



*First Sunday of*  
**Advent**

## ~ Gathering before the Word ~

Welcome

Eddie Spencer

Lighting of the Candles

Erica Efird & Caylin Lowder

Prelude and Preparation

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

### \*Call to Worship

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Wonderful Counselor.

**Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.**

We anticipate the One who hears our prayers.

**Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.**

We anticipate the One who heals our infirmities.

**Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.**

We anticipate the One who renews our faith.

**Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.**

We anticipate the One who ignites our hope.

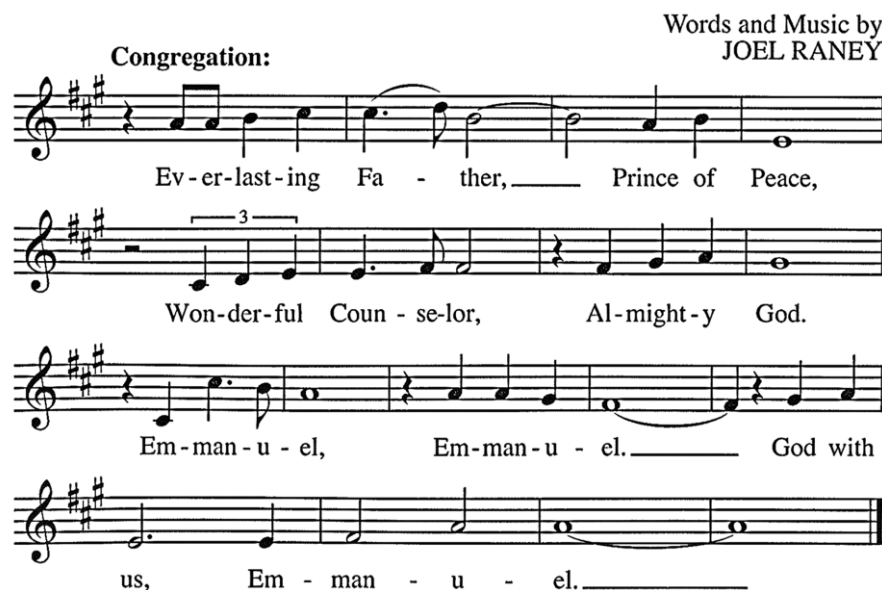
**Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.**

### \*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Andrew Townsend 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

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 61**      *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*      VENI EMMANUEL  
(Stanzas 1-4)

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**Prayer of Confession**

All: Gracious Father, who faithfully fulfilled Your promise of redemption through the advent of Your one and only Son, we humbly confess that we have sinned, rebelled, and grieved You with our proud hearts. Please forgive us for all our sins, for we are truly sorry and do earnestly repent. Restore and renew our spirits by Your grace that we may draw near to You, obey You, enjoy You, and glorify Your matchless Name, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

**Silent Prayers of Confession**

**Assurance of the Gospel**      Luke 2:10-11

Leader: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

**Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family**

**10 Cents a Meal**      Roxanne Spencer

**Offering & Special Music**      Getty/Papa/Townend/Boswell

*Sing We the Song of Emmanuel*

Sara Duplisea, alto; David Hamilton, tenor; Kay Yates, piano

**~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~**

**\*Scripture Reading**      Isaiah 9: 1-7      Page 683

**Sermon**      God's Nevertheless      Eddie Spencer

**~ Responding to the Word of God ~**

**\*Hymn of Hope No. 56**      STUTTGART

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**\*Prayer and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**      *Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes*      RICHMOND



**Welcome!** We are delighted that you are worshiping with us this morning, and hope you find today meaningful and refreshing. Visitors are asked to fill out a Visitor Information Card, located in the pew, and place it in the offering plate. Prayer Requests may be noted on the reverse side of the same card.

**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.

**Children's Church** is available for children 4 years through 2nd grade. After the "Word with our Children," they will be escorted to their classroom on the choir hallway. Parents should report to the classroom immediately following worship to pick up their children.

**A Nursery** is available for newborns through age 4. It is located in the Educational Building. If you need assistance or directions, an usher would be happy to help you!

Today is our monthly **10 Cents a Meal Collection**, benefitting Cooperative Christian Ministry, Cabarrus Meals on Wheels and Compassion International. Our children will collect your change in the Narthex following the worship service.

**Please visit our "Giving Tree" in the Narthex!** This year, the Missions Team has chosen Cabarrus Women's Center as the recipient of our gifts. Please take a tag from the tree and return the item, unwrapped, beneath the tree by Sunday, December 25th.

## Thank You

Thank you so much for all the prayers, thoughts, texts, calls and cards we received from the FPC church staff and members during Bruce's surgery and recovery. We have felt your love and prayers and we want you to know how much comfort and peace they brought to us. Your kindness and love are so appreciated and we are so grateful to have experienced the love that this congregation has for its church family.

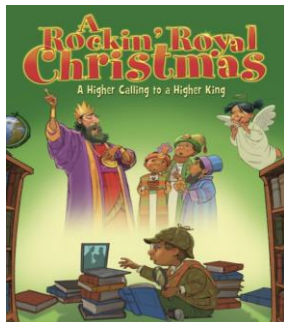
Love, Bruce & Terri Pruett

Mike Lowder and family would like to thank the congregation for all the prayers, calls, visits, and expressions of concern after his recent hospitalization. We are so blessed to have such a caring and loving church family!



**God is so good!** First Presbyterian's Operation Christmas Child drop-off location was able to collect 2,943 shoeboxes this year! We are so grateful to everyone who helped staff the collection. Please continue to pray for our 409 shoeboxes - that God would use them to turn the heart of a child, a family, and a community to Him. We will let you know their destination!

# UPCOMING



## Mark your calendars for "A Rockin' Royal Christmas with the King" on Sunday, December 4th!

The church family and friends are invited to dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm. Please RSVP to Ryan Walker. Our children and youth will then present their Christmas Musical in the Sanctuary at 6:30pm. Come focus your hearts and minds on the real reason we celebrate Christmas!

**The Dorcas Circle of Hope will meet on Monday, November 28 at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall for festive Advent activities and refreshments!** Please bring either a donation or a gift for the Cabarrus Women's Center. All ladies are welcome!



**The newly-formed Grace and Gratitude Women's Group will gather for a social event on Tuesday, November 29th at 6:00p.m at the home of Lucinda Stewart.** All women are invited to join them as they celebrate this joyous season. Food will be provided. Please RSVP to Lucinda at (980) 258-9018.

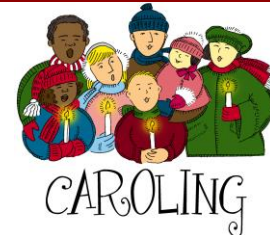


**First Presbyterian Church will sponsor a float in this year's Kannapolis Christmas Parade.** The Parade takes place on Saturday, December 10th at 6:00pm. Please let Shannon Sechler know if you are interested in helping assemble the float, assemble treats to hand out, or walk with the float.

**Parents' Night Out! Youth of all ages are invited to a "Christmas at the Movies" party on Friday, December 16th from 5:30-8:30pm.** Come dressed as your favorite Christmas Movie character, or just wear some warm pjs! We'll enjoy dinner, play games, and Lucinda Stewart will show us how to decorate cookies for our shut-ins. Please sign up in the Narthex if your youth would like to attend!

**You are invited to a combined Christmas worship and musical celebration with Kimball Lutheran Church!** The service will take place at Kimball on Sunday, December 18th at 6:00pm. There will be a reception immediately following the worship service.

**Come caroling with us! Let's spread some Christmas cheer to our shut-ins with the beautiful music of the season,** as we hand out cookies made by our youth at their Christmas party. Meet at the church on Wednesday, December 21 at 6:00pm to carpool. We'll enjoy some warm refreshments on our return!



*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*



**This year's Candlelight Christmas Eve service will be held on Saturday, December 24 at 6:30pm.** Invite friends and family to this special time of reflection and worship!



# PRAYER CONCERNS

## CHURCH FAMILY

Jessica Bell's family- loss of her father, Hung-Jen Fu  
Frank Gibson- Recovering at Acute Care  
Danny Bost- liver issues  
Donna Mauldin- at Tucker Hospice House  
Ronald Barger- Recovery from lung and arm issues  
Ron Lisenby- Recovery from heart procedure  
Sam McAllister- recovery from detached retina surgery  
Hank Cranford- recovery from a bad fall  
Amy Hurst- surgery on Tuesday  
Randy Childers- severe back pain and upcoming surgery  
Mike Lowder- recovery from a fall and hospital stay

## FAMILY & FRIENDS OF Church Family

Helen Rary(Tony Rary's mom)- broken leg  
McKenzie Hampton-(Sandy Bessent's daughter)- Multiple health concerns  
Kimberly Stipe- (Kay McAllister's daughter)- Recovery from surgery to remove tumor  
Jun-Fung Ng- death of grandmother  
Kristen Morris (Betty Sechler's daughter)- recovery from a broken ankle  
Lacy Williams- recovery from surgery on back  
Mike Allen (Bargers' family)- being treated for Cancer  
Lisa Threatt (Chariti's mom) -waiting for a report from a biopsy

## HOMEBOUND

Cindy Fisher- Transitional  
Peggy Barnhardt – Morningside  
Barbara Hancock- home  
Iris Efird- home  
Barbara Wise - Oaks at Hampton, Cummings, Georgia  
Loretta Young - Five Oaks

## SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Tony Rary  
Children's Message: Roxanne Spencer  
Children's Message next week: Michelle Walker  
Children's Church: Lynn Efird & Kay McAllister  
Children's Church next week: Brian & Hannah Efird  
Acolytes: Erica Efird & Caylin Lowder  
Acolyte next week: Violet & Amias Hamilton  
Nursery: Chariti Lowder & Ella Sechler  
Nursery next week: Vickie Ellington  
Ushers: Fred Caskey, Mark Goodnight, John Hammond, Tony Hunter  
Ushers next week: Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder, Mike Lowder, Sam McAllister  
Greeter: Dave Argabrite, Jeff Barnhardt

## FINANCIALS FOR OCTOBER

YTD Income	\$223,176.55
YTD Expenses	\$220,164.85
YTD Budget	\$246,147.50

Last week's attendance: 11/13/22  
Sunday School 49  
Worship 117

# THIS WEEK@FIRST PRESB

**Sunday, November 27**

*First Sunday of Advent*

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast  
9:45am - GraceFull Movements  
10:00am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship Service  
4:00pm - PraiseMakers  
5:00pm - GraceFull Movements

**Tuesday, November 29**

12:00pm - NA

**Wednesday, November 30**

6:00pm - PraiseMakers

**Thursday, December 1**

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study  
12:00pm - NA

**Saturday, December 3**

10:00am - PraiseMakers' Dress Rehearsal  
12:00pm - PraiseMakers' Lunch

**Sunday, December 4**

*Second Sunday of Advent*

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast  
9:45am - GraceFull Movements  
10:00am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship Service with Holy Communion  
5:30pm - Fellowship Meal  
6:30pm - "A Rockin' Royal Christmas with the King" musical

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