

# Welcoming Advent



## Order of Worship

*December 2, 2018*

*9 a.m. and 11 a.m.*

*First Sunday of Advent*

*This is God's house and all are welcome! As you gather for worship, please take a moment to greet one another in the name of Christ.*

### Preparation

Prelude (9 a.m.)  
(11 a.m.)

"Savior of the Nations, Come"  
"May My Light Shine"  
Child's Intro to Music

Johann Sebastian Bach  
John H. Hopkins, Jr.

Chiming of the Trinity

### Adoration

\*Lighting of the Advent Candle (9 a.m.)  
(11 a.m.)

Drew and Alex Slabaugh  
Taylor Robison and Kathryn Horn

One: We gather in God's house

All: **to prepare for the coming of the Christ child.**

One: We are people of hope. Because of who God is, we know that how things are today is not how they will always be.

One: We light this candle with hope.

All: **We are ready to worship. Hope is here.**

\*Hymn No. 88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
Stanzas 1, 2, 6, and 7

VENI EMMANUEL

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FOR *Christ* IN THE HEART OF CHARLOTTE

# Confession

## Call to Confession

The Reverend Mary Margaret Porter

## Prayer of Confession

**All:** God of Hope, forgive us for our satisfaction with the way things are. In a world that affords us ample opportunity and comfort, remind us that you are not yet through with your creation. Awaken us to the coming of your kingdom and the ways we must change in order for that kingdom to be realized. Loosen our grip on those things in this world through which we find security and grant us the faith to reach for the world that is to come. Stir within us a yearning for your presence, for your promise, and for your peace. We ask it in the name of the one who is the source of our hope, and through whom all things will be made new.

One: In silent prayer, let us confess to God the things we choose not to speak aloud.

## Response (Hymn No. 90)

Jacques Berthier

**Wait for the Lord, his day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

*(congregation sings three times)*

## Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, believe the good news.

**All:** In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

## \*Response (Hymn No. 100)

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn? My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!**

# Proclamation

## Prayer for Illumination

## Scripture

Jeremiah 33:14-16

*pew Bible pg. 738*

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## Anthem (11 a.m.)

"Advent Blessing"

Kris Crunk

Carol and Kirk Choirs

*Bless all you sons and daughters who await the coming child, the only Son, the Promised One who comes to us born in a stable. Bless all the children of the light, with their brilliant faces. Lift high your candles; show that Christ overcomes the darkness. The light of light overshadows. Brighter than the things of Earth, Son of God, humble birth. Bless all who worship in this place, the coming breath of heaven. The One whose life and death becomes salvation to the nations. The light of Light overshadows, brighter than the things of Earth, Son of God, humble birth.*

## Time with Children

*Children in kindergarten through 2nd grade may leave for First Church. They will return to the sanctuary during the last hymn. Younger children may go to the nursery.*

## Large-print hymnals and

Bibles are available. Please let an usher know if you would like one.

We believe that God put the wiggle in children, and all are welcome in worship regardless of their ability to sit still. If you'd like to step out of the sanctuary with your child, please feel free to visit the chapel (to the right of the sanctuary), where the service is streaming.

The rosebuds in the sanctuary celebrate the births of Adriel Rose Allen, daughter of Haley and Noah Allen; and of Myalora Nova McLean, daughter of Matt and Kelly McLean.

First Church is a worship education experience for children in kindergarten through 2nd grade. During First Church, children participate in and lead a simplified worship service that follows the same order as our service in the sanctuary.

The 11 a.m. service is televised over WSOC-TV, Channel 9 this morning and streamed live at [www.firstpres-charlotte.org](http://www.firstpres-charlotte.org).

Scripture	Luke 21:25-36	<i>pew Bible pg. 85</i>
Sermon	“Be Prepared”	The Reverend Pen Peery
*Hymn No. 109	“Blest Be the God of Israel”	MERLE’S TUNE

## Response

\*Affirmation of Faith The Reverend Katherine Kerr  
Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Stewardship of Life

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

“Keep Your Lamps”

André Thomas

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning. The time is drawing nigh. Children don’t get weary ‘til your work is done. Christian journey soon be over. The time is drawing nigh. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning. The time is drawing nigh.*

\*Doxology (Hymn No. 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

\*Prayer of Dedication and The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Sending Forth

\*Hymn No. 82 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” HYFRYDOL

Congregational Meeting (11 a.m.)

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Benediction Response “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Postlude “Savior of the Nations, Come” Johann Sebastian Bach

**The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Joe Bossong on the death of his father, Joseph Bossong; to Lili Tiegland on the death of her father, Peter McKay; and to Bill Rayner on the death of his mother, Fay Rayner.**

**The sanctuary arrangements are given to the glory of God and in honor of Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church.**

**There will be a congregational meeting today after the 11:00 a.m. worship service for the purpose of electing an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, and to dissolve the calls between FPC and Rev. Katelyn Gordon Cooke and Rev. Erika Funk.**

**A time of personal prayer is offered following both services. If you would like to pray with a pastor or a member of our prayer team, please meet them in the sanctuary overflow area after the 9 a.m. service or in the chapel following the 11 a.m. service.**

\* Please stand if you are able.

**We are glad you are  
with us today!**

We welcome all to  
First Presbyterian Church  
as we worship together,  
knowing that each of us is a  
beloved part of the body of  
Christ.

## Our Pastors

Pendleton B. Peery  
Senior Pastor  
ppeery@firstpres-charlotte.org

Katherine C. Kerr  
Senior Associate Pastor  
for Congregational Ministry and Care  
kkerr@firstpres-charlotte.org

Rebecca L. Davis  
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Mary Margaret Porter  
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Charles C. Williamson  
Parish Associate  
cwilliamson@firstpres-charlotte.org

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William P. Young, III  
Director of Music Ministries  
wyoung@firstpres-charlotte.org

**Are you interested in joining  
our church?**

Contact Lucy Caldwell  
Membership Coordinator  
lcaldwell@firstpres-charlotte.org

### Pastor on call

If you have a pastoral emergency  
outside of regular church hours,  
dial 704.927.0256 for the on-call  
voicemail. Your call will be  
returned promptly.

200 West Trade Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
[www.firstpres-charlotte.org](http://www.firstpres-charlotte.org)  
704.332.5123

## Coming up at FPC...

### We Worship

#### Wednesday Worship

The Session approved a recommendation from the Worship and Music Committee to pause the noon Wednesday Worship service. The recommendation was in response to declining attendance over the last few years and the departure of two pastors in late summer. The change goes into effect immediately and continues until the pastoral staff shortage is filled and leadership is available to explore alternative mid-week worship opportunities.

**Singing in the Season | Today | 6:30 p.m., Wood Fellowship Hall**

**Advent Communion Service | Thursday, December 6 | 11 a.m., Sanctuary**

**Children's Nativity Play | Sunday, December 9 | 10 a.m., Wood Fellowship Hall**

**Service of Lessons and Carols | Sunday, December 16 | 9 and 11 a.m., Sanctuary**

**Service of Wholeness and Healing | Thursday, December 20 | 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary**

### We Learn

**Good Samaritan Class | The Impact of Incarceration | Sundays, December 2 and 16 | 10 a.m.**

Today's topic will be *Returning home*. On December 9, this class will meet in Wood Fellowship Hall for the children's Nativity Play. The series concludes December 16 with *What do we do, now that we know more?*

### Pause and Ponder

Look for daily Advent emails to draw you deeper into the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of the season. Weekly emails will provide a liturgy for lighting the Advent wreath candles. Visit the FPC Playlist on Spotify: <http://bit.ly/FPCAdventPlaylist>.

### We Serve

**Alternative Gift Market | Sundays through December 16**

Find a meaningful gift for special friends and loved ones at this year's Alternative Gift Market Sundays in Wood Fellowship Hall.

**Room In The Inn | Mondays and Tuesdays, December 3 – March 26**

Throughout the winter months, First Presbyterian Church provides food, fellowship, and a safe, warm place to sleep to 12 guests who are experiencing homelessness. If you would like to volunteer to serve dinner, spend the night, or otherwise offer hospitality on these nights, please visit the Tickets & Signups page on the website.

### We Care

**First Fellowship | Ongoing through May**

Watch for details about *First Fellowship* - opportunities for church members and friends to gather for fun and fellowship both within the walls of the church and beyond. If you are interested in hosting a gathering in your home, or have other ideas for fellowship, contact the Reverend Mary Margaret Porter (mporter@firstpres-charlotte.org).

In Loving Memory of

*Esther W. Neel*

*February 14, 1921 - November 24, 2018*

and of

*Sue Woodard Kornegay*

*April 30, 1922 - November 26, 2018*

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, says the Spirit.*

Revelation 14:13

\*Hymn No. 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show;  
and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

\*Hymn No. 109

“Blest Be the God of Israel”

1 Blest be the God of Israel,  
who comes to set us free;  
who visits and redeems us,  
who grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy,  
of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill that promise  
and bring the people peace.

2 God from the house of David  
a child of grace has given;  
a Savior comes among us  
to raise us up to heaven.  
Before him goes the herald,  
forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation,  
the harbinger of day.

3 On those who sit in darkness  
the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness  
upon the sinner's eyes.  
God guides the feet of pilgrims  
along the paths of peace.  
O bless our God and Savior  
with songs that never cease!

\*Hymn No. 82

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.

2 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.