Order of Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *A Plea in the Wilderness* Gabriel Faure
Our Father, Who Art in Heaven Siegfried Karg-Elert

INTROIT *The People Who Walked in Darkness* ISAIAH 9
Sanctuary Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
Stephanie and Billy Fortson

Christians around the world begin this day to await the Advent of Christ. We join with a joyous and hopeful throng in lighting the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.
We gather as a people of hope.
Christian people around the world stand today in breathless anticipation of a miracle that has been repeated for hundreds of years, yet that astounds us anew each year.
Our hope springs anew from an ancient vision.
As we light the first Advent candle, let it stand for hope based not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We believe, we have seen, we have received the Promise and the Great Gift, and therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.
We gather expectantly, joyfully, and with deep commitment, for we have heard that a special Child is to come, that God is to be among us, and that soon we will see a new creation on earth. We are a people of hope.
May this candle of hope give light to the world.
Listen to the words of the prophet Jeremiah chapter 31:31-34...
I now light the candle of prophecy and hope.

✠PROCESSIONAL HYMN 82 HYFRYDOL
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

✠PRAYER

✠THE PASSING OF THE PEACE
The Lord will give you a sign. Listen, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, which means "God with us".
The peace of the Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Advent Hope* Derek Hakes
Handbell 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 READING Luke 1:26-38

SERMON *Do Not Be Afraid* William B. Wade, Jr.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✠HYMN 97 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* ABERYSTWYTH

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *A Brief Statement of Faith*
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY *Adagio* J. S. Bach

✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE MONKLAND
Hymn 31. stanza 1
Le us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is so kind: for God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

✠PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Lift our eyes, dear Lord, from our self-absorption, that we may see the wonder of your creation and the abundance of your grace. Open our hearts to receive the Gift you offer in Christ, and to give ourselves away in his love. Amen.

SEALING OF THE WORD

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION
This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
They will come from north and south and from east and west, to sit at table in the kingdom of heaven.
This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust in him to share the feast that he has prepared.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God…

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION
Elders will invite us to come forward by rows to the two stations where we will receive the elements of communion.

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

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✠HYMN 105, stanza 1 *People, Look East* BESANÇON

✠CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

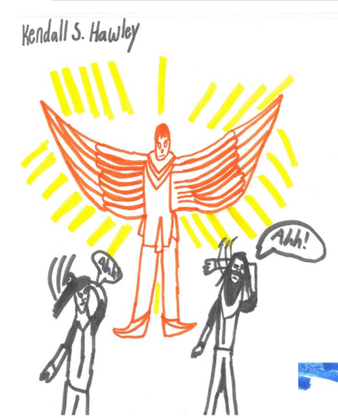
✠CHORAL RESPONSE
The People Who Walked in Darkness ISAIAH 9
Sanctuary Choir

✠POSTLUDE *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* Heinrich Fleischer

✠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.



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Alana

ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Presbyterian Women's Circle Meetings:
Circle One will meet on **Tuesday, December 2** at 10:30 a.m. - in the Martin Fellowship Hall. Lesson 4 will be presented by Joyce Ashworth. A covered dish luncheon will follow. If you have questions concerning a dish to bring, please call Carol McGiboney at 770-786-7998 . It was suggested that diapers and/or baby wipes be brought to this Christmas meeting for the new local project known as Baby Love.
Circle Two will meet on **Tuesday, December 2**, at 10:00 a.m. *(note change of time)*- at Merry Vale Assisted Living. We will have coffee and holiday cookies in lieu of lunch. If you wish to carpool, we will leave the church's Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m.
Circle Three will meet on **Tuesday, December 2**, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jean Wolverton.
Circle Four will meet on **Thursday, December 4**, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Judy Hooten.
E-Circle will be posting commentaries on the Horizons Bible Studies regularly. To be included, simply "friend" Adriane Ivey-Hawley on Facebook.

Please mark your calendars for the **Silver Saints and Ambassador Choir Christmas Luncheon** at 12:00 noon on December 4, in the fellowship hall. The traditional gift exchange will add to the festivities, so remember to bring a wrapped gift valued at $10.

Jasmine Ardis

This Week at FPC

Sunday, November 30
9:00 Handbell Choir
9:30 Children's Choir
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
12:00 Youth Connection-lunch and Rake 'n' Run

Tuesday, December 2
4:00 Exercise

Wednesday, December 3
4:00 Adventure Club
6:45 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 4
10:30 Ambassador Choir
12:00 Silver Saints & Ambassador Choir Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, December 7
9:00 Handbell Choir
9:30 Children's Choir
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
5:30 Christmas Joy Supper and Christmas Musical

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@bellsouth.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 9:00-12:00 Tuesday, Wednesday 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 Weesner Family
Next Week:
The Rob & Kerry Family

Ushers:
Jan Giles, chair

Sound Engineer:
Ken Walker

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2014
Debra Arnold
Bill Loeble
Darcel Tabb
Roger Tingler
Cy Wolverton

Class of 2015
Gary Boteler
Billy Fortson
Jan Giles
Jim Stillerman

Class of 2016
Charles Ardis
Joyce Ashworth
Betty Bailey
Patrick Carmichael
Perri Walden

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

William B. Wade, Jr. — *Pastor*
Dan Walden — *Director of Youth and Children's Ministry*
Peni Haug — *Secretary-Treasurer*
Alan Bunn — *Music Director*
Alice Walker — CAGO, AAGO, *Organist/Ambassador Choir*
Pauleen Green & Maria Serrato — *Nursery*
Tiffany McWaters — *Director of the Early Learning Center*

The First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2014

Artwork for the Advent Season is by the young artists of Adventure Club (2014)