



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

Order of Worship

✦ Stand as able



Gathering As God's Beloved People

GATHERING MUSIC

He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd
Bill Cobham trombone Alice Walker, organ

G. F. Handel

Gentle May Laid Her Child
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Angels We Have Heard on High
Alice Walker, organ

Michael Burkhardt
David M. Cherwien
French Folk Tune, c. 16th cent.

CHIMES

The Handbell Choir

PRELUDE

Christmas Processional
The Handbell Choir

Michael Mazzatenta

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Keep Watch! For the One who brings peace is coming.

All: We wait in anticipation for Christ.

One: We wait for God's revealing Joy! Remain alert!

All: Love is coming to dwell among us. Hope draws near.

✦ HYMN 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

✦ CALL TO CONFESSION

✦ CONFESSION

O God, giver of all good gifts, we come before you as children in need of your wisdom and grace. Our fears and our hopes are braided together in the rhythm of daily life. Our visions of the future depend on our hands and ability. Our expectations remain reasonable and within our control. Break into this tangle of fear and hope, bring peace to our souls. Break into our vision of the future, returning us to your hands. Break into our expectations, awakening us with curiosity and wonder; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✦ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Emmanuel is coming, God-with-us.
Church, We are forgiven!
We are free to try again.

✦ RESPONSE HYMN 88 (stanzas 1 & 6)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Walden, Evans, and Atkins Family

As we light our fourth Advent Candle,
we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.
Come now, O Child of Mary.
Come now, O Prince of Love.

Proclaiming the Word

WONDERING WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

ANTHEM

The Season to Sing
Sanctuary Choir

Dale Peterson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-55

SERMON

Holy Greetings!

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane

Responding to the Word

✠HYMN 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

OFFERTORY

The First Nowell
Handbell Choir

Traditional English Carol

✠DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Church, you are invited to partake with bread and cup upon hearing the words "The Gifts of God for the People of God." We recognize Christ is present with us as the Body of Christ in our sanctuary and in our homes this day. May the Holy Spirit dwell with you as we participate in the sacrament of communion together. One bread, One Body! (instructions for in-person communion are provided for you with your individual communion elements.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, our Provision, we rejoice that you satisfy our needs. By your presence in this meal you have fed us and strengthened us, as a mother nourishes her baby. In this waiting season fill us with hopeful expectation that we may see the signs of your kingdom all around us and rejoice in your coming salvation and glory. Amen.

Being the Church in the World

✦HYMN 105

People, Look East

BESANÇON

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

Handbell Choir

POSTLUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

David M. Cherwien

Worship Notes

Friendship Registers

There are Friendship registers in each pew. We ask that you sign in each week that you attend. If you are a visitor or interested in church membership signing in helps us with a way to contact you. The registers are also our way to know who to call in the case of a Covid-19 exposure. Thanks!

Christmas Joy Offering

In today's bulletin you will find a brochure and envelope which tell about this special offering. You may write your check to FPC or send it directly to via check or on-line giving to the Presbyterian Mission. They also have text giving and a QR code on the brochure.

End of the Year Giving

All 2021 pledges or other cash donations must be received by the church **no later than midnight on Friday, December 31 (or postmarked by that date)** in order to be included in 2021 Giving Statements for tax purposes. The church office will be closed on Thursday, December 30 and Friday, December 31, but you may drop your donations in the mail box at the office entrance at the foot of the steps. Pull down the tray and then make sure it dropped into the locked portion of the box.

Giving through Your IRA

If you are 70 1/2 years of age or older, you can instruct your IRA provider to make a **Qualified Charitable Distribution to FPC directly from your IRA**. Any donations paid this way are not reported as taxable income to you. You can make your entire annual pledge or other cash donations with one payment, help to satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, and incur no tax on the withdrawal. Qualified Charitable Distributions must be processed directly from your IRA provider.

***Our Daily Bread* Devotional Booklet and a Christmas Devotional**

The *Daily Bread* books for December-February and for Christmas Reflections are in the rack in the narthex to the right of the exit doors in the narthex. They are free! Take one to a friend, too.

Serving Today:

Tech Team: Brad Phillips, Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins; **Acolyte:** Jon Paschal;

Usher Chair: Stephanie Scarborough

Music printed in our bulletins and streamed on-line are covered by licenses authorizing their use.

Licenses are from: CCLI #11379886 and One License # A-728738.

Save the Date! FPC Vacation Bible School, June 1-3

"Waters Around the World" If you are interested in helping in any way (music, snacks, Bible study, crafts, recreation, behind the scenes) email Alisa! seminaryinternfpcov@gmail.com

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>

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

- ✦Melissa-cancer (friend of the congregation)
- ✦Susan Crane-friend of Darcel Tabb
- ✦Cotton Young-his horse, Mello Yellow, has an injury.
- ✦Denny Dobbs-recovering from surgery
- ✦Fred Calalay (friend of Angela Gilmer)
- ✦Audrey Harper Arwood-back pain (daughter of Pat Harper)
- ✦Saba Tanner-cancer treatment (friend of Warren & Jeanie Liem)
- ✦Jennifer Magnan-stillborn child (niece of Barbara Martin)
- ✦Alice Walker-hand injury
- ✦Alton Cochran-skin cancer surgery, 11/24 (outpatient)
- ✦Jean Wolverton-See updates at Caring Bridge. Link in the Enews
- ✦Cathy Martin-breast cancer-chemotherapy (sister-in-law of Chris Martin)
- ✦Jeff Terrell-recovering from medical procedure (friend of Steve & Louly Kapp)
- ✦Anne Cranford-treatment for breast cancer
- ✦Lynn Lanier-amyloidosis (friend of Chris Martin)
- ✦Doug Bolton-burn injury treatment
- ✦Susan Fiedler-cancer (friend of Darcel Tabb)
- ✦Blair Weaver-health issues
- ✦Sarita Pope-breast cancer (mother-in-law of Elizabeth Martin Pope)
- ✦Beverly Beasley-caring for husband who has leukemia (friend of Jean Elder)
- ✦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)
- ✦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)

- ✦Brandon Massey-blood cancer (grandson of Chuck and Sherry Brasher)
- ✦Carol Baynes-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦Travis Moss-Westbury, Conyers
- ✦Penny Blakeney-home
- ✦Julia Brubaker-Benton House
- ✦Jean Elder-currently in Florida with her daughter
- ✦Dot Fincher-Merryvale
- ✦Guy McGiboney-Merryvale
- ✦Betty Robinson-Merryvale
- ✦Louise White-Merryvale

Military Service

- ✦Koen Ardis-Navy
- ✦Lee Scarborough-Army
- ✦Billy Scarborough-Marines



Condolences

We pray for the family of **Jerry McGaffney**, who passed away December 11th. Jerry has been a member since 1998 and has been living at Merryvale for several years. She was 101 years old.

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. Requests will be removed after 3 weeks if not updated. Please specify if you want the request in the bulletin or for pastors only, or only the confidential prayer circle.

Keep the APNC in Your Prayers

Those serving on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee: Jodi Walden Atkins; Dana Hall; Judy Hooten; Steve Kapp; Randy Layton; Pam Stillerman & Bob Tabb.

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 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.

Do you have a mobile phone or a tablet?

If so, you can download the bulletin on your device to follow the service and save paper. If you pick up a paper bulletin please remember to recycle it here or at home! The environment will thank you! (Please do put your device on silent!)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Neeley Rentz Lane *Senior Pastor*
 Alisa Castilla *Seminary Intern*
 Krista Firkus *Music Director*
 Alice Walker *CAGO, AAGO*
 Organist/Ambassador Choir
 Peni Kehoe *Church Administrator*

Caring for Our Children in the Nursery
 Danielle Schubert
 Beverley Beasley
 Amiah Williams
 Ian Rein

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2021

Jay Lanners
 Warren Liem
 Cindy Moon
 Pam Stillerman
 Cy Wolverton

Class of 2022

Aubrey Evans
 John McCarthy
 Stephanie Scarborough
 Trista Hooten Wilson

Class of 2023

Stan Hall
 Louly Hay Kapp
 Ed Perkerson
 Bob Tabb

Please Recycle





Christmas Floral Decorations



IN MEMORY OF:

Ursula Kaminski
 Wendell Parker
 PaPa Burnside
 Newt and Edna Hinton
 Henry & Mary Lott
 Ken Lott & Donny Lott
 JoAnn Crews
 Pete & Pat Arnold & Steve Bozarth
 Mr. David Stillerman
 Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Underwood
 Dr. & Mrs. Hyman Stillerman
 Margaret Wallace & Roger Wallace
 Shaun Carmichael
 Our Parents
 James Elder & Sandy Elder
 Ann Bouchillon & Mary Bollinger
 Our Parents
 Ray & Edy Moy
 Howard & Madelle Boteler
 Charles & Grace Kennon
 Sapie & Mary Morcock
 Arnold & Bonnie Tingler & Dale Tingler
 Pattie Borders
 Thomas L. Harris, Jr.

IN HONOR OF:

Our FPC Church Family
 Our Siblings
 Sharon Clancy, Anne Adams &
 Dacia Baxter
 Stephanie & Eleanor Scarborough
 Patricia Bozarth
 Judi Barton
 Our Children & grandchildren
 Stephanie & Eleanor Scarborough
 Teachers of the Foundations Class
 Billy & Lee Scarborough

GIVEN BY:

Leonard, Chrissy & Alex Kaminski
 Jane Parker
 Neeley & Robert Lane
 The Hinton & Phillips Families
 “
 “
 Tom Crews
 Doug Arnold & Family
 Jim and Pam Stillerman
 “
 “
 Gene Wallace
 Patrick & Janet Carmichael
 Stephanie & Billy Fortson
 The Elder Family
 Jean Elder
 Curtis & Carolyn Watson
 Gary & Susan Boteler
 “
 Day & Larry Kennon
 “
 Roger & Tootles Tingler
 Homer Borders & Family
 The Scarborough Family

GIVEN BY:

Neeley & Robert Lane
 Jeff & Julie Mackenzie

 Gene Wallace
 Doug & Sherry Bolton
 Doug Arnold & Family
 Dan & Perri Walden
 Curtis & Carolyn Watson
 Doug & Sherri Bolton
 Stan & Dana Hall
 Pappy, Bunny & Stephanie Scarborough



The poinsettias in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in memory and honor of those named above. Donations over the cost of the poinsettias will go to support Family Promise. Thank you for your generosity. Merry Christmas!

Activities In the Life of the Church

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 19 Advent 4

10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service with Communion

Tuesday, December 21

Church office closed until 2:00
6:30 Longest Night Service

Wednesday, December 22

6-8:00 pm—Youth/Young Adult Outing at Boost

Thursday, December 23

9:30 Neeley at Merryvale

Friday, December 24

Church Office will be closed at noon
5:00 Christmas Eve Worship (casual, outdoors)
6:15 Christmas Eve Worship (traditional, indoors)

Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day

Sunday, December 26 Christmas 1

11:00 Worship Service (Wear your jammies!)
(No Sunday School)

Church office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 27

Children's Sunday School

10:00am

Sunday School Room Downstairs
Teachers: Rotation Model
Interested in teaching?
email info@fpccov.org

Youth Sunday School

10:00am

Youth Room Downstairs
Teachers: Pam and Jim Stillerman

Adult Sunday School

10:00am

Foundations Class, downstairs

No Sunday School Classes on December 26th or January 2nd!

Nursery for Children

We have a nursery available for children newborn—1st grade. It is located on the lower level. Ask an usher to direct you. Children are also welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pew.

Worship Bags for Children

The bags are labeled with children's name tags clipped to their bag and they are invited to use the same bag every time they come to worship. For our visitors and newcomers we have bags labeled "Child of God." The bags are hanging on a rack on the right side of the narthex.

Staff Christmas Love Gift

Each year we take up a Love Gift offering for our Church Staff to show our gratitude and love for them and to make their Christmas merrier. If you care to give toward this gift just make your check to the church and put "Love Gift" in the memo space. You may also give through Realm or put cash in an envelope with a notation. We ask that it be turned in to the church office by Monday, December 20th, so that the staff can receive it in time for Christmas. Thank you for your generosity.

Senior Resident Gift Tree

Gifts for the Seniors who reside at the nursing homes are due today. If you forgot to bring them, the church office will be open on Monday and you may drop them off. Please call before you come to make sure a staff person is available.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 9th, immediately following the worship service. Save the Date!



Stewardship Covenant Every Commitment Counts!

If you've turned your 2022 Covenant card in, Thank You!
If you have not turned in a card with your financial commitment for 2022, please remember that every person is key to the success of the ministries at First Presbyterian Church. YOU are KEY! You may obtain a card from an usher; please fill it out and place it in an offering plate.

The Longest Night

"This service is designed to provide a space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. We hope that this service can be a gift to you, providing space of calm, quiet, and healing." A Sanctified Art LLC | Sarah Speed



December 21 at 6:30 pm in the FPC Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Services

5 PM: OUTDOOR SERVICE ON THE LAWN

6:15 PM: INDOOR SANCTUARY SERVICE

JOIN US FOR HOT CHOCOLATE "MERRIMENT"
BETWEEN SERVICES FOR FELLOWSHIP.

Friday, December 24



- DECEMBER 26 -

WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS PAJAMAS TO WORSHIP!



WE WILL SING OUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS HYMNS
AND CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF BABY JESUS!

