

Order of Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE arr. Michael Burkhardt
Lord, When You Look on Us in Love

INTROIT DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
Of the Father's Love Begotten
Ambassador and Sanctuary Choirs

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES
Emily, Laurie and Alan Bunn and Beth and Danny Vining

The season of Advent continues. We join with a hopeful throng in the lighting of the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

We are people of hope. Hope lives and abounds in us.

Today we light the candle of peace.

This light must brave the darkness.

In an age when people seldom find peace within themselves, and when all the earth stands under threat of war, we light a fire called peace.

Peace that is not merely the absence of conflict but peace that is the fullness of blessing for all, that is the peace for which we dare to hope.

Christ comes to bring peace to those who have been separated from God and one another.

In the name of that Child born so long ago, we light the candle of peace.

May this candle of peace give light to the world.

I now light the candle of peace.

Let us pray: Almighty God, prepare our hearts, that the dear Christ may enter in and be born in us. Grant us his peace which passes our understanding; for we pray in your name. Amen.

✠HYMN 88 VENI EMMANUEL
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(stanzas 1, 6, & 7)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you see into our hearts and know not only our worst fears, but our deepest secrets, the things we hide from others and often even try to hide from ourselves. Can you really love us still? Help us to want to be healed. Forgive what we are. Show us what we can be. Give us courage to begin to live in new ways, for we pray in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

(silence for personal prayer and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ANTIOCH
HYMN 134, stanza 3
No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest

the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

✠THE PASSING OF THE PEACE
The peace of the Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Gilbert Martin
Ambassador and Sanctuary Choirs

*Lo, how a Rose E'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old hath sung.
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to all a Savior,
When half spent was the night.*

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

*All the children are invited to come forward for the Word for Children.
Afterward, children kindergarten and younger may go to children's activities downstairs.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Peter 3:8-15a

SERMON William B. Wade, Jr.
Jesus is Coming: Taking God's Good Time

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✠HYMN 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from A Declaration of Faith*

Hope in God gives us courage for the struggle. The people of God have often misused God's promises as excuses for doing nothing about present evils. But in Christ the new world has already broken in and the old can no longer be tolerated.

We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom. But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil that are possible now in the world, the church, and our individual lives. Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition, however invincible it may seem, for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming.

Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER p. 35 in front of hymnal

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY *Arioso* (Sinfonia to Cantata 156) J. S. Bach

✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ST. LOUIS
Hymn 121, stanza 4
**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

✠PRAYER OF DEDICATION

No gift can we bring to match your gift to us, Gracious God. But open our hearts, we pray, that we may receive what you offer, and may live according to your grace, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✠HYMN 105, stanza 5 *People Look East* BESANÇON
Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord is on his way.

✠CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✠CHORAL RESPONSE BEREDEN VAG HERRAN
Prepare the Way, O Zion
Ambassador and Sanctuary Choirs

✠POSTLUDE *Prelude in F Major* Dietrich Buxtehude

✠Please stand, if you are able.



Worship Notes

- * Dan Walden, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, will be assisting with the worship service today.
- * Please enter the sanctuary in a spirit of reverence as we prepare to worship God. Remember to **turn on your cell phones** again when you leave.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Join us for our annual **Christmas Joy Dinner** today with dinner being served at **5:30 p.m.** in the Martin Fellowship Hall. This is a special evening when not only our youngest members share songs and stories of Christmas but we share a wonderful holiday dinner together. The menu is: chicken, green beans, potatoes, deviled eggs, dill relish and Hawaiian rolls. We ask that you bring your favorite dessert to share. Adults \$6.00 children \$3.00.

Presbyterian Women's Circle 4 will meet at the home of Jeanie Liem on Tuesday, December 9th, at 6:00 p.m. for our Christmas Dinner.

I want to thank everyone for their help while I recover from my broken ankle. I really appreciate the meals, cards and transportation while I am laid up. I especially want to thank Stephanie Scarborough for taking over the Sunday School Superintendent's duties. Rick Gunter

Church Office "mail box" - There is now a plastic file holder installed on the wall outside the secretary's office in which to put communications to Peni Haug. If your information is confidential, please put it in a sealed envelope. In the box are blank check request forms if you need reimbursements. Do not leave cash in the box - slip cash under the door.

Jasmine Ardis



Time is

Jackie Hays



This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 7

9:00 Handbell Choir
9:30 Children's Choir
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
5:30 Christmas Joy Supper and Christmas Musical

Tuesday, December 9

4:00 Exercise

Wednesday, December 10

4:00 Adventure Club
6:45 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 11

10:30 Ambassador Choir

Sunday, December 14

9:00 Handbell Choir
9:30 Children's Choir
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
5:00 Youth Connection Christmas Party

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF COVINGTON

If you would like information about membership or the programs, mission, and fellowship of the church, speak to one of the pastors as you leave or call the church office at 770-786-7321.

E-mail:

Pastor: Billy Wade: wbwade@bellsouth.net

Dan Walden: djwalden@mac.com

Church Office: penihaug@bellsouth.net

Website: www.fpccov.org

Mailing Address: 1169 Clark Street

Covington, Georgia 30014



Food Pantry Needs

Bring your donations to the church or drop them off at the Community Food Pantry from 9:00-12:00 Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday. Call 770-784-0037 for directions.

Special requests for December: cake mixes and brownie mixes and, of course, you may bring other staple goods as your heart leads.

THANKS TO THOSE SERVING US TODAY

Nursery Volunteers Today:

The Rob & Kerry Jones Family

Next Week:

The Doug & Brigham Arnold

Ushers:

Jan Giles, chair

Sound Engineer:

Ken Walker

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2014

Debra Arnold
Bill Loeble
Darcel Tabb
Roger Tingler
Cy Wolverton

Class of 2015

Gary Boteler
Billy Fortson
Jan Giles
Jim Stillerman

Class of 2016

Charles Ardis
Joyce Ashworth
Betty Bailey
Patrick Carmichael
Perri Walden

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

William B. Wade, Jr.
Dan Walden

Pastor

*Director of Youth
and Children's Ministry*

Peni Haug
Alan Bunn

*Secretary-Treasurer
Music Director*

Alice Walker

CAGO, AAGO

Organist/Ambassador Choir

Pauleen Green & Maria Serrato

Nursery

Tiffany McWaters *Director of the
Early Learning Center*

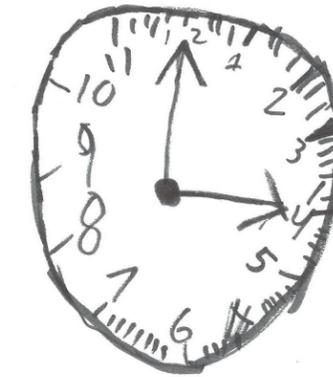


The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2014

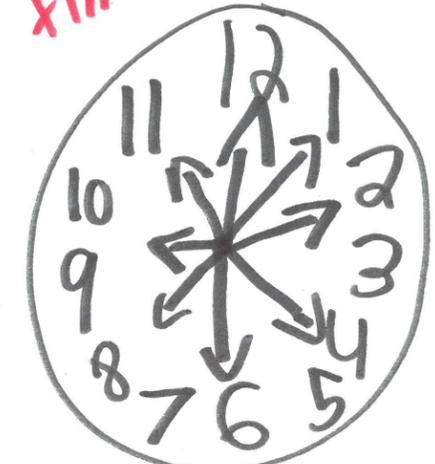


Augie Hays



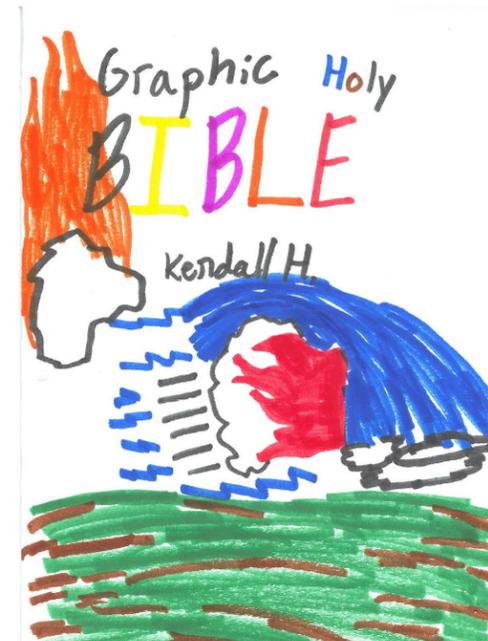
Larkin Arnold

Time is



Running out

Artwork for the Advent Season is by the young artists of Adventure Club (2014)



Starts Death



Fletcher Raines