



Fourth Sunday of

*Advent*

## ~ Gathering before the Word ~

Welcome

Eddie Spencer

Lighting of the Candles

Erica Efird

Prelude and Preparation *Angels from the Realms of Glory*  
*Alleluia Ringers*

arr. McChesney

Chimes of the Trinity

### \*Call to Worship

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Everlasting Father.

**From everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**

During Advent we look to the One who knows our deepest thoughts.

**From everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**

During Advent we look to the One who cares for our deepest needs.

**From everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**

During Advent we look to the One who knows our most pressing concerns.

**From everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**

During Advent we look to the One who knows our innermost being.

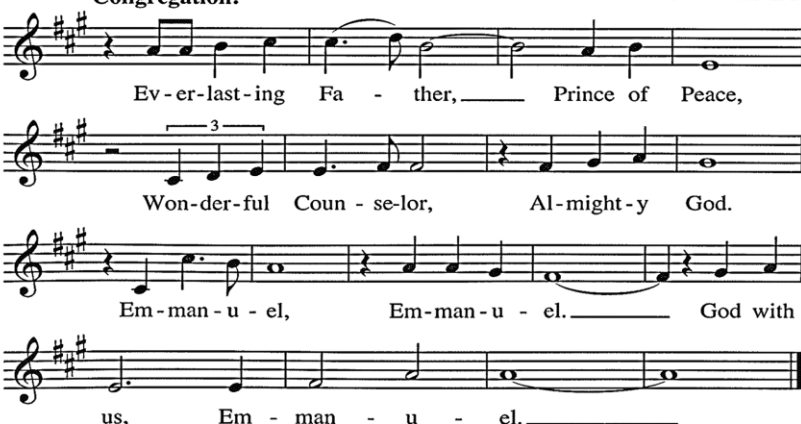
**From everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**

### \*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Swaringen Family

Words and Music by  
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:



Ev - er - last - ing Fa - ther, Prince of Peace,  
Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor, Al - might - y God.  
Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el. God with  
us, Em - man - u - el.

### \*Advent Prayer

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

<b>First Lesson</b>	Genesis 3:8-15	Lee Efird
<b>*Congregational Carol No. 61</b>		VENI EMMANUEL
	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	
<b>*Prayer of Praise</b>		
<b>Second Lesson</b>	Genesis 22:15-18	Jill McLain
<b>Song of Response</b>	<i>Prepare Him Room</i> <i>Abigail Malinovsky, soprano</i>	Elliot/Fournier
<b>Third Lesson</b>	Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7	Chris Lowder
<b>Song of Response</b>	<i>I Saw Three Ships</i> <i>Men's Ensemble</i>	arr. Leavitt
<b>Word with our Children</b>		Amelia Caskey
<b>*Fourth Lesson</b>	Micah 5: 2-4	Jenna Baker
<b>*Congregational Carol No. 88</b>		ST. LOUIS
	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	
<b>Sermon</b>	"In Those Days"	Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

<b>*Congregational Carol No. 90</b>		JUNGST
	<i>How Great Our Joy</i>	
<b>*Prayer and Benediction</b>		
<b>* Postlude</b>	<i>"Joy to the World"</i> <i>Fred Caskey, Toby Caskey; piano</i>	Handel

# To Our Guests

**Welcome!** We are delighted that you are worshiping with us this morning. We hope you find today meaningful and refreshing. Visitors, please fill out the information card located in the pews. If you have a prayer request, fill out the prayer card or call the church office at 704-938-4623.

**Children's Activity Bags** are available for children age 3 to grade 5. They include a children's bulletin related to the Sunday sermon, crayons, and scrap paper. An usher would be happy to bring you one. **A nursery is available for newborns through age 4. It is located on the second floor of the Educational Building.**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER!

We will go Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins tonight. Meet at the church at 5pm if you would like to participate. We will carol on our front lawn and enjoy some refreshments upon our return!

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN GIVING TREE** is in the Narthex. This year, the Missions Team has chosen Kannapolis City Schools and Missionaries Don and Martha Wehmeyer as our recipients. Please take a gift tag and return it with your unwrapped gift under the tree by Sunday, December 26th. Donations to the Wehmeyer Mission may be placed in the offering plate with your tag.



**CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** will be held on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. This year's love offering will be collected to benefit the Hamilton Family's fundraising efforts for Greater Europe Mission.



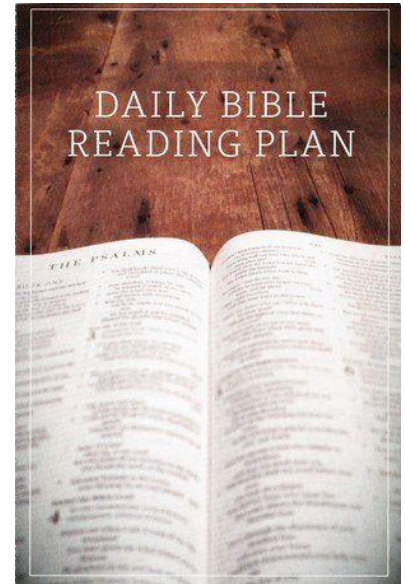


**WOMEN WITHOUT RESERVATIONS** are invited to the home of Raegan Swaringen on Thursday, December 30th at 6:00pm for a "My Favorite Things" party! Each lady is asked to think of a gift of \$10 or less that is a favorite of theirs, and bring 3 of that gift (unwrapped), as well as an appetizer or dessert. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex!

## **SIGN-UP FOR THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 2022 BIBLE READING PLAN in the Narthex!**

Please list your name and your email address. Pastor Eddie will send you an introduction to each book we will be reading. We will read a chapter a day throughout the year. The principle is to read less and meditate more on our daily reading. In addition to the introductions, Eddie will send regular Bible reading and study helps.

The 2022 plan will take us through the historical narrative of the Old Testament beginning with Joseph (Genesis 37) and through the division between the northern tribes and the southern tribes of Israel (I Kings 14). It's a captivating history of how God interacted with His people. All four gospels, the book of Acts, three minor prophets, four New Testament letters, several of the Psalms, the Song of Songs and a few other timely chapters of the Bible are a part of the plan.



## **START THE NEW YEAR OUT RIGHT!**

Join the Fellowship Team for a light breakfast on Sunday, January 2nd, beginning at 9:00a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School for all ages will follow at 10:00 a.m.



**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no Sunday School next Sunday, December 26th! We will gather for worship at 11:00a.m.

# PRAYER CONCERNS

Please help us keep Prayer Concerns current with weekly updates.  
Please email the church or write down  
on a prayer card & place in offering plate.

## **MEMBERS**

**Opal Hallman-** continuing rehab at Liberty Commons

**Connie Lisenby-** Surgery on Dec. 22

## **FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS**

**Pat Haynes-** (Renee Goodnight's mom) Recovery from surgery

**Jack White-** (Sharon Cranford's friend) Covid

**William Dalrymple-** (Betty Sechler's cousin)

**Mandy Graham-** (Raegan Swaringen's Medical Assistant) diagnosed with cancer

**Tom Cavin's father, Eugene-** About the same

**Ken Boucher** – Home and under Hospice Care

**Wade & Mary Nunnery** – (parents of Karen Pless) Dementia worse

**Ralph Caskey** – (Adam Caskey's father) Recovering from surgery.

## **HOMEBOUND**

**Richard Roberts-** Moved to Crescent Heights in Concord

**Peggy Barnhardt** - at Morningside

**Iris Efird-** in her home

**Betty Overcash** - at Elmcroft in Salisbury

**Barbara Wise** - Oaks at Hampton, Cummings, Georgia

**Loretta Young** - at Five Oaks

**Cindy Fisher** - Mother of Lucinda Stewart (At Transitional Health)

During Covid, we have not taken up offerings during the worship service. We invite you to give your tithes and offerings to the Lord. There are several ways for you to give. There are offering plates in the Narthex. You can send a check to the church office or give online. For any questions, please contact Terri Pruett or our treasurer, Debbie McDaniel. Terri's email is [TerriPruett@FirstPresb.org](mailto:TerriPruett@FirstPresb.org). Debbie email's [debmcDaniel77@gmail.com](mailto:debmcDaniel77@gmail.com).

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# THIS WEEK@FIRST PRESB

## TODAY

9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**  
10:00 a.m. **Sunday School**  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**  
5:00 p.m. **Christmas Caroling**

## TUESDAY

12:00 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous**

## WEDNESDAY

10:30 a.m. **Moms in Prayer**  
6:30 p.m. **Handbell Practice**

## THURSDAY

12:00 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous**

## FRIDAY

5:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

## SATURDAY

**Merry Christmas!**

## NEXT SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**  
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service**



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704-938-4623 • [www.firstpresb.org](http://www.firstpresb.org)