

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 31, 2006

Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

WELCOME AND INVOCATION..... The Rev. Dr. Fred Coates, Associate Pastor

PRELUDE: Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is..... Haan
Joanne Daykin, Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP: (based on Psalm 148).....Smith Kirk

Leader: Praise the Lord of the whole universe - the heavens, the angels, the sun, moon and shining stars.

People: The earth and everything within it - every animal and bird, every fish and creature of the seas;

Leader: Every mountain and hill, every tree and plant, every ocean, river and stream, praise the Lord

People: Praise the Lord every ruler and government, all people of every age and every color.

Leader: Praise the One whose glory the angels sang: "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

People: And on earth peace, goodwill among all people."

*HYMN: *While by the Sheep*..... No. 200

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We pause, O God, to look over the past year - a year in which You were with us - but we were not always with You. Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. Forgive us, Lord, and lead us into the New Year in holiness and righteousness. May we be a people pleasing to You, a people who allow Your light to shine in the darkness and who bring praise and glory unto Your Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Rejoice and be glad! For everyone who asks, receives; and those who seek, find, for the One who was born in Bethlehem and Who was crucified in Jerusalem lives and intercedes for us before God.

Unison: We hear and believe the good news of the gospel. 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

*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: *We Three Kings of Orient Are*..... No. 233

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: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*..... Polish Carol
Chancel Choir with LuAnne Sledge, soloist

*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

GOSPEL LESSON: *Luke 2:41-52*

SERMON: *After the Celebration Is Over*..... The Rev. Dr. Fred Coates

*HYMN: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Verses 1 & 2)..... No. 188

*INVITATION AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Verse 3)..... No. 188

POSTLUDE: *Puer Nobis*..... Haan

+++++

* **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.

Announcements

Next Sunday's sermon, *Anything But That* by Dr. Brown begins a new series on Jonah entitled *Big Fish... Bigger God*.

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: FPC consists of giving, generous people! 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.

Congratulations are expressed to Melanie and Scott Burton on the birth of their son, Sawyer James who was born on December 13. Sawyer is the grandson of Ed and Martha Lewis and joins siblings, Roarke, Meredith and Kate.

Saints Alive Trip: Saints Alive is planning a trip to see the "Monet in Normandy" art exhibit at the North Carolina Art Museum in Raleigh this Thursday, January 4. The group plans to leave at 8:30 a.m., and will return in the early evening. Tickets are \$15. Please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) to make a reservation.

Logos/Middle School Ministry/Kairos Registration: The registration deadline for the Logos (grades 1-6), Middle School Ministry (grades 7-8) and Kairos (grades 9-12) mid-week program is this Wednesday, January 3. Please contact program director Valerie Mauney (704-663-7540) to register.

Email Addresses: If your email address has changed recently, due to the changes in Alltel and Adelphia, please be sure to notify the church office so that we can update our records. We will be using email more in the future, so it is important that we have your correct address. You may send any changes to secretary@moorevillefirstpres.org. Thank you.

A Congregational Meeting will be held after the 11:00 a.m. worship service next Sunday, January 7. The purpose of this meeting is to receive a report from the Executive Committee to place into nomination a slate of members for an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and to approve Fred Coates' revised job description.

Calendar

- Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - Worship
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
- Monday: - New Year's Day (office closed)
- Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. - PYF Supper Club at Village Inn Pizza
- Wednesday: Preschool reopens
11:00 a.m. - Bible Study with Fronnie Gardner
No Logos/MSM/Kairos this week
- Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - Saints Alive to Monet Exhibit
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Harding & Peggy Rogers
7:00 p.m. - Mooresville User's Group
7:00 p.m. - Sisters In Christ (No. 2)
- Sunday 1/7: 8:30 a.m. - Worship with Communion
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Communion
12:00 p.m. - Congregational Meeting
3:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry in the parlor
4:15 p.m. - Alpha PYF
5:15 p.m. - Omega PYF



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

SCRIPTURE TEXT

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

SERMON OUTLINE

I. THE CELEBRATION (VV. 41-42)

II. THE CONFUSION (VV. 43-45)

III. THE CONTROVERSY (VV.46-50)

IV. THE CONCLUSION (VV. 51-52)

SCRIPTURE TEXT

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

SERMON OUTLINE

V. THE CELEBRATION (VV. 41-42)

VI. THE CONFUSION (VV. 43-45)

VII. THE CONTROVERSY (VV.46-50)

VIII. THE CONCLUSION (VV. 51-52)