

## Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

### This Week at FPC

<b>Sunday, December 16</b> <b>Advent 3</b> 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Reception for Alexis Ward 5:00 Youth Connection	<b>Thursday, December 20</b> 12:00 Ambassador Choir
<b>Tuesday, December 18</b> 4:00 Exercise Class	<b>Sunday, December 23</b> <b>Advent 4</b> 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Youth Connection Christmas Party
<b>Wednesday, December 19</b> 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	<b>Monday, December 24</b> 6:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Worship

The **Christmas Joy Offering** will be collected today and next Sunday. Brochures in the bulletin explain this year's offering and an envelope is provided for your donation.

Today we have a special musical worship service in which our Sanctuary Choir, Bell Choir and Instrumental Ensemble will present **The Covington Carols**, composed and arranged by our Music Director Alexis Renee Ward. Following worship that day we will host a reception in the narthex to honor Alexis and her family as they prepare to move to Delaware.

**Congregational Meeting:** If the way be clear, there will be a meeting immediately following worship on **Sunday, December 23rd** for the purpose of electing a Nominating Committee which will identify church members to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) early in the year, and nominate members to serve on the Session for the Class of 2022 later in the year.

**Giving for 2018** Please help us finish the year on a positive financial note by ensuring your pledged commitment is fulfilled and/or making any other donations by the end of the year! To show on your 2018 Giving Statement (and be claimed on your 2018 tax return), donations:

- ♦ must be received in the office by 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 28, Sunday, December 30, or,
- ♦ if you're giving online, posted in [Realm](#) by midnight, December 31 or,
- ♦ mailed with a postmark dated by midnight, December 31.

*Thank you for your faithful stewardship!*



WHAT'S YOUR PIECE OF THE PIE?

**Have you made your Commitment for 2019?** We have extra pledge cards in the narthex on the ushers' table if you missed the ingathering last Sunday. Just place your completed card in the offering plate.



**Recycling Church Bulletins:** Take your worship bulletin home, if you wish, or put it in the basket by the front doors so they can be recycled!

Thanks for being a Good Steward!



### 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 the pastor as you leave or call the church office at 770-786-7321.

#### E-mail:

The Rev. Steven Barnes: [revbarnesy@me.com](mailto:revbarnesy@me.com)

Dan Walden: [djwalden@mac.com](mailto:djwalden@mac.com)

Church Office/Peni Kehoe: [penihaug@gmail.com](mailto:penihaug@gmail.com)

Website: [www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org)

Mailing Address: 1169 Clark Street, SW

Covington, Georgia 30014

You may listen to recent sermons by visiting our website ([www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org)) and clicking on "Media."



The **Food Pantry** is now open on **Wednesdays and Fridays** from 9:00 - 12:00. Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome.

Suggested donations:

**December:** cake (icing, too) and brownie mixes

**Baby Love** is our program to collect diapers and wipes, or donations toward them, to give to local organizations which distribute them to parents in need. Place diapers in the cradle in the narthex. Donations should be designated to "Baby Love".



### THANKS TO THOSE SERVING US TODAY

**December**  
Tom Stillerman

**Sound Engineer:**  
Ken Walker

### MEMBERS OF SESSION

**Class of 2018**  
Gary Boteler  
Billy Fortson  
Stephanie Scarborough  
Tom Stillerman  
Koen Ardis  
Sophia Hawley

**Class of 2019**  
Carter Gibson  
John McCarthy  
Teresa McCurry  
Cheryl Meichsner  
Miriam Wheeler

**Class of 2020**  
Doug Bolton  
Stan Hall  
Cindy Moon  
Bob Tabb  
Michael Thompson

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Steven Barnes	Interim Pastor	Alice Walker	CAGO, AAGO
Dan Walden	Director of Youth and Children's Ministry	Jenny Giles and Pauleen Green	Organist/Ambassador Choir
Peni Kehoe	Secretary-Treasurer		Nursery
Alexis Ward	Music Director	Darlene Alley	Director of the Early Learning Center



## Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

### Order of Worship

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**PRELUDE** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Todd Kendall  
Loucy Hay, piano Alice Walker, organ

**CHIMES**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND CALL TO WORSHIP** Kennon Family

Holy God, your prophets have long spoken of the one who would come to save us. Now the promise is fulfilled; now your kingdom has come near. Send us as messengers of your way, to go and tell all the world of the wonders we have seen and the good news we have heard; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen!**

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

**We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.**

Today, we light the candle of hope, the candle of peace, and the candle of joy. [*Three blue candles are lit.*] "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

**like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing." (Isa. 35:1-2)**

God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, you are our salvation; we trust in you and are not afraid. Lead us to draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.

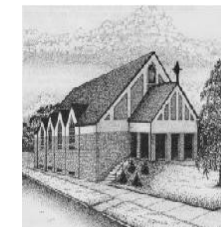
**God of promise, God of joy, into our darkness come. Let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

✠HYMN *Joy to the World/O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room  
And heaven and nature sing (x3)**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy (x3)**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love (x3)**



*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest:  
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

#### ✦ PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

You put a glad song on our lips, O God of salvation, for in you we can trust and not be afraid. In Christ is announced our source of deliverance; through him the lame walk and the outcast are praised. Soon you will gather your people for a festival of salvation; we assemble now in Christ's name to rejoice and boast of your goodness. Amen.

*Gesu Bambino* Pietro Yon  
Alexis Ward, soprano; Alice Walker, piano

#### ✦ THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

*Angel Medley* Terry Osman  
Bell Choir

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

#### THE COVINGTON CAROLS BY ALEXIS RENEE WARD

Sanctuary Choir, Bell Choir, and soloists; Alice Walker, piano

#### Veni Emmanuel

*The First Noel* Lloyd Larson  
Alexis Ward, soprano and Vern Sumner, baritone

#### Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

*'Twas In the Moon of Wintertime*  
Jon Paschal and Dan Walden, guitar

#### While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

*O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

*Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*  
Janet Carmichael, soprano

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ HYMN 123, stanzas 1, 4, & 5 only CAROL  
*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

### CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

### THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam  
Vern Sumner, baritone, and Alice Walker, organ

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE REGENT SQUARE  
Hymn 143, stanza 4  
*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in  
One: come and worship, come and worship, worship  
Christ, the newborn king!*

#### ✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, teach us to give thanks in all circumstances, for you are always with us. Thank you for the privilege of sharing what we have with others, of giving ourselves away in love, and of receiving the gifts that others share with us. With our whole being, spirit and soul and body, we rejoice in you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✦ HYMN *Angels We Have Heard on High/  
Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored: Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

#### ✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ POSTLUDE *Salvation Now Is Come to Earth* J.S. Bach

✦ Please stand if able.



### Worship Notes

- ✦ Dan Walden, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, is assisting with leading worship today.
- ✦ Please enter the sanctuary in a spirit of reverence as we prepare to worship God. Remember to **turn on your cell phones** when you leave.
- ✦ Recordings of Sunday sermons can be accessed on the church website: [www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org).
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