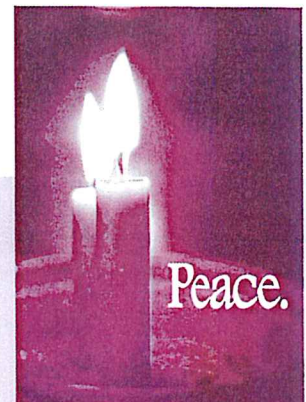




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Sumter

December 5, 2021



OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Arr. By James Koerts
Arr. by Cathy Moklebus

WELCOME

Liza Cooper

REPORT FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Fred Brogdon, Jr.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY AND INTROIT

Susan C. Nelson

Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Joy Ringers: Lauren Decker, Kayleigh Jordan, Joni Brown, Dee Dailey,
Norma Abbott, Lisa Hellams, Joseph Bettinger, Gustavo Blum

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Ann, Taylor and Parker Geddings

Leader: Last Sunday, we lit the candle of Hope – remembering the hope which comes in Christ. Today we light the second candle of Advent – the candle of Peace. God has a peaceful dream for the world, and we dream it, too. We dream of a peaceful world full of wolves and leopards and lions eating and sleeping and dancing with lambs, kids, and calves. We dream of a peaceful world where nations come together, where war is a memory, and where we eat at one table.

People: On this day, we remember the Lord of All who brings peace surpassing all understanding.

* HYMN OF PRAISE 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBAN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Peace, You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen. *(Silent Reflection)*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 88 (Sing Twice)

COME, COME EMMANUEL

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God brings peace to broken hearts . . . broken lives . . . broken churches!
Let us give thanks for God's mercy and grace!

People: Glory to God in the highest! Peace and good will to earth!

* 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

Luke 3:1-6

Sumter Cooper

(Pew Bible, pg. 60, New Testament)

SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 3:1-4

Rev. Joel Long

(Pew Bible, pg. 889, Old Testament)

SERMON

"Peaceful Preparations – Purifying Refinements"

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

Child of Peace
Ann Long, Soloist

Bob Farrell

*On a night of promise, long ago when a star will announce the light of hope,
To a world that knew no peace before; the holy Child of Peace will be born.*

*He will stir their longings deep within, for His kingdom will know no end.
From a place eternal, high above; the wondrous Child of Peace will come.*

*Child of comfort, Child of light; Hope that drives away the night.
Touch our lives from Heaven above.*

Oh, Child of Peace, we need Your love.

In a world where peace eludes us still, where the heart exerts its will.

*At a time when words are not enough,
Oh, Child of Peace, we need Your love.*

God who only knows our need, come to us, oh, Child of Peace!

* 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 88 (V. 1 and 6))

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 357

VENI EMMANUEL

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.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Ring the Joyous Christmas Bells

Lani Smith

* 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: 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

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Elders: Missy Coulter, JD Dunn
Deacons: Suzanne Wates, Taylor Geddings
Youth Liturgist: Nicholas White
Junior Usher: Richard Dwight

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Teacher: Kelly Hickey Volunteer: Margaret Ezell

CLASSES FOR EVERYONE

Session has scheduled a series of "Officer Training" classes for all Elders, Deacons (active and inactive), and anyone interested in learning more about Presbyterian faith and practice. The schedule is as follows:

Sunday, December 5, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Monday, December 6, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 12, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 14, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.



Angels are still 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 is a special box in the Fellowship Hall for gift card envelopes.



ADVENT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Monday, December 13

5:30 p.m. in the Chapel

Service of Comfort & Hope

For those experiencing grief and discomfort during the holidays.

Sunday, December 19

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

**A drama of the Christmas Story presented by the children of FPC
and Service of Ordination and Installation**

Friday, December 24

5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Music by the Chancel Choir, Brass Ensemble, and Soloists

Sunday, December 26

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary ~ Informal Worship Service

JOYS AND CONCERNS

St. Jude: Elizabeth Williams (Barney W. Williams' Daughter)

Home: Suzanna Foley, Bill Scobee,

Tom Tindal (John Tindal's Brother), Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)