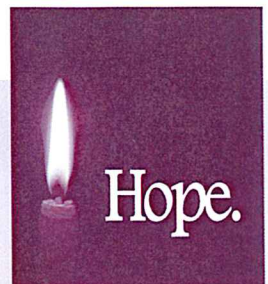




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Sumter

November 28, 2021



OPENING VOLUNTARY

Sheep May Safely Graze

J. S. Bach/Arr. Wells

WELCOME

Ann Geddings

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jim and Eleanor Beard

Leader: Today, we light the first candle of Advent – the candle of Hope.

We put our hope in the One to come, the promised One who comes from God to bring good news of salvation. We hope in the One who will lead us to walk in the light of the Lord. We light this candle in Hope.

People: On this day, we remember to look with hope for the coming of Christ.

* HYMN OF PRAISE 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Hope, we confess our despair, distrust, and disbelief when the scripture tells us that hope abounds. On this first Sunday of Advent, when we have lost our way, show us yours. Plant your word in our hearts that we might embrace your truth. Help us to be lights of hope to all around us. We pray in Christ's name. Amen. *(Silent Reflection)*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 91 (Sing Twice)

COME, COME EMMANUEL

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God does not remember our sins, but does remember the promises which have been made to us. Today, we are grateful that in God's perfect time Christ came to free us to live hope-filled lives.

People: Lead us in your hope, O God, and teach us your love.

You are the God of our Advent journeys. Thanks be to God.

* GLORIA 113 *(Congregation) Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

GLORIA

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Kelly Hickey

Following the Children's Moment, children preschool through 2nd grade are invited to Children in Worship. Parents can pick up their children from the third floor after worship.

SCRIPTURE READING

Galatians 4:4-7

Jennings Frerichs

(Pew Bible, pg. 189, New Testament)

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Rev. Joel Long

(Pew Bible, pg. 738, Old Testament)

SERMON

"God's Hoped-Filled Time"

Rev. Joel Long

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Call to Giving

* Offertory Anthem

Marty Haugen/Thomas Helmore

My Soul in Stillness Waits/O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

John Michael Osteen, Baritone Solo

* Song of Dedication 144 *In the Bleak Midwinter* CRANHAM
*What can I give Him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a Lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: Give my heart.*

* Offertory Prayer

* HYMN 357 (V. 1-2) *The Days Are Surely Coming* LLANGLOFFAN

BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 357 LLANGLOFFAN

*The days are surely coming when we will know at last
The fullness of God's presence, God's promise, come to pass.
Then righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
And we will be delivered by God's almighty hand.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* Arr. by Benton Price

* Please stand as you are able

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A nursery is provided for children 2 years old and younger in the nursery on the first floor
of the Educational Building.

WELCOME!

We especially welcome those of you who are guests today. We invite you to fill out a Welcome card found in the pew racks and place it in the offering basket as you leave. We look forward to meeting you. If you have particular questions, please speak to Rev. Long.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Elders: Ann Geddings, Glenn Woodrum
Deacons: John Michael Osteen, Glenn Woodrum
Youth Liturgist: Jennings Frerichs
Junior Usher: Stuart Ward

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Teacher: Missy Coulter Volunteer: Kelly Hicken

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Elders: Gus Blum, Liza Cooper
Deacons: Elyn Croft, Lark Haynie
Youth Liturgist: Sumter Cooper
Junior Usher: Connor Thames

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Teacher: Beth McCord Volunteer: Julia Muldrow

THE SESSION, AT ITS NOVEMBER 22, 2021 MEETING, APPROVED THE FOLLOWING UPDATED COVID GUIDELINES EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

1. We strongly encourage that those who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in an indoor setting, including children 2-years old and up for all activities.
2. While masks are not required for those who are fully vaccinated, we encourage anyone who is uncomfortable to continue wearing a mask.
3. We feel individualized meals are no longer necessary and common utensils may be used. FPC will publicize how meals will be served. This includes eating indoors, baking projects, homecooked meals, restaurant dining, Sunday morning fellowship, etc. The use of hand sanitizer and social distancing are encouraged during meals.
4. Offering will resume with the traditional method of passing of the plates on December 5, 2021.
5. We look forward to resuming all ministry programs in January 2022, including "traditional" communion.



Angels are now available for pickup from the tables in the Fellowship Hall. When choosing an angel, please remember to sign the sheets provided. Wrapped gifts must be returned to the church no later than Wednesday, December 8. Please be sure to tape the angel to the top of the wrapped gift. Gift cards should be enclosed in a sealed Christmas card envelope with the angel taped to the top of the envelope. Please do NOT wrap gift cards as a present. There will be a special box in the Fellowship Hall for gift card envelopes.

REHEARSALS BEGIN TODAY FOR THE NATIVITY STORY

The Nativity will be on Sunday, December 19, during the worship service. Rehearsals will be held Sunday, November 28, December 5, and December 12 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. We will begin in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a dress rehearsal on Sunday, December 19 from 9:15 am to 10:15 am in the sanctuary. This will be our final rehearsal before leading worship at 10:30 am. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Kelly Hickey.



IT'S TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS

First Presbyterian will again decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias this year. Order forms are available on the table outside the church office and on our website. All orders must be received no later than Friday, December 3. Please note that no phone orders will be accepted.



SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

Monday, December 13 – 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel

Service for those experiencing grief and discomfort during the holidays.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Home: Suzanna Foley, Bill Scobee,
Ashley Long (Joel & Ann Long's daughter-in-law),
Tom Tindal (John Tindal's Brother), Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)