

**December 15, 2024**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**We Gather in God's Name**

**Chiming of the Trinity**

**Prelude** *Allegro I, from Organ Concerto in F, Op. 4, No. 4, HWV 292*  
(String quartet & organ)

**Welcome** Rev. Maxwell Michaels

**We Worship Together**

**\*Call to Worship** Christie McLeod  
Prepare the way of the Lord!  
**Lift every valley, lift every voice.**  
Prepare the way of the Lord!  
**And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

**\*Hymn** 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO

**Lighting of Advent Candle** The Miller Family

**Invitation to Confession (the congregation is seated)**

As John the Baptist called the people to repent, as Jesus calls us now, we turn to the one who is both judge and savior, trusting that repentance opens the door to new life, and that peace beyond all measure has been promised to us. Let us confess our sins.

**Prayer of Confession**

**The Lord is near. In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, you are forgiven. The Lord has taken away the judgments against you. Do not worry. Live in peace.

**Sharing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us now greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

**\*Holy Interruption** *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

**We Receive God's Word**

**Announcements**

**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, forever. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** 140 *Once in Royal David's City* IRBY

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory** *Andante from Organ Concerto IV in G Minor, Op. 4, No. 1, HWV 289* (String quartet & organ)

**\*Doxology** *Gloria in excelsis deo. Gloria in excelsis deo.* GLORIA

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us, we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope; for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Gloria*, RV 589, by Antoino Vivaldi (1678-1741)

**I. Gloria**

*Gloria, in excelsis deo.* Glory be to God on high.

**II. Et in Terra Pax**

*Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis pax hominibus.* And on earth peace to men of good will.

**III. Laudamus Te**

*Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.* We praise thee. We bless Thee. We adore Thee. We glorify Thee.

Mary Louise Baker, & Elisa Neale, Sopranos; Jenny Michaels,  
Continuo

**IV. Domine Fili Unigenite**

*Domine Fili Unigenite, Jesu Christe.* O Lord, the only-begotten son, Jesus Christ.

**V. Qui Sedes Ad Dexteram**

*Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere, nobis.* Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

Gardner Rhea, Bass

**VI. Domine Deus**

*Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.* O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.

Mary Louise Baker, Soprano; Jackson Alexander, Continuo Organ

**VII. Quoniam Tu Solus Sanctus**

*Quoniam tu solus sanctus. Tu solus Dominus Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.* For Thou only art holy. Thou only art the Lord. Thou only art most high, O Jesu Christ.

**Prayer**

Rev. Max Michaels

**We Go Out to Serve**

**\*Hymn** *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen* (insert) GOD REST YOU MERRY

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response** *Savior of the Nations, Come*  
NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND  
*Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home. Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth. Amen*  
(Chancel Choir)

**\*Postlude** *Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella* Keith Chapman

**Please wait until the end of the benediction response by the choir before exiting.**

\*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk

Special thanks to our guest musicians and Chancel Choir today for their hard work and beautiful musical offering!

Acolytes for today are Warren & Elliott Lloyd.

**The Church This Week (12/15/2024)**

Today	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Mon.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
Tues.	6:00 p.m.	CBS
Wed.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
	9:00 a.m.	CBS
	5:30 p.m.	Prayer Meeting
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

**Prayer List as of December 15, 2024**

Gerry Rogers  
 Ina Coggeshall  
 Gray & Bea Sloop  
 Bennie and Benny Lou Moore  
 Bobbie Jones  
 For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses  
 Ruth Jackson  
 B.J. Moore  
 Marion Murphy  
 Edward Tinsley  
 Louise Carpenter  
 Friends and families affected by Hurricane Helene

All **pledges and/or contributions** to First Presbyterian Church must be turned in by **Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> for year ending 2024**. Also, any checks that need to be written for 2024 expenses must be turned in by Sunday, December 29, 2024.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Shirley Brock and her family upon the death of her sister, Elsie Rainey.



The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. For individuals with hearing aids, please activate your T-coil to utilize this feature. Spare headsets are also available.

We would like to give a huge thank you to Lynn Smith for the beautiful, new cross stitched Chrismon ornaments adorning our tree this year!

If you would like to learn about the Chrismon Symbols, please pick up a booklet from the table in the Narthex.

There will be sample bags of BBQ available after the service today on the porch of the Fellowship Building. FPC and St. David's will be doing a joint fundraiser February 8<sup>th</sup> for McArn Food Bank and Pathfinders. This is a sample of what we will be offering the public. We are asking the congregation to enjoy and let us know how it was. This is a complimentary limited sampling. Enjoy!!

**Session of First Presbyterian Church**

Class of 2024

Marietta Melton Burch  
 Cathy Chapman  
 Dan Tillman, III  
 Charlene Tillman

Class of 2025

Kelli Beck  
 Avery Dickson  
 Mary Jane Evans  
 Jean Page Watson

Class of 2026

Mary Anderson  
 Andrew McLeod  
 Kristen Miller  
 Richard Pierce

The Church Staff

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor  
 Mrs. Carolyn S. West, Secretary  
 Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton  
 Mrs. Arneha Kendall, Housekeeper  
 Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery

Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE

Mrs. Kim Brabham, Director MMO  
 Mrs. Sally Powell, MMO  
 Mrs. Gini Eddins, MMO

Mission Partners

Mr. Mark Hare/ Mrs. Jenny Bent, Costa Rica  
 Mrs. Ellen Smith, (mission co-worker) Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Poland



*Our Vision*

*Rooted by God's Grace,  
 Growing in the Spirit,  
 Reaching Out with Christ's Love*

**Sunday, December 15, 2024**

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