

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA**  
December 1, 2024

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*(Quietly gather and use this time to prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)*

**PRELUDE**

*Aria from 'Christmas Oratorio'*  
Jen Tuft and Kendra Biddle, flute duet

J. S. Bach, trans. by John Gibson

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Erin Bowers

**ADVENT WREATH AND RESPONSE†**

David and Jean White

Come, come Em-man - u - el.      Come, Em - man - u - el.      man - u - el.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

There will be signs in the heavens and distress among the nations.

**When Christ returns in power and glory people will faint with fear.**

But when you see these things, lift up your heads:

**our redemption is drawing near!**

Heaven and earth may pass away,

**but the Word of God will stand unshaken.**

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 104**

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison):**

**Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord.**

**Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory to God*, p. 581

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 21:25-36

(Pew Bible p. 74)

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**MOMENT WITH THE CHILDREN**

*4 year-olds through 1<sup>st</sup> grade to Wee Kirk*

**\*HYMN 107**

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

REJOICE, REJOICE

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**CALL TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY**

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Calling*

arr. Roger Price

Hark! A Thrilling voice is sounding, ‘Christ is nigh;’ it seems to say, ‘Cast away the words of darkness, O ye children of the day.’ Waken’d by the solemn warning, let the earthbound soul arise; Christ her sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies. Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heav’n; let us all with tears of sorrow, pray that we may be forgiv’n; that when next he comes with glory and the world is wrapped in fear, with his mercy he may shield us, and with words of love draw near. Yea, amen! Let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne; Savior, take the pow’r and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own: Honor, glory, might and blessing to the Father and the Son, with the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run. Amen. ~ Latin 6<sup>th</sup> century, trans. 1861.

Covenant Choir

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*Glory to God*, p. 606

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(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 Spirit, 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 Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 83**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

STUTT GART

**\*BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE**

*Yes, Amen! Let All Adore Thee*

arr. Roger Price

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Noel (with Variations)*

Gordon Young

*\*Please stand, as able*

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*The evergreen wreath above the front door is given to the glory of God  
and in loving memory of Vicki Dallas by her family.*

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*The Advent wreath is given in loving memory of Wesley & Dot Webb  
and Ray & Vada Keever by Jimmy & Dottie Keever.*

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*The wreath in the choir loft is given in loving memory of Felix Miller, Jr.  
and Hal & Mildred Kennerly by Phil, Kay, Franklin and Morgan Miller.*

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*The wreaths on the columbarium are in loving memory of Ed & Tootsie Pleasants, JB and Frances  
Farrar, Alan Post and all loved ones here at eternal rest by John, Sally, Cam and Jack Farrar.*

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**Ushers:** Dick Becker, Ed Henriques, Dave Perry, Karen Perry

Liturgy based on "Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press" with modifications.

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## Announcements

**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!** If today is your first time worshiping with us, we hope you find this time both meaningful and joyful. Whether you are worshiping with us for the first time or you have been a part of FPC your entire life, we invite you to fill out the attendance pad at the end of the pew and pass it along to those worshiping on the pew with you. We are glad you are here!

**Heifer Cards:** Buy a Heifer Card, the perfect gift to honor anyone! For \$10 you will receive a lovely card that you can give as a gift and support the work of Heifer International. Since 1944, Heifer has been dedicated to ending hunger and poverty by providing livestock and training in environmentally-sound agriculture to those with genuine need. See Gerald Payne to purchase. To find out more about Heifer International, visit [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).

**Memorial Handbells** is performing at the High Point Museum's Holiday Open House on Sunday, **December 1**, at 2:30 pm. There are performances from other groups that afternoon as well. Come enjoy the sights & sounds of the season!

**Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed!** We ring again this year at Walgreens on North Main Street beginning on Monday! A few spots still need to be filled for our week, **December 2-5**—to sign up, use the link to the Sign-Up Genius that you received from church emails, or call the church office at 336.884.2248 and we will be glad to help you.

**Our next PW Gathering** is **tomorrow** at 12:00 noon. "Offbeats," an Acapella group from HPU, will present a program on *Joy in Music*. Outreach is for Leslie's House.

**Reading Group** will meet next on Wednesday, **December 4** at 10:00 am to discuss *Tell Me Everything* by Elizabeth Strout. Contact Erin Bowers at [erin@firstpreshp.org](mailto:erin@firstpreshp.org) for more information.

**Salvation Army Angel Tree:** Just a few angel tree tags remain in the Gathering Areas. Please take one and return your unwrapped gifts, with tag, back to the tree by **December 4**.

The Evangelism Committee is preparing to host the annual **High Point Holiday Stroll** on Saturday, **December 7** with a snowball fight, hot cocoa, ringers, carolers, and a Church tour. If you would like to help with this event, contact Julie Traywick or call the church office at 336.884.2248.

Once again, our **Youth** can fill your holiday sweet orders with baked goods from **Dewey's Bakery!** We will be in the Gathering Areas on Sundays or you can contact any of the Youth or their advisors before the end of the month. We will have the orders back and available at church **December 8**.

**Bel Canto Co. presents 'Tidings' – A choral Christmas Concert on Monday, December 16 at 7:30 pm** in our sanctuary. Concert admission is free thanks to generous gifts from this congregation. The Mission Committee is collecting canned food donations at the door. Doors open at 7:00.

**'When Jesus Was Born' –** Our children's Christmas Pageant will be presented **Wednesday, December 18** at 6:30 in the Family Life Center.

**Children's Christmas Party** Sunday, **December 22** from 12pm-2pm. Children of ALL ages should make plans to join us for an afternoon of pizza, games, crafts, cookie decorating and Christmas caroling. This annual event is something you don't want to miss. Please RSVP to Alison Grein via text to 336.302.5329.

**Ward Street food bank** - this month we are collecting cereal only. Please drop off your items under the table in the FLC Gathering Area by **December 22**.

Your gifts to the **Christmas Joy Offering** combine with gifts from thousands of congregations throughout our denomination to do our part to repair the world and to ensure our siblings have the tools they need to flourish. Your gifts prepare the

way for the God we know in Jesus Christ, the child whose birth we celebrate. Brochures and offering envelopes are available in both Gathering Areas.

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## Prayer Lists

**Recovering at Home:** Mary Dunn, Oliver Hamrick-Rowsey, Bo Morgan, Vivian Rook

**Continuing Prayer:** Katy Bobb, Mark Griffey, William Griffey, Carolyn Hall, Carol Harden, Jim Harden, Paula Hunt, Lou Ann Kasias, Sara Kelly, Karol Laws, Joy Luecke, Mary Lou Murphy, Rob Perry, Lynn Rountree, Jessie Lynn Simril, James Stewart, Janice Taylor.

**Military:** Staff Sergeant John Cooper (Marine Corps), Sergeant First Class Seth Hall (Army), RCT Kristin Hamilton (Marine Corps), Seaman Brenner Tarolli (Navy)

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## Calendar

### Sunday, December 1 – First Sunday of Advent

9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service  
10:00 am Sunday School – Advent Wreaths  
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service  
12:00 pm Nurture Committee  
4:30 pm Youth Handbells  
5:15 pm Youth Choir  
5:15 pm Cherub Choir  
5:15 pm Pageant Rehearsal

### Monday, December 2

11:00 am PW Coordinating Team  
12:00 pm PW Gathering

### Tuesday, December 3

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

### Wednesday, December 4

10:00 am Reading Group

5:30 pm Memorial Handbells  
6:00 pm Contemporary Music Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Covenant Choir

### Saturday, December 7

11:00 am High Point Holiday Stroll

### Sunday, December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service  
4:30 pm Youth Handbells  
5:00 pm Property Committee  
5:15 pm Youth Choir  
6:00 pm Congregational Care Committee  
6:00 pm Finance Committee  
6:00 pm PYC – Middle & High School  
7:00 pm Diaconate & Session Joint Meeting

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## First Presbyterian Church

918 N. Main Street

High Point, NC 27262

336-884-2248 [www.firstpreshp.org](http://www.firstpreshp.org)

*Rev. David Smith, Transitional Pastor*

*Dr. Erin Kesterson Bowers, Ph.D., Associate Pastor*

*Elizabeth Gulley, Director of Music*

*Michael Jenkins, Organist & Assistant Director of Music*

*Amanda Scholz-Edwards, Contemporary Worship Leader*

*Heather Redding, Director of Children's Ministries*

*Sammie Braxton, Parish Visitor*