are available.

Christmas Pageant: Everyone is invited to a Children's Christmas Pageant next Sunday, December 17, at 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The pageant will be presented by first through sixth graders, along with the four year old and kindergarten church school classes.

Luminaries and Live Nativity at Centre Presbyterian Church, 129 Centre Church Road, Mooresville, NC on Saturday, December 16 from dusk until... For more information, call 704-664-3160.