

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1st Sunday of Advent/ Holy Communion
December 3, 2023, 11:00 am

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" W. Barlow

PRAYER (TO BE PRAYED SILENTLY UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY)
From Ephesians 4:2- 4: Father, please help us to walk in a manner worthy of You and Your call to us. Give us a spirit of humility, gentleness and patience that we may show tolerance for one another in love. Help us to be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF FRIENDSHIP PADS

PNC SHARING Jamie Poppell

INTROIT "Call to Advent" By J. Jerome Williams

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF FAITH

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the day when the nations will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. ---Isaiah 2:4

People: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. Isaiah 11:6

All: Let us walk in the light of our Lord.

*HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 123
(Red Hymnal)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister: Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace: Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Lord Jesus, you are the Son of God and Son of Mary: Christ, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Minister: Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendor of the Father: Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI No. 623 (Red Hymnal)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

ANTHEM "Emmanuel is Coming"
Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig
Music by Don Besig

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10

*HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" No. 124
(Red Hymnal)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 11:2-11

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Dr. Don McGarity
Learning From A Little Child

*THE APOSTLES' CREED (see insert)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" D. Cherwien

*DOXOLOGY No. 624 (Red Hymnal)

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in this Sacrament of Holy Communion and be nourished by this one heavenly Bread. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Minister: Father, it is our duty and our salvation..... And so we join the angels and the saints in proclaiming your glory as we say:

All: *Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*

Minister: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

All: *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

No. 426 (Red Hymnal)

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Minister: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

All: *Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

No. 138
(Red Hymnal)

*BENEDICTION

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Minister: May Almighty God bless you the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: *Amen.*

Minister: Go in peace.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

No. 628 (Red Hymnal)

"Threefold Amen"

*POSTLUDE

"Veni Emmanuel"

J. Schaffner



Holy Communion

***Those who are able, please stand.**

We warmly greet all who have come to worship God. Your presence will enhance our worship experience and our fellowship together. Sincere thanks to each of you for your participation in the service. Glory be to God!

Presbyterians celebrate an “Open Communion.” All professing Christians who have been baptized “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” are encouraged to partake of this Holy Sacrament.

Leading Worship: Dr. Don McGarity, Minister; Chuck Eckel, Liturgist; Leah Metzger, Accompanist & Director; Dr. Mark Coffey, Guest Organist

THE 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

Notes & Announcements

- **Mission Committee** meeting Monday, December 4th at 5:15 pm
- **Ushers** for December 10th: Warren Gregory, Polly Kincaid, Betty Culbreath, Tuckie Maultsby, Rachell Poppell
- **Liturgist** for December 10th: Marilyn Culpepper
- Contact the church office at 850-584-3826 for more information or visit our website www.firstpresperry.org



Christmas program
December 17, 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Larry Green is available for counseling,
352-210-8753, larry@larrygreen.org.



Dear Church Family:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude. For the outpouring of Love and support you have given us during this past year during the illness and passing of my Husband Dominic, and the aftermath of the hurricane.

It has been appreciated by my entire family. The cards, notes, texts, etc. gave us hope, peace, and strength to face the challenges of being full time caregivers. And now the bereavement of our beloved Husband "Pop" and Papa. The coming weeks and Holidays will be difficult for us as we try and find our new "normal", so I ask that you excuse my absence a little longer.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

May God bless each and every one of you during this most glorious time of the year. Your Kindness will not be forgotten.

Dianna, J.R, Gina, and family

Prayers Of and For The People **First Presbyterian Church**

Pray for Israel

Glenn & JoAnn Knowles

Sandonatos

Rawls

PNC

McGarity family

Soup for Soul ministry

Our government

Christine Lutz, on going

Poppells

Travelers

FPC families

Depressed and addicted

Mary Lou

Elvena

Patricia

All having tests & treatments

Session members and Elders - elect

Jeff & Amalia Barrett

Judy Neal

Pastor Nominating Committee members: Emaley Gentry, Jamie Poppell, Juanita Ratliff, Randy Speas, and Shona Whiddon

Session Committee leaders

Administration-Joey Ratliff, Martha Davis, Chuck Eckel

Christian Education-Martha Davis

Clerk-Cindy Brown

Congregation Care-Nancy Bell

Fellowship-Sandi Hilgendorf

Finance-Chuck Eckel

Mission/Outreach-Marne Helberg, Rachel Poppell

Worship/Music-Marilyn Culpepper