

The First Sunday of Christmas

December 27, 2020

Order of Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on *Sanctified Art*

Here on the heels of Christmas, we speak of love. We speak of joy. We speak of hope. We speak of promises fulfilled. Here on the heels of Christmas, we speak of good news, for when the world needed a light, a light shone in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And so, let us worship, so that we might join the carols proclaiming that Christ has come!

HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, in Christ you were born a humble child, love-made-flesh, God-with-us. Forgive us when we fail to follow in your way of humility, love, and peace. Free us to see your Light reflecting in the faces of friends and family, neighbors and strangers, enemies and friends, and make us shine forth with your love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING THE PEACE

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:22-40

SERMON

The Oddest Christmas Carol

Rev. Kimmy Briggs

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH From the Creed from United Church of Canada
We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in the true human, Jesus, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and in others by his Spirit. We trust him. He calls us to be in his church: to celebrate his presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and to resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God! 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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, on the heels of Christmas, we give you thanks for the light of the world, Jesus Christ. Take these gifts and use them, that we might join Simeon's carol proclaiming, "Your word has been fulfilled." And so, may our light shine in the darkness, reminding this world of your great love. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

ANTHEM

At the Weaving of Creation
Ben Brody

David Bjorlin & Ben Brody

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

As with Gladness Men of Old

Michael Burkhardt



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

Year-end Giving



Please help us finish the year on a positive financial note by ensuring your pledged commitment is fulfilled an/or making any other donation by the end of the year! To show on your 2019 Giving Statement (and be claimed on your 2019 tax return), donations: All monies must be received or be postmarked by Dec. 31st (office closes at noon). *Thank you for your faithful stewardship!*

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/now>

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

♦Betty Robinson-Covid 19, Merryvale
 ♦Blair Weaver-health issues
 ♦Justin & McKenzie Hall and Kerry & Rob Jones (family of the Tabb's)
 ♦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-whooping cough at Egleston (newborn daughter of Paige Boston, 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
 ♦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)
 ♦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
 ♦Lee Scarborough-Army



Special Prayers

Piedmont Newton frontline workers as well as other medical staff. The hospital is very busy with helping sick patients, night and day. Please pray for their work and their safety.

Condolences

We send our prayers to the family of **Tim Blankenship**, who passed away this week. He was the son of the late **Elmer and Maxine Blankenship** and brother of **Trent**.

Praises!

Our choirs, soloists, Worship Team, Tech Team and all others who made our Advent and Christmas worship services so special this year.

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 27 Christmas 1

11:00 Worship Service
(Pre-recorded, link will be provided the in Weekly Enews)

Sunday, January 3 Christmas 2 Celebrating Epiphany

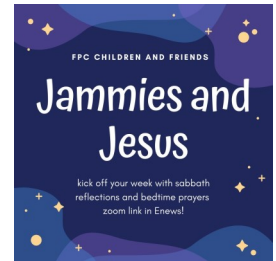
11:00 Worship Service
(Pre-recorded, link will be provided the in Weekly Enews)

Christian Education

Our zoom classes will resume on January 3rd, 2021

"Jammies and Jesus"

A new offering for our children in the new year! This is a time for our youngest disciples to gather on Sunday evenings for Sabbath reflections and prayer for the upcoming week! We invite all children of the church (and friends!) to gather on Zoom at 7:00pm on Sunday nights with Pastor Neeley! Our time together of Jammies and Jesus will be no more than ten minutes! Starting January 10th. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82191056781> Meeting ID: 821 9105 6781



Epiphany Sunday

We will celebrate Epiphany Sunday on January 3, 2021. Epiphany Sunday is when we celebrate the Magi bringing gifts to Jesus. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read the Magi followed a star in the East to find baby Jesus in the manger. Therefore, this year we will participate in a prayer practice of "Star Words". Receiving a Star Word on Epiphany is a growing practice in the Protestant tradition. This word is to be a word of intention for us in the new year. We trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us. Star words are one such lens that might provide us a way to look for God in our midst, both actively and in hindsight. We trust that it is often easy to miss God in our daily midst. Having an intention word to consider both in present days, as well as to reflect on at the end of the year, allows for us to see God in ways we may not have seen God before. This is the greatest gift. If you would like to receive a Star Word contact Neeley by email: neeley@fpccov.org.

Searchers and Seekers Small Group

For all visitors, New members, and members who want to know more about FPC Covington and the PCUSA. We invite you to join in a time of fellowship and study. What do we believe? Why do we believe what we believe? What is our church polity? How do we understand salvation and grace? What does it mean to be a member of the church? Why do we do what we do and say what we say? If you have expressed any of these questions – this is place for you! Please contact Donna Weesner if you are interested in joining this ministry opportunity! Join us on Zoom: Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3 from 6-7

Zoom Information: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82728290092>
Meeting ID: 827 2829 0092



Piedmont-Newton needs our help: If you would be able to donate snacks or other treats to help refresh their bodies and spirits, please let us know. More details are in the weekly Enews. We have the numbers of people serving on each shift in various departments. You can call Pastor Neeley if you are interested. Covid protocols are in place for delivery.

"Grief and Grieving"

Our pastoral care team would like to provide a space for conversation and healing. If you are interested in participating in a "Grief and Grieving" Small Group in the new year please let Neeley know!

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
Kimmy Briggs
Peni Kehoe

Senior Pastor
Director of
Family Ministries
Church Administrator

Krista Firkus
Alice Walker
Danielle Schubert
Music Director
CAGO, AAGO
Organist/Ambassador Choir
Nursery

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



Christmas Floral Decorations



IN MEMORY OF:

Ursula Kaminski
Roger & Kathryn Wallace
Newt and Edna Hinton
Henry & Mary Lott
Kenneth Lott
Donald & Katherine Stephenson
Billy & Betty Knight
JC & Helen Moon
JoAnn Crews
Elmer & Maxine Blankenship
Steve Milton
Pete & Pat Arnold & Steve Bozarth
Mr. David Stillerman
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Underwood
Dr. & Mrs. Hyman Stillerman
Samuel David Ramsey
Our Parents
James Elder & Sandy Elder
Ann Bouchillon
Jackie & Jerry Walden
Gene Ensminger
Howard Barton
Our Parents
Bob Waters, Dorothy & Lester Patisaul
Ray & Edy Moy
Howard & Madelle Boteler
Lucille Brown & Roger Wallace

IN HONOR OF:

Stephanie & Eleanor Scarborough
FPC Church Family

Patricia Bozarth
Judi Barton
Our Children Paige & Kyle
Our Grandchildren
Neeley & Kimmy
Stephanie & Eleanor Scarborough
Jimmy Jones

GIVEN BY:

Leonard Kaminski
Leon and Margaret Hughes
The Hinton family

"

"

Mason Stephenson
Joe & Cindy Moon

"

Tom Crews
Trent Blankenship
Jeff & Julie Mackenzie
Doug Arnold & Family
Jim & Pam Stillerman

"

"

Ken & Alice Walker
Stephanie & Billy Fortson
The Elder Family
Jean Elder
Dan & Perri Walden

"

"

Curtis & Carolyn Watson
Marleen Waters
Gary & Susan Boteler

"

Doug & Sherri Bolton

GIVEN BY:

Doug & Sherry Bolton
Robert, Neeley, Kately, Paisley &
MaryRentz Lane

Doug Arnold & Family
Dan & Perri Walden
Curtis & Carolyn Watson

"

Jean & Cy Wolverton
Doug & Sherri Bolton
Stan & Dana Hall



Donations over the cost of the poinsettias will go to support the Community Food Pantry which will re-open in early 2021.



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.



WAYS TO GIVE



Through your congregation



Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or donate



Online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Presbyterian Mission

role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important

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CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE