



The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Order of Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

GATHERING MUSIC *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* Philipp Nicolai
O That I Had a Thousand Voices Cornelius Heinrich Dretzel
In Thee is Gladness Richard Heschke

PRELUDE *In Dulci Jubilo* German Carol, 14th c.

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sanctified Art

Once upon a time, there was a little girl who had a terrible day. She left her lunch at home. She skinned her knee on the playground, and no one wanted to sit with her on the bus. As she sank into her mother's arms at the end of the day, her mother said, "Honey, what was the best part of today?" The little girl cried and said, "Nothing! The entire day was terrible." So the mother got down on one knee, wiped away her tears and said, "There is always some good. Sometimes we just really have to look for it." The little girl looked up at her mom and said, "What is good about today?" And the mother said, "For starters, you're here in my arms." Friends, anytime we gather together to worship God, we are here in God's arms. So may we recognize that gift, and in doing so, may we sow joy. Let us worship Holy God.

CANDLE LIGHTING: The Candle of Joy Tom, Erin, and Emma Stillerman

HYMN 93 (stanzas 1 & 3) *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sanctified Art

O Great Writer, with a sky full of stars and a world full of flowers, there should be no end to our joy. And yet, instead of decorating our very beings with joy, we let it slip away like loose change. Instead of singing like Mary,

or dancing like David, we pass by remarkable beauty and love most days, unfazed. Forgive us. Teach us the ways of children, who laugh and dance and sing as if joy is the very thing that keeps them alive. Maybe they have joy figured out. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* WINCHESTER NEW
On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings! Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD WITH CHILDREN Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane

ANTHEM *Joy to the World* arr. Ron Mallory
Handbell Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:46-55

SERMON *Those Who Dream: Sow Joy* Rev. Kimmy Briggs

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 82 (stanza 1) *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL
*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Sanctified Art
Great Creator, we are in awe of you. We will never know how you managed to dream up mountains and valleys, freckles, dimples, and curly hair, a cool morning mist, the change of seasons, or the magic of music. Your greatness is beyond our reckoning. And because we are in awe of you, we believe that we must follow Mary's lead and allow our souls to sing. We believe that the appropriate reaction to your goodness is complete gratitude, which looks like love for our neighbor, justice for the poor, food for the hungry, and joy that overflows. And even though we do not always believe in ourselves, we believe that our song is pleasing to you. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

RESPONSE (Hymn 104)

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill, to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still. In patient expectation we live for that great day when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with us. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry, both near and far, in your kingdom of love and peace; in Christ's name. Amen.

**BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD
INTO THE WORLD**

HYMN 100 (stanzas 1, 2 & 4)

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
Canticle of the Turning

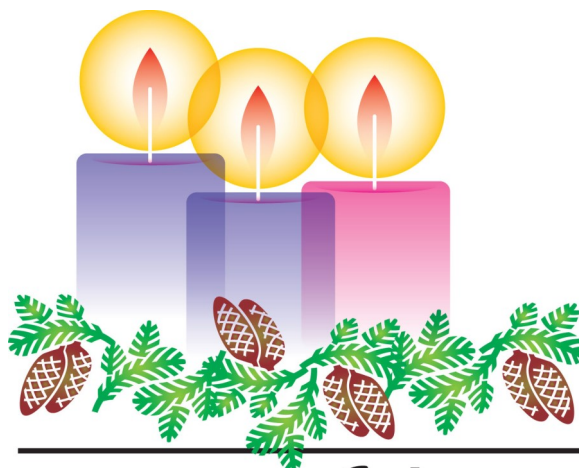
CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

All Praise to Jesus' Hallowed Name

J. S. Bach

Thank you for worshipping with us today. Announcements, prayer concerns and ways to give are on the following pages.



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*



All young adults are invited to join us on Zoom on December 16th at 5:30pm for a time of fellowship and conversation. The Zoom link will be found in the weekly enews. If you haven't signed up for the enews, contact Kimmy at: kimmy@fpccov.org.

We thank you for your continued support of First Presbyterian Church of Covington!

You are invited to "Text to Give"
 your offering: Text to: 73256
 Enter FPCCOV as your message, click to send
 Or use this link: <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchCov/give/FPCCOVtext>

Giving by Text: Send to: **73256** Text message should say **FPCCOV** (then press send) to give using your text messaging. If you made a pledge for 2020, choose "2020 Pledge" as the fund. Then the system will walk you through entering your bank or credit card information. If you did not make a pledge you can choose another fund such as "Non-pledge"; or "Thornwell" "Love Gift", etc. There is a drop-down menu you can scroll through to choose a fund. You can use this link for on-line giving: <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchCov/give/nw>

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

- ◆ Guy McGiboney-Covid
- ◆ Tamra, Mike & Tim Crews-Covid 19 (daughter of Jack Wheeler & family)
- ◆ Barbara Crews-health issue
- ◆ Jane Parker-recovering from fall
- ◆ Carolyn Watson-recent fall
- ◆ Phyllis Pruner-recovering from eye surgery
- ◆ McKenna Grace Boston (newborn daughter) and Paige Boston - hospitalized with COVID-19 (Paige grew up at FPC)
- ◆ Mitchell Wheeler-cancer (nephew of Jack & Miriam Wheeler)
- ◆ Martha Young-home recovering from Covid-19 (grandmother of Cotton Young)
- ◆ David Hunter-stage 4 cancer, prayers for his wife Martha, and daughters, Grace and Hannah (Jonny Atkin's uncle)
- ◆ Betty Lunsford-recovering at home
- ◆ Roger Tingler-surgery on hip incision
- ◆ Betsy MgGehee-Covid-19 (mother of an Oxford Student)
- ◆ Sarita Pope-breast cancer (mother-in-law of Elizabeth Martin Pope)
- ◆ Nancy Smith-cancer treatments (daughter of Sandy & Betsy Morehouse)
- ◆ Bill Cobham-ongoing health issues
- ◆ Ginny Elliott-rehab following fall (step-mother of Aubrey Evans)
- ◆ Chris Zimmerman-recovering at home (Karla Ensminger's fiancé; Karla is Perri Walden's sister)
- ◆ Beverly Maddox-caring for husband who has leukemia (friend of Jean Elder)
- ◆ Gena McLendon-chemotherapy (friend of Doug & Sherri Bolton)
- ◆ Sharon Walton-cancer surgery (friend of Patti Lanford)
- ◆ Karen Moss-breast cancer
- ◆ Carter Mackenzie-neck injury (son of Julie & Jeff Mackenzie)
- ◆ Karen Lein Kaasa-home health care (sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie)
- ◆ Tom Bass-cancer treatment & dialysis (friend of Beth & Danny Vining)
- ◆ Wilford Reed-health issues (friend of Jeff MacKenzie)
- ◆ Bob Darby-kidney problems (friend of Jeff MacKenzie)
- ◆ Joyce Williams-Alzheimer's, breast cancer treatment (sister of Danny Vining)
- ◆ Peter Milner-cancer surgery (nephew of Day & Larry Kennon)
- ◆ Angela Gregory-cancer treatment, in Scotland (sister of Dave Gregory)

- ◆ Brandon Massey-blood cancer (grandson of Chuck and Sherry Brasher)
 - ◆ Carol Baynes-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)
 - ◆ Sophia Hawley-cystic fibrosis
- Independent and Assisted Living**
- ◆ Travis Moss-Pruitt Healthcare
 - ◆ Penny Blakeney-home
 - ◆ Julia Brubaker-Benton House
 - ◆ Jean Elder-currently in Florida with her daughter (address available from church office)
 - ◆ Dot Fincher-Merryvale
 - ◆ Guy McGiboney-Merryvale
 - ◆ Betty Robinson-Merryvale
 - ◆ Louise White-Merryvale
 - ◆ Jerry McGaffney-Merryvale

Military Service

- ◆ Koen Ardis-Navy



Condolences

We extend our sympathy and prayers for **Dan Walden** and his family in the death of his mother, **Jackie Walden**, who died on December 7th.

Praises!

Thank you to all who generously donated to our Angel Trees!

**Updated Procedure!
for
Prayer Requests**

All prayer requests should be sent to: admin@fpccov.org or by clicking the "Email Peni" button at the bottom of the Enews prayer list. Please specify if you want the request in the bulletin or for pastors only, or only the confidential prayer circle. You must click to submit or we won't receive the request.

Worship Notes

- ◆ Recordings of Sunday sermons can be accessed on the church website: www.fpccov.org.
- ◆ Music printed (and streamed) in our bulletins are covered by licenses authorizing their use. Licenses are from: CCLI #11379886 and One License # A-728738.

*Thanks to those
serving us today*

Dan Walden,
 Phil Anderson, Brad Phillips, &
 Ken Walker

Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 13 Advent 3

9:45 Adult Sunday School (link below)
 10:00 Youth Sunday School (in person)
 11:00 Indoor Worship Service (RSVP)
 (live on Facebook)
 Session Meeting via Zoom

Sunday, December 20 Advent 4

9:45 Adult Sunday School (link below)
 10:00 Youth Sunday School (in person)
 11:00 Worship Service (RSVP)
 (live on Facebook)

Christian Education

Children: Sunday School continues with Dan and Perri! Videos will be posted to Facebook on Sunday morning and will be available on our [website](#).

Youth: Join Pam, Jim and Kimmy at 10:00am for Sunday School! We will gather in the Youth Room. Please enter through the doors in the Memorial Garden and plan to wear a mask. Contact [Kimmy](#) if you have any questions.

Adults: Join us on Zoom at 9:45am for Sunday School! This is a casual time of reflecting on Scripture together. Each week will be a stand alone conversation, so if you miss a week, make plans to join the following week! [Click here](#) to join.

Advent Resources: We know this season of Advent is very different, so we have made a variety of resources available on our website. [Click here](#) to find out how we as FPC are celebrating Advent, to find resources for celebrating Advent at home, and for the "Those Who Dream" devotional.

Special Services for Advent & Christmas Eve

Longest Night December 21, 6:30pm in the Sanctuary & on-line RSVP needed by noon 12/21.

This brief service of worship is a time to hold space for the needed collective breath of lament and hope as a church family. The service will be in-person and available on Facebook live. There's an Advent tradition within Western Christianity of inviting people to come together for the Longest Night, a night around the time of the winter solstice, when there are more hours of darkness than light. It's a time to come together for prayers and laments, to mourn the losses and griefs of the year, to let the tears flow for the hurting places in our own lives, as well as for our country and our world. Known also as "Blue Christmas," a Longest Night Gathering is a safe and sacred space to share anguish, to plead with God to remember us, to pray for justice and restoration, even to hope against hope, through our doubts and tears and fears, that "God will set things right all over the earth." (A Sanctified Art, LLC)



Christmas Eve 6:00pm RSVP by noon 12/23. Watch for further news about the service in the coming days.

Reservations for Indoor Worship Services

**11:00 in person & live stream—Reservations needed each week by Thursday at 4:00pm
 For Sundays Dec. 27 and January 3rd, please reply by Wednesday at 4:00pm**

You may call the church, **770-786-7321, ext 1010** and leave a message with Peni or the answering service OR email: **admin@fpccov.org**. Please give your name & phone number and names of all those attending. If too many register, those who communicate 1st will have priority; others will be placed on a "wait" list and will be notified about their place in line. No one may reserve more than 6 days in advance. Please notify us if you register and then will not be able to attend.

Covid-19 Protocols in force: Enter through the sanctuary doors, 50 people only, masks, temperature check, 6 ft. distance between person or family pods, restrooms are for emergency only.

Interested in Joining the Church?

If you're interested in joining the FPC church family, you are welcome to reach out to Neeley. You can enjoy a virtual coffee together and discuss what it means to become a member.

To set a date:

by email: neeley@fpccov.org;

By phone: 770-786-7321, please leave a message with Peni Kehoe.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	Krista Firkus	<i>Music Director</i>
Kimmy Briggs	<i>Director of Family Ministries</i>	Alice Walker	CAGO, AAGO
Peni Kehoe	<i>Church Administrator</i>	Danielle Schubert	<i>Organist/Ambassador Choir Nursery</i>

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2020

Doug Bolton
 Stan Hall
 Cindy Moon
 Bob Tabb

Class of 2021

Jay Lanners
 Warren Liem
 Pam Stillerman
 Donna Weesner
 Cy Wolverton

Class of 2022

Aubrey Evans
 John McCarthy
 Stephanie Scarborough
 Trista Hooten Wilson