

## Order of Worship

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Angels We Have Heard on High* French Carol  
*Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine* Gilbert Martin  
*Silent Night, Holy Night* Diane Bish

HYMN 85 (seated) TIF IN VELDELE  
*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*  
stanza 1: solo stanzas 2 - 4: all

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Krissy, Jason, Hewett and Gray Jones

Let us rejoice in God our Savior, who has done great things for us. Today we light the fourth Advent candle, the candle of joy.

**We gather as a people of hope, peace, love and joy.**

The light of these candles reminds us that once we were a people who waited in darkness, but the light of Christ, which illuminated the world long ago in a manger in Bethlehem, holds the darkness back.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Now we wait and prepare for the coming of Christ with singing and celebration and the spirit of rejoicing, because good news of a great joy has come to all people.

**For unto us a child is born, a Savior who is Christ the Lord. Let us rejoice and be glad!**

May the candle of joy give light to the world!

We now light the candle of joy.

Let us pray: Almighty God, prepare our hearts so that the dear Christ may enter in and be born in us. Make us bearers of the good news and great joy, which comes to all people; for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

✠HYMN 146 TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM  
*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Isaiah 30:18

The Lord waits to be gracious to you;  
the Lord will rise up to show you mercy.

### 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 IN DULCI JUBILO  
Hymn 132, stanza 3  
**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was**

**born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

### ✠THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

And there was with the angels a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all."

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

#### ANTHEM

*O Holy Night*  
Janet Carmichael, solo

Adolphe Adam

#### 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

Luke 2:1-7

#### SERMON

*With Child*

William B. Wade, Jr.

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✠HYMN 145 *What Child Is This* GREENSLEEVES

#### ✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Colossians 1:15-20

**He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.**

#### CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

p. 35 in front of hymnal

#### THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

#### OFFERTORY

Jerry Westenkuehler

*Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*

#### ✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

ANTIOCH

Hymn 134, stanza 1

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

#### ✠PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Lord, mold our minds, hearts and spirits to embody the love which became flesh and comes among us again and again. Help us all our lives to proclaim tidings of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✠HYMN 147 *The First Nowell* THE FIRST NOWELL  
stanza 1: all stanza 2: left side stanza 3: right side  
stanza 4: choir stanza 5: all

#### ✠CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✠CHORAL RESPONSE *The First Nowell* THE FIRST NOWELL

✠POSTLUDE *Toccata on ADESTE FIDELES* Ruth Elaine Schram

✠Please stand, if you are able.

#### Worship Notes

- \* Dan Walden, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries is assisting with 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.

#### In Our Thoughts and Prayers

†Mary Annese-surgery & rehab for broken leg (mother of Barbara Martin)  
†Joyce Ashworth-broken arm, home  
†Jan Coulon-surgery 12/20  
†Jane LeMaster-multiple myeloma (sister of Ed Perkerson)  
†Evelyn Underwood-Abbey Hospice (mother of Pam Stillerman)  
†Jenny Hlnz-lupus (Andrew Hinz's relative)  
†Eleanor Graham Jones-rehab (Billy Wade's cousin)  
†Bernice Bailey-home  
†Dan Gunter-stroke (Rick Gunter's brother)  
†Debbie Johnson-breast cancer (Susanne Perkerson's sister)  
†Lecia Landolt, pancreatic cancer (friend of Patti Lanford)  
†Chris Martin-home  
†Louie Katchko-lung cancer (friend of Warren and Jeanie Liem)  
†Dave Knox-cancer (brother-in-law to Beth and Danny Vining)  
†Donnie Vining-brain surgery (nephew of Beth and Danny Vining)  
†Rebecca Bates-chemotherapy  
†Susan Wilson-cancer (Michael Wilson's sister)  
†Lucas Cronan-leukemia (Denny Dobbs' great niece's child)  
†Judy Findlay-liver transplant (niece of Betty Bailey)

†Helen Sessions-breast cancer (friend of Warren and Jeanie Liem)  
†Anderson Krieger-leukemia (5th grade student at Flint Hill)  
†Roland Nelson-hospice care (nephew of Carol McGiboney)  
†Jeanie Liem-awaiting kidney transplant  
**Assisted Living/Nursing Homes:**  
†Mary Cline-relocated  
†Russ Cole -The Magnolias, Conyers  
†Gretchen Buendia-Parkwood Rehabilitation Center, Snellville  
†Joy Knight -Riverside

**Benton House**  
†Helen and George Stamps  
†Mary Crudup  
†Doris Mote  
†Frances Ivey  
†Joan Smith, #215  
†Velma Prescott

**Covington Square**  
†Rita Harrell

**Merryvale**  
†Doris Hicks  
†Bill Taylor  
†Elizabeth Gadilhe  
†Martha Borders

**Hospital Visitor:**  
Leon Hughes

**ONGOING ACTIVITIES  
IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected today. Please make your checks out to FPC and put "Christmas Joy" in the memo space. We have included an envelope in the bulletin for your convenience.



Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
December 24, 2013  
6:00 p.m.

**End of the Year Donations:**

If you wish to make donations or finish paying for your 2013 general fund commitments and you wish them to be credited for your 2013 tax return, they must be in the church office by noon on December 31, or postmarked by December 31. Thanks!

The Hudson/Chandler Bike Fund supplies bikes for children under the care of DFACS. To give, make a check out to the church and designate "bike fund."

*This Week at FPC*

**Sunday, December 22**

9:00 Handbell Choir  
9:30 Children's Choir  
9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship

**Sunday, December 29**

9:00 Handbell Choir  
9:30 Children's Choir  
9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship Service

**Tuesday, December 24**

Office closes at noon  
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

**Tuesday, December 31**

Noon Church office closes

**Wednesday, December 25**

Office closed

**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](mailto:wbwade@bellsouth.net)

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

Church Office: [penihaug@att.net](mailto:penihaug@att.net)

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

Mailing Address: 1169 Clark Street  
Covington, Georgia 30014



**Food Pantry  
Needs**

Bring donations to the church or drop them off at the Community Food Pantry from 9:00 -11:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 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 Henderson Family

**Next Week:**

The Jessup Family

**Ushers:**

Denny Dobbs  
Eleanor Scarborough  
Stephanie Scarborough

**Sound System:**

Ken Walker

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION**

**Class of 2013**

Patrick Carmichael  
Judy Davis  
Denny Dobbs  
Aubrey Evans  
Dave Gregory

**Class of 2014**

Debra Arnold  
Bill Loeble  
Darcel Tabb  
Roger Tingler  
Cy Wolverton

**Class of 2015**

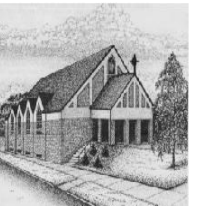
Gary Boteler  
Billy Fortson  
Jan Giles  
Jim Stillerman  
Kevin Weber

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF**

William B. Wade, Jr.	<i>Pastor</i>	Alice Walker	CAGO, AAGO
Louly Fowler Hay	<i>Parish Associate</i>		<i>Organist/Ambassador Choir</i>
Dan Walden	<i>Director of Youth and Children's Ministry</i>	Pauleen Green & Maria Serrato	
Peni Haug	<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	Krissy Jones	<i>Director of the Early Learning Center</i>
Alan Bunn	<i>Music Director</i>		



**The Fourth Sunday  
of Advent  
December 22, 2013**



Laurel Ardis

Lauren



Artwork for the Advent Season is by the young artists of Adventure Club and church school.



Jasmine Ardis