

Order of Worship
GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Rowland H. Pritchard
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Hal Hopson

HYMN 85

TIF IN VELDELE

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah
stanza 1: solo; stanza 2: All

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Rod and Phyllis Pruner

The season of Advent continues. We join with a hopeful throng in the lighting of the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

We are people of hope. Hope lives and abounds in us.

Today we light the candle of peace.

This light must brave the darkness.

In an age when people seldom find peace within themselves, and when all the earth stands under threat of war, we light a fire called peace.

Peace that is not merely the absence of conflict but peace that is the fullness of blessing for all, that is the peace for which we dare to hope.

Christ comes to bring peace to those who have been separated from God and one another.

In the name of that Child born so long ago, we light the candle of peace.

May this candle of peace give light to the world.

I now light the candle of peace.

Let us pray: Almighty God, prepare our hearts, that the dear Christ may enter in and be born in us. Grant us his peace which passes our understanding; for we pray in your name. Amen.

HYMN 106

BEREDEN VAG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the Way, O Zion

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, we confess that we often are deaf to the good tidings around us. We are weighed down by the pace and the demands of the season. Help us to reflect on your great love in the gift of Jesus to this weary world, and to us; for we pray in Jesus' holy name.

(silence for personal prayer and reflection)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

ST. LOUIS

Hymn 121, stanza 3

***How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

ANTIOCH

Hymn 134, stanza 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* arr. Hayes
Sanctuary Choir

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 READINGS

Isaiah 40:3-5
Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON

Listen Up!

William B. Wade, Jr.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 93

TRURO

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

John 1:6-13

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of human will, but of God.

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

p. 35, front of hymnal

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY

Elaine S. Dykstra

Of the Father's Love Begotten

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

BESANÇON

Hymn 105, stanza 1

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and to lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

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

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

HYMN 95 *Prepare the Way of the Lord* PREPARE THE WAY
Congregation and Choir

POSTLUDE

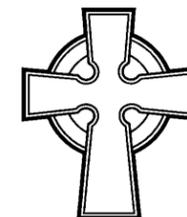
John Ferguson

Awake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Please stand, if you are able.

Worship Notes

- * Dan Walden, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, will be assisting with the worship service today.
- * Please enter the sanctuary in a spirit of reverence as we prepare to worship God. Remember to **turn on your cell phones** again when you leave.



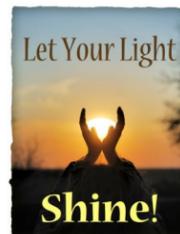
See the insert for the prayer list.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Mid-Week Feast: Wednesday at 6:00: the menu is: hamburgers, baked beans and "loaded" fries. Bring a dessert to share. Adults, \$6, kids under 10, \$3. Use one of the forms in the pew pocket to make your reservations or you may call or email the church office by 4:00 on Tuesday.

Please mark your calendars for the **Silver Saints and Ambassador Choir and Friends Christmas Luncheon** at 12:00 noon on Thursday, December 12, in the fellowship hall. The traditional gift exchange will add to the festivities, so remember to bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10, if you wish to participate.

We are still receiving Commitment Cards for the 2014 budget year. If you have not turned in a card, please prayerfully consider making a pledge. There are cards in the basket on the narthex table. The Finance Team must soon prepare the 2014 budget and need everyone's help in making sure that the ministries of FPC continue. Let your light shine!



Join us for our annual **Christmas Joy Dinner** this evening, with dinner being served at 5:30 p.m. in the Martin Fellowship Hall. This is a special evening when not only our youngest members share songs and stories of Christmas but we share a wonderful holiday dinner together. Dinner will consist of traditional holiday fare. **Please bring a dessert to share if you are able.** Adults \$6.00 & Children \$3.00.

Please see the enclosed insert for the Christmas ministries, flower and witness form and the prayer list.

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 8
9:00 Handbell Choir
9:30 Children's Choir
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship
5:30 Christmas Joy Dinner & Play

Tuesday, December 10
4:00 Exercise Class

Wednesday, December 11
6:00 Mid-Week Feast
6:45 Choir Rehearsal
6:45 DVD Class & Discussion

Thursday, December 12
10:30 Ambassador Choir
11:30 Prayer Group
12:00 Silver Saints & Friends
Lunch and Gift exchange

Sunday, December 15
Christmas Joy Offering
9:00 Handbell Choir
9:30 Children's Choir
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
12:00 Session Meeting
5:30 Youth Connection

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
Dan Walden: djwalden@mac.com
Church Office: penihaug@att.net
Website: www.fpccov.org
Mailing Address: 1169 Clark Street
Covington, Georgia 30014



Food Pantry Needs

Bring your 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: dessert, cake or brownie mixes and, of course, you may bring other staple goods as your heart leads.

THANKS TO THOSE SERVING US TODAY

Nursery Volunteers today:
Trista Hooten-Wilson
Next Week:
The Bates 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 <i>CAGO, AAGO</i>	
Louly Fowler Hay <i>Parish Associate</i>	Pauleen Green & Maria Serrato <i>Organist/Ambassador Choir</i>	
Dan Walden <i>Director of Youth and Children's Ministry</i>	Krissy Jones <i>Nursery</i>	
Peni Haug <i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	Alan Bunn <i>Music Director</i>	
		Ken Walker <i>Director of the Early Learning Center</i>



The Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2013



Depictions of John the Baptist by the artists of FPC Church School and Adventure Club

