

ADVENT



2023

*The Story that Was,
Is and Will Be*

Second Sunday of

Advent

~ Gathering Before the Word ~

Welcome

Eddie Spencer

Prelude and Preparation for Worship *Veni Emmanuel* arr. Valdez
 Jenny Jones & Becky Thoms, violin; Melanie Freeman, cello;
 Kay Yates, piano

Lighting of the Candles

Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

***Call to Worship**

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Mighty God.

You are mighty, O Lord, and Your faithfulness endures forever.

We look to the One in whom we find redemption.

You are mighty, O Lord, and Your faithfulness endures forever.

We look to the One who forgives our sins.

You are mighty, O Lord, and Your faithfulness endures forever.

We look to the One who overcomes the darkness.

You are mighty, O Lord, and Your faithfulness endures forever.

We look to the One who has come to set us free.

You are mighty, O Lord, and Your faithfulness endures forever.

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

The Hallman 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.

***Hymn of Praise No. 81** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE

***Prayer of Adoration**

Prayer of Confession

Gracious, heavenly Father, all of us stand in fresh need of release from the weight of our sin. We confess as we celebrate Advent that instead of peaceful, we can be anxious; instead of joyful, we can be irritable; instead of amazed,

we can be indifferent; and in the place of anticipation, we can be fearful. In our unbelief, we have become spiritually impoverished. Forgive and free us from sins that plague us, for we pray in the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of the Gospel

1 Timothy 1:15

“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.”

Special Music

Gesu Bambino

Yon

Cindy Emerson, soprano; String Trio; Kay Yates, piano

Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Word With Our Children

Amelia Caskey

Offering and Special Music

Cantique de Noel

Adam

Jenny Jones, violin; Kay Yates, piano

Scripture Reading

Romans 1:1-4

Page 1112

Sermon

“Evangelio”

Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

***Sending Song**

In the Bleak Midwinter

Holst

Cindy Emerson, soprano; String Trio

***Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude

Joy to the World

Handel, arr Mason

String Trio

*All who are able, please stand

CCLI# 222113

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 aged 3 to grade 5. They include a children’s bulletin related to the Sunday sermon, crayons, and scrap paper.

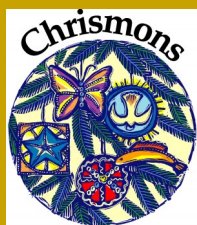
Children's Church is available for children 4 years through 2nd grade. After the "Word with our Children," they will be escorted to their classroom in the Church Nursery. Parents should report to the classroom immediately following worship to pick up their children.

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!



Thank you to our guest soloist, Cindy Emerson and string trio: Jenny Jones, violin; Becky Thoms, violin and Melanie Freeman, cello. Artists' bios for our musicians can be found in the Narthex.

An Advent and Christmas Devotional has been prepared by Eddie & Michelle to assist you in your daily time with the Lord this season. Pick one up in the Narthex!



Did you know... that the ornaments on our Sanctuary Christmas Tree are called "chrismons"? Did you also know that each symbol has a special meaning? Pick up a leaflet in the Narthex explaining the significance of our chrismons, and see which symbols you can find!

UPCOMING EVENTS

A combined choir from First Pres and Kimball Memorial Lutheran will present the Christmas Cantata,

"Emmanuel - God with Us!" by Lloyd Larson

THIS EVENING, at 6:00pm. It will be a service of lessons and carols with a variety of musical styles including our very own PraiseMakers! You are invited to Kimball for this special reflection on the Advent and Christmas season.



The JOY Group will gather for a Christmas lunch at the home of Ron and Alpha Barger this Wednesday, December 13 at noon. Entrée will be provided. Please sign up **TODAY** in the Narthex for a side or dessert. See Dave Argabrite for more information!

Here we go a-caroling! Join us in spreading Christmas cheer on Wednesday, December 13! We will leave from the church at 6:00pm and travel to several nearby locations. Hot refreshments will be available when we return.



First Presbyterian is pleased to welcome our 2023 Confirmation Class into membership **NEXT SUNDAY**, December 17! In their honor, the Women's Council invites the congregation to a covered-dish luncheon immediately following worship that day. Mr. C's chicken will be provided, but please bring plenty of other dishes to share, including desserts.

Thank you for your support of our youth!!!

Project 2024



In our November Session meeting, our elders voted to begin a campaign, Project 2024 or Project 24. The purpose of Project 24 is to raise financial support and complete projects that will functionally and aesthetically improve our physical campus. The scope of Project 24 will be determined by the amount of money we raise. The two priority projects are the updating of the Education and Fellowship building's HV-AC units and the renovation of the Fellowship Hall bathroom. The other projects discussed are as follows: renovation of the front area of church, a one-time landscaping makeover, remodel of our kitchen, floor coverings on the third floor of the Educational Hall and additional playground equipment. Presently we have no cost estimates for these projects.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact Jeff, an elder or Eddie. Please pray for and consider giving to Project 24.

SERVING CHRIST TOGETHER



The Giving Tree is now in the Narthex.

This year the Missions Team has selected three families in need, referred to us by Kannapolis City Schools. Tags on the tree will designate items requested by family members.

Please be sure to remove price tags, wrap the present and tape the tag to the package. All gifts need to be returned and placed under the tree by Sunday, December 17 for delivery to the school on the 18th.

First Pres is once again providing the meal for Samaritan's Table at Kimball Lutheran on Thursday, December 14 at 5pm. Please see Phil McLain if you can assist in preparing the meal, boxing it up, or serving in the drive-thru line!



Linda's Closet is in need of COATS, all sizes. There is an immediate need for Men's 2X.

The First Presbyterian Fence Ministry

is currently collecting plastic bandages, lip balm, washcloths, towels and hand towels, combs and brushes, hair ties, deodorant, feminine products, plastic forks/spoons, ponchos, scarves, gloves, and toboggans. If you would like to donate items, please see Sam or Kay McAllister; or make a donation to First Pres marked "homeless ministry" to support our fence and other homeless outreaches.





Dear Eddie & First Pres Family,

We are thankful for you all at First Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your prayers and send off a few weeks ago. We covet your prayers daily. We are at peace about coming here and will be grateful to understand why. Take good care of each other till we meet again.

Farrar & Cindy Griggs

Our Deepest Gratitude... Thank you for your support during this difficult time. Your words, kindness, and love have been a comforting blessing and we cannot express how much we appreciate you. **From the Family of Richard Ray Roberts**

Prayer Concerns

Help us keep Prayer Concerns current with weekly updates. Email the church or note on a prayer card & place in the offering plate.

Church Family

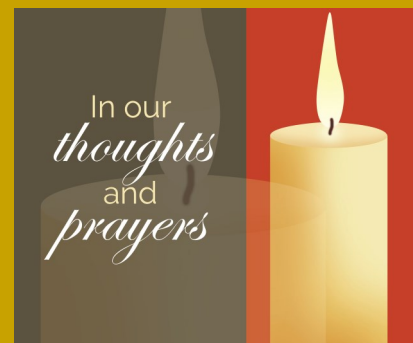
- Peggy Barnhardt - at Morningside in serious condition
- Linda Bost and family - loss of Danny
- Judy Goodnight - health concerns
- Steve Goodnight - recovery from a fall
- Hank Cranford - Health Concerns

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF Church Family

- Bonnie Goodnight's father - health concerns
- Robert Little (Richard's brother) - new treatment for cancer
- Everett Halsell (Sue Maiocchi's dad) - treatment for cancer
- Justin Wallace (Melba Funderburk's grandson) - rare disease
- Sherry Bath (Amy Hurst 's friend) - chemo and radiation this week

HOMEBOUND

- Bob and Shirley Faust - Morningside
- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Iris Efird - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks
- Randy Childers - Big Elm



This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast
- GraceFull Movements
Dance Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service with String
Trio

6:00pm - "Emmanuel - God With Us"
Joint Cantata with Kimball
Memorial

Tuesday, December 12

11:00am - 2:00 pm Linda's Closet

12:00pm - NA

Wednesday, December 13

12:00pm - JOY Group Christmas Lunch
(Barger home)

6:00pm - Christmas Caroling

Thursday, December 14

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study

12:00pm - NA

5:00pm - Samaritan's Table at Kimball
Memorial

Friday, December 15

5:30 pm - Agape Chinese Baptist
Church Stream Fellowship

Next Sunday, December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast
- GraceFull Movements
Dance Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

- Confirmation

11:00am - Worship Service

12:00pm - Confirmands Luncheon

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Sue Maiocchi

Children's Message: Amelia Caskey

Children's Message Next week: Roxanne
Spencer

Children's Church: Tracy & Amelia Caskey

Children's Church next week: Jenna
Baker & Megan Quigg

Acolytes: Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

Acolytes next week: Caylin Lowder & Abby
Vriesema

Nursery: Judy Hunter

Nursery next week: Sharon Stricker

Ushers: Jeff Barnhardt, Ryan Walker, Mark
Goodnight, John Hammond

Ushers next week: Tony Hunter, Amy Hurst,
Chris Lowder, Mike Lowder

Greeters: Ken Sparks, Renee Goodnight

FINANCIALS

FOR NOVEMBER

YTD Income \$282,449.88

YTD Expenses \$272,957.28

YTD Budget \$267,212.00

Last week's attendance: 11/26/23

Worship - 103

Sunday School - 63

SERMON NOTES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Tracy Caskey | Dave Ellington | Lynn Sechler |
| Cookie Hamilton | Chris Lowder | Ken Sparks |
| Sue Maiocchi | Tony Rary | Donnie Swaringen |
| Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator | | |
| Jeff Barnhardt, Session Clerk | | |



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