

December 1, 2019

11:00 a.m.

The First Sunday in Advent
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME

We're delighted that you're here! Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whomever you love, whatever your faith or your doubts, we welcome all whom God welcomes, and that means you.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* J. Brahms

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are gathering cloth for the manger this Advent season. We invite you to find a strip of cloth in your pew and write the name of a person, a place, or a practice you hope will help you to notice God's presence in the weeks to come.

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Awake from your sleep: salvation is near!
The night is far gone; the day is at hand.
The day of the Lord is surely coming;
the promise of God will be fulfilled.
As we light the first candle of Advent,
we wake up and watch for Christ's coming reign.

*HYMN 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come, v. 1* WAITING (Cason)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION***

Merciful God, we must confess that we are dubious of angels and we disbelieve good news. We doubt what we cannot prove, we ignore what we cannot see. We hope for little and expect even less. Forgive our cynical acceptance of the world as it is! Awaken our imaginations to embrace the wonder and promise of this season, and help us trust good news to be good. We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...

*KYRIE 578 *O Lord, Have Mercy*
O Lord, Have mercy; O Christ, have mercy;
O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us!

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA 583 *Gloria, Gloria* GLORIA(Taizé)
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.
(Please greet one another with: "The peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you.")

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SUNG INVITATION

Come in, come in and sit down,

you are a part of the family.
We are lost, and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.

FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Patti Winter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 2:1-5
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *What Child is This* Russell Robinson, arr.

EPISTLE READING Romans 13:11-14
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN 95 *Prepare the Way of the Lord* PREPARE THE WAY
Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 24:36-44
Holy wisdom, holy Word.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Awakenings* Rev. Cat Goodrich

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 357 *The Days Are Surely Coming* LLANGLOFFAN

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *adapted from the Belhar Confession*
We believe that God has entrusted the church with the
message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ.
We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth
and the light of the world.
We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a
peacemaker.
We believe that the church is witness both by word and by
deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which
justice dwells.

FOCUS ON MISSION

First Light and Advent Giving

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Part of your offering today is the gift of your presence. Please acknowledge your presence by signing the welcome book at the end of your row. To be directed to our online giving site, please use your smartphone to scan here:



THE OFFERTORY *African Alleluia* Benjamin Harlan, arr.

*THE DOXOLOGY 608

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise triune God, whom we adore.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise....

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the faithful of every time and place, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might—
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

...Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again....

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.

*COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

To receive, please come forward to the station nearest you, take a piece of bread, dip it in the juice, and eat. The center station contains gluten-free, dairy free bread. As you come forward, please bring your cloth for the manger and leave it in the basket by the baptismal font.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v.1, 4, 6, 7)* VENI EMMANUEL

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *The Rejoicing* G. Handel

*Please rise in body or in spirit

**We celebrate that our newly confirmed church members will lead the lighting of the Advent candles this year.

***adapted from *Cloth for the Cradle: Worship resources and readings for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany*, Iona Community Wild Goose Resource Group, Chicago:GIA Publications, Inc., 2000.

WE WELCOME VISITORS Your presence enriches our community. We hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. To learn more about opportunities for spiritual growth and service, visit us on the web at www.fpcbham.org.

IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME, our Session meets on the *first Sunday of the month* in the Chapel following the 11:00 worship service to welcome new members. If you are looking for a faith community, we hope you will make First your home.

FOR CHILDREN: Children's bags and bulletins are available in the Narthex (ushers can locate them for you). Please empty and return the bags after worship. We love having kids in worship, but the following alternatives are also available: *Nursery* is provided for infants (at least six weeks old) and toddlers. After the *Focus on Children*, children ages 3-7 go to the balcony, where they experience a little of what worship is like while doing learning activities related to the scripture with coloring, puzzles, books, children's bulletins and more. When the sacraments of the Lord's Supper or Baptism are celebrated, children return to the sanctuary. We invite those in second grade and above to remain in the sanctuary and participate in the entire worship service.

LET THE BELLS PLAY! Our 37-bell Rushton Memorial Carillon was the first such instrument in Birmingham and the third in the United States, when installed in 1924.

PRAYER REQUESTS Please use the Prayer Request and Information Change cards, found in the pew rack, to relay information to the church office. Print your name and any other information you may need to relay to the office and place it in the offering plate.

SERMONS are available from our website at www.fpcbham.org.

The LITURGIST for today is Mark Aldridge.

MISSION CENTERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST LIGHT, INC. is a mission center of FPC, giving shelter and support services for homeless women and children. If you would like to help, speak to our pastors or call Ruth Crosby, Executive Director (323-4277). First Light's website: www.firstlightshelter.org

RUTH AND NAOMI SENIOR OUTREACH (RNSO) has as its mission to become spiritual companions to isolated older adults and to call, equip, and support others to do so as well. Contact chaplain@ruthandnaomi.org.

THE RUSHTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER provides quality childcare in a loving, nurturing environment – accredited by NAEYC and licensed by the Department of Human Resources. Call the CDC office at 322-8310. The Center's website is www.eprdc.com

FAITH IN ACTION ALABAMA, a faith-based community-organizing effort FPC shares with faith communities throughout the city, works to improve quality of life for all our citizens. Faith in Action is a PICO network affiliate and can be reached at daniel@fiaal.org.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION provides support to First Presbyterian Church for the maintenance and upkeep of this historic sacred space built in 1889. 10% of the Foundation's annuity payment aids mission selected by session. Contact Mark Aldridge for more information.

THE REV. TERRY HAMILTON-POORE, Pastor and Head of Staff
THE REV. CATHERINE GOODRICH, Associate Pastor
MS. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education
DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Director of Music/Organist
JEFF HAIRRELL, Music Coordinator
MS. ROBIN VINES, Carillonist
MS. EMILY BURT, Youth Director
MS. LAURA H. ROBERTSON, Office Administrator
MS. DEBBIE BOONE, Bookkeeper
MS. KANDIE WILEY, Sexton
THE REV. DR. ROBERT S. CRUTCHFIELD, Pastor Emeritus

Have you remembered the church in your will?