



*Fourth Sunday of*  
**Advent**

## ~ Gathering before the Word ~

Welcome

Eddie Spencer

Lighting of the Candles

Landon & Noah Walker

Prelude and Preparation

*Silent Night*

Davis

Richard Jackson Wohlman, violin; Kay Yates, piano

### \*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

Greg & Mary Taylor

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. 82 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

### \*Prayer of Adoration

## Prayer of Confession

“Almighty and merciful Father, You sent Your Son as the sunshine that rises to banish the darkness of sin and death. Forgive us for preferring the ways of self-centeredness and self-sufficiency. You sent Your Son to guide our feet into the path of peace. Pardon us for proudly persisting in warring ways that cause conflicts with others. Humble us and embolden us to follow Your lead in pursuing peace and reconciliation. This we pray in Jesus’ strong name, Amen.”

## Silent Prayers of Confession

### Assurance of the Gospel

1 Timothy 1:15

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.”

### Special Music

*Once Upon*

Stiff/Hudson

Lucinda Stewart, soprano; Kay Yates, piano; String Trio

### Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:8-14

Leader: In the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

**All: And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.**

Leader: And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

**All: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

Leader: And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

**All: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”**

### Hymn of Response No. 81

*Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

Regent Square

### Word with Our Children

Amelia Caskey

### Offering & Special Music

DeGraide/Turner

*There Blooms a Rose in Bethlehem*

Lucinda Stewart, soprano; David Hamilton, tenor; String Trio

## ~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

### \*Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5

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### Sermon

The Glory of the Lord Revealed

Eddie Spencer

## ~ Responding to the Word of God ~

**\*Hymn of Christmas No. 92**

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

**\*Prayer and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*String Trio*

\*All who are able please stand  
CCLI# 2221136

*Welcome*

**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, we welcome three  
talented musicians from the  
Salisbury Symphony:

**Richard Jackson Wohlman (RJ)** studied Violin Performance at Appalachian State, where he received his undergraduate and graduate performance degree, as well as an education degree. He performs with the Salisbury and Winston-Salem Symphonies. RJ is married to Katie and dad to Jackson and Lucy.

**Timothy Gudger** received his Bachelor of Music from Appalachian State University and his Master of Music from Duquesne University of the Holy Ghost in Pittsburgh, PA. Mr. Gudger has played extensively with orchestras in the southeast, including the North Carolina, Winston-Salem, and Greensboro Symphonies, the South Carolina Philharmonic, the Savannah Symphony Orchestra, and the Hilton Head Orchestra. He is now principal violist with the Salisbury Symphony and associate principal violist for the Western Piedmont Symphony.

**Liz Burns** received her undergraduate degree from UNC Charlotte and a Masters in Cello Performance from Winthrop University. She is adjunct professor of Cello at Winthrop where she also teaches Strings Methods and coaches the Cello Ensemble. In addition to acting as cello coach for the Youth Orchestras of Charlotte Preparatory, she serves as Assistant Principal of the Salisbury Symphony, director of the Salisbury Symphony Youth Orchestra, and regularly subs with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.



# UPCOMING

## 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.

**You are invited to a special Christmas service tonight, December 18! First Presbyterian and Kimball Lutheran will combine for a worship and musical celebration at Kimball Lutheran at 6:00pm.**

A reception will follow the service.



## Come caroling with us this Wednesday, December 21!

Let's spread some Christmas cheer with the beautiful music of the season. We'll visit our shut-ins and hand out cookies decorated by our youth at their Christmas party, then carol around town! Meet at the church on Wednesday at 6:00pm to carpool. There will be warm refreshments to enjoy on our return!

**The Church Office will not follow regular office hours during the week of December 26th.** If you need assistance during this time, please contact Pastor Eddie (239-450-3331; [eddie@firstpresb.org](mailto:eddie@firstpresb.org)).

## A Note on the Hamilton Family Mission:

Thank you, church family and faithful ministry partners, for your continued prayers and support. We returned from our October Vision Trip to France encouraged, renewed, and with a new sense of urgency towards the mission field. Please see our December newsletter in the Narthex for more information. Also, prayerfully consider completing a pledge card to begin support once we leave for the field. Pledge cards will help us reach our necessary percentage for our next level of training.

Love to you all, David & Amy

## Join us for our Christmas worship services:

*Candlelight Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24th at 5:00pm*

*Christmas Day Worship - 11:00am*





# PRAYER CONCERNS

## CHURCH FAMILY

**Brenda Ramsey and the family of Peggy Snider-** on Peggy's passing

**Karen Pless-** loss of father, Wade Nunnery

**Donna Mauldin-** hospice care at St. Andrews Living Center

**Sandy Bessent-** daughter, McKenzie Hampton is recovering

**Amy Hurst-** recovery from surgery on Monday

**Ronald Barger-** continuing rehab at home

**Danny Bost-** waiting on reports

**Randy Childers-** severe back pain and upcoming surgery

**Shirley Faust-** moved to Five Oaks Rehab

**Judy Goodnight-** beginning treatment

## FAMILY & FRIENDS OF Church Family

**Lacy Williams-** recovery from surgery on back

**Mike Allen (Bargers' family)-** being treated for Cancer

## HOMEBOUND

**Cindy Fisher-** Transitional

**Peggy Barnhardt** – Morningside

**Barbara Hancock-** home

**Iris Efird-** home

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

**Loretta Young** - Five Oaks

*Thank You*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, visits and prayers for me and my family as I return to better health. God has blessed me through your care and love.

Ronald Barger

I would like to thank the congregation for the calls, messages, cards and prayers during my recent surgery. I am well on the road to recovery and credit your prayers and God's healing hand for the good progress. I hope to be back in church soon.

In Christian love, Amy Hurst

## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Donnie Swaringen

**Children's Message:** Amelia Caskey

**Children's Message next week:** Michelle Walker

**Children's Church:** Tracy & Amelia Caskey

**Children's Church next week:** NONE

**Acolytes:** Landon & Noah Walker

**Acolyte next week:** Erica Efird & Caylin Lowder

**Nursery:** Kaitlyn Maxwell

**Nursery next week:** None

**Ushers:** Lynn Sechler, C.J. Semcho, Jeff Barnhardt, Danny Bost

**Ushers next week:** Mark Goodnight, Chris Lowder, Jill McLain and Phil McLain

**Greeter:** Ryan Walker, Debbie McDaniel

## FINANCIALS FOR NOVEMBER

**YTD Income** \$251,035.00

**YTD Expenses** \$247,776.00

**YTD Budget** \$270,762.00

**Last week's attendance:** 12/11/22

**Sunday School** 60

**Worship** 121

# *Poinsettias Given In Honor and Memory of Our Loved Ones*

<i>Given By</i>	<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>In Honor Of</i>
<b>Norman &amp; Susan Baker</b>	Clarice & Fred Poole Birdia & Leif Baker	Carly & Connor Baker
<b>Charlene Booth</b>	Art Booth	Eva Garver
<b>Cindy DeVoe</b>	Linda Sampson	
<b>Bill &amp; Bonnie Goodnight</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Goodnight Mrs. Eloise Watts Kelly Watts	
<b>Steve &amp; Judy Goodnight</b>	Alice Raye Grisdale C. L. & Martha Snuggs/J.C. Goodnight Bruce & Bernice Davis	Barbara Goodnight Wise
<b>Judy Hammond &amp; Family</b>	Bill Hammond	
<b>Pam Hooks</b>	Pansy & Carl Earnhardt	
<b>Amy Hurst</b>	Jerry Hurst Mr. & Mrs. Harold E. Belk Mr. & Mrs. Howard L. Belk Mr. & Mrs. Ira T. Chapman	Jason, Elise, Jeremy & Karen Hurst Carson, Jackson & Benjamin Hurst
<b>Jane, Anna, Victoria &amp; Mary Elizabeth Jacobs</b>	John & Mary Elizabeth Aiken Robert "Bob" Jacobs, Jr.	Pastor Eddie & Roxanne Spencer
<b>Alice Jeanes</b>	Clifford & Andrew Jeanes	
<b>Chris, Chariti, Caylin, Camryn &amp; Cierstyn Lowder</b>	David Threatt	Lisa Threatt Mike & Carol Lowder Don & Linda Greer
<b>Mike &amp; Carol Lowder</b>		Our children & their families Our grandchildren
<b>Susan Maiocchi</b>	Patricia Hope Halsall (My Mother) Ruth E. Maiocchi (My Mother-in-law)	
<b>Sam &amp; Kay McAllister</b>		Kim Stipe(daughter)
<b>Jerry Anne Phillips</b>		Lela Bishop
<b>Brenda &amp; Peggy Ramsey</b>	Mrs. Bertie Coggins Mrs. Evelyn Ramsey	
<b>Tony Sherrill</b>	Carolyn Sherrill, Tony E. Sherrill, Evelyn Sherrill, Lloyd Sherrill, Heather Sherrill, Jerry W. Sherrill	
<b>Phil Smith</b>	J. Ellen Smith Hatley(My Twin) Alice & Paul Smith	Pam Hooks
<b>Jenny &amp; Ken Sparks</b>		Linda Hathaway Randy Childers Kay Yates
<b>Lucinda Stewart</b>	Frank Black Holland Faye Taylor Mildred Taylor Fisher Rocky Fisher Ruth Taylor Griffin	Brandon Taylor Rapp
<b>Bill &amp; Sharon Stricker</b>		Our children & grandchildren
<b>Your Sister</b>		My sweet Iris Efird

# THIS WEEK @FIRST PRESB

## Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast

9:45am - GraceFull Movements

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service with String Trio

6:00pm - Combined Christmas Service at Kimball Lutheran

## Tuesday, December 20

12:00pm - NA

## Wednesday, December 21

6:00pm - Christmas Caroling

## Thursday, December 22

12:00pm - NA

## Saturday, December 24

5:00pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

## Next Sunday, December 25

11:00am - Worship Service

*Merry Christmas!*



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