

NARRATIVE

As our final preparation for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we will light the Chrismon tree. And in this time of Advent, whenever you see a lighted tree, let it call to mind the One who brings light into our darkness, healing in our brokenness, and peace to all who will receive Him. May this tree, arrayed in beauty and splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- Apostle's Creed (hymnal-inside cover)
- Prayer of Thanksgiving
- Serving of the Elements
- The Lord's Prayer

† CAROL "Joy to the World" #270
(vs. 1,2,4)

† BENEDICTION (responsive)

L: Go forth from this place an awakened people, aware of the world's darkness, yet reaching for the light.

P: We see God at work in our world, and that makes all the difference.

L: Go forth from this place an expectant people, conscious of judgment in our midst, yet welcoming God's new order and justice.

P: We welcome God's new day, believing that Christ will set us free.

L: Go forth from this place a serving people, sensing anew the pain so many bear, yet confident God will bring healing, even through you.

P: We and we have been empowered to share it.

L: May the God of peace be with us all, this season and forever.

ALL: Amen and Amen.

POSTLUDE "Sing Praise" Lani Smith

†Please stand if you are able.

Join us in Fellowship Hall following the service for coffee and refreshments.

- * Please sign and date the attendance pad.
- * Be sure to silence your cell phones.
- * We have a fully staffed Nursery available for newborn through 2 years old. Located in the upstairs hallway (nearest the back door), the 2nd door on the left. A changing table is available in the Nursery, as well.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Sympathies to the family of Gretchen Dickison, on her recent passing.

Tom Bader, having hip problems.

Kiersten Clifford, awaiting results of biopsy.

Marlynn Story, not feeling well.

The family of Marcia Paull, on her recent passing.

Lamar Ziegler, recuperating at home from rotator cuff repair.

Paul Auble, recuperating at home following shoulder replacement surgery.

Paul Wood, recuperating at home following triple by-pass, heart valve replacement and pacemaker.



DECEMBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 8, 2024

Today	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:15 am	Fellowship Hour
	2:00 pm	Historical Society Dinner
Monday		
Tuesday	7:00 pm	The Chosen
Wednesday	8:30 am	Men's GBR
	8:30 am	Women's GBR
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday	8:15 am	Aerobics
Sunday	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:15 am	Fellowship Hour

POINSETTIA ORDERS—DUE TODAY!

Poinsettias purchased in memory or in honor of loved ones are placed in the sanctuary on the Sunday before Christmas and left through the Christmas Eve Service. You may take your plant(s) home after the service on Christmas Eve. **If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, fill out the form on the table in the back of the sanctuary and place it in the offering plate or give it to Jim Story. You can place your order, and pay later, if you don't have the \$10 today. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and put Poinsettia on the memo line. The last day for orders is TODAY!**

SHOW APPRECIATION TO OUR CHURCH STAFF

Our paid staff works very hard to keep our Church running smoothly. We would like to give them an extra thank you during this giving season. You may use your Staff Bonus envelope from your December giving envelopes, or there will be extra envelopes on the table at the rear of the sanctuary for your use.

This is your opportunity to show your appreciation for their continued dedication to our church. I ask you to consider a special gift this Christmas season. We would like to distribute this to the staff before Christmas. **It will be greatly appreciated if your gift is received by December 15th. Please use the staff bonus envelope or send to the church and mark it staff bonus.**

Thank you so much! **Dick Zeiler, Personnel & Nominating Elder**

2024 FPC GIVING TREE

Please take a moment and stop by the 2024 Giving Tree! It is beautifully decorated and is full of gift tags. This year FPC is assisting five families (14 children and 7 adults) for the Christmas season. If your heart leads you, choose a tag (or two), purchase the gift on the tag, wrap it and return it to church by Sunday December 22. The families will be here that day to pick up the gifts. Thank you for your generosity and kindness. FPC's support of these families truly reflects our spirit of giving and love of community.

FPC FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 14 at 3:30pm

Ring in the Christmas Season with your FPC friends, neighbors, and family. Join us for a party and a special guest, Silly Safaris with a live animal show including Santa's favorite animals! Great for all ages! **RSVP at the Welcome Center or email Trish Moore at: bobtrishmoore@spcglobal.net**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1207 Conner Street, Noblesville, IN

317.773.2383 • fpc-noblesville.org

Eric R. Gale, Pastor

DECEMBER 1, 2024 COMMUNION / 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ELDERS

Mark Wisely
Barb Runyon
Jennie Auble
Laurie Szabo
Stephen Craig
Dick Zeiler
Sue Jourdan

Eric R. Gale

Finance
Evangelism
Mission
Clerk
Planning
Personnel /Nom.
Properties
Christian Education
Worship
Moderator

DEACONS

Jake Light, Moderator
Johnathan Baker
Susan Clark
Brenda Christian
Karen Perkins Gale
Clint Gingerich
Andrea Joines
Fran Oakley
Joe Sullivan
Quinn Teague
Diane Widdifield

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 1, 2024

COMMUNION SUNDAY / 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

As you arrive for worship, greet each other with a smile and soft words, but please remember there are those who cherish a time of quiet before worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lee Ann Stein, Giving Tree
Kendall Teague, Family Christmas Party
Mark Wisely, Finance Elder

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE/MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION

"The First Christmas"

Cheryl Mayhew, organist
Lani Smith

ADVENT READING

Claudia MacRae

L: As we prepare for Christmas and the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we acknowledge that we hold HOPE in our hearts. HOPE is like a beacon that lights our path to God. We often celebrate the Advent season by lighting candles and trimming our trees which is a way of showing that we are HOPEFUL for the future but also excited to celebrate the birth of Christ. We know that with the light of God, darkness can never overpower it. Our HOPE lies in the faith that God's marvelous plan of salvation, is a gift to us.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

L: We light this first candle of Advent with the HOPE that we can sincerely prepare the way for Christ in our hearts. (The candle is lit)

† OPENING HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#244

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord, please remind us that celebrating the wonder of Your Son's birth in Bethlehem is also our celebration of rebirth into eternal life. This gift of everlasting life was only possible through the birth of Jesus into this sin-filled world. Help us to receive Your gift with awe and humility and help us to be forever thankful for Your grace and love. Amen.

† WORDS OF ASSURANCE (responsive):

L: "To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the Hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27)

P: Let us rejoice that Jesus is The Gift above all others. Amen.

† GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Warren Fremling, baritone

(Children are dismissed to Sunday School)

HANGING OF THE GREENS - Sandy Pearson

Isaiah 40:3-5

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

NARRATIVE

We have placed the Advent paraments, which are purple, a royal color to remind us of the King of Kings, who came to be the "Light of the World."

CAROL

"Love Has Come"

#256

ADVENT WREATH—Kent Vedra

Jeremiah 23:5-6

The days are surely coming says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous branch, and He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which He will be called: "The Lord is our Righteousness."

NARRATIVE

The Advent Wreath is a vivid symbol of preparation. The lighting of a new candle each of the four weeks before Christmas reminds us that something is happening, but more is yet to come. The circle of evergreens reminds us of the everlasting covenant offered in the birth of Jesus. The four candles symbolize HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE. Today, we lit the first candle as a symbol of Christ, our HOPE. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation.

HOLLY AND IVY—Heather Lyons

Isaiah 53:3a, 4a, 5-6

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; Surely He has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases. But He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; Upon Him was the punishment that made us whole. And by His bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

NARRATIVE

For Christians, this passage from Isaiah reflects the sufferings of Jesus, who saved us from our sins by His death on the cross, and by His resurrection from the dead. In ancient times, holly and ivy were considered signs of Christ's passion. Their prickly leaves suggest the crown of thorns, the red berries the blood of the Savior, and the bitter bark the drink offered to Jesus on the cross. As we reflect on the holly and ivy, let us rejoice in the coming of Jesus our Savior.

CAROL

"The Holly and the Ivy"

(words on screen)

POINSETTIA—Nancy Vedra

Numbers 24:17

I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near ...a star shall come out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.

NARRATIVE

The poinsettia speaks to us symbolically in several ways. The star-shaped formation of ten leaves calls to mind the star which shone that first Christmas. In a less joyous sense, the color of the flower is blood red, reminding us of the male infants killed because King Herod wanted to eliminate any threat to his throne. We sometimes forget this part of the story, which made it necessary for Mary, Joseph, and the Christ Child to flee to Egypt.

CAROL

"Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"

#255

(vs. 1 only)

MANGER—Charlotte Gingerich

Luke 2:6-7

And while they were there the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the Inn.

NARRATIVE

The manger or crèche, is placed as a reminder that Jesus Christ was born in the humblest of places, because humankind would not make room in their heart to hold the Son of God. Jesus, who was born in this most modest beginning, has compassion on all God's children - from the humblest to the richest.

CAROL

"Away in a Manger"

#262

(vs. 1 only)

CAROLING - Dolores McNabb

Psalm 96: 1-4a, 6

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth, Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

NARRATIVE

Of our all holy days, it's the Season of the Advent that most invites our songs. In fact, we have a special name for Christmas hymns. We call them carols, a word coming from an old Latin word meaning choral song. Ruth Bell Graham once said, "We should sing when we feel like it, for it is a shame to miss such an opportunity; we should sing when we don't feel like it, for it is dangerous to remain in such a condition." Especially at Christmas.

CAROL

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

#259

(vs. 1,2,5)

EVERGREEN TREE—Jack Bell

Micah 5:2, 4

But you, O Bethlehem, from you shall come forth one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from ancient days. And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they shall live secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; and He shall be the one of peace.

NARRATIVE

In ancient times the cedar was revered as the tree of royalty. It also signified immortality, and was used for purification. We have placed this tree in the sanctuary as a symbol of Christ, who reigns as King forever, and whose coming will purify our hearts.

CAROL

"O Christmas Tree"

(words on screen)

OFFERING

Offertory

"Pastoral Scene"

W.A. Mozart

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† Prayer of Dedication

TREE LIGHTING—Chris Swatts

John 1: 1-5, 9-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the Beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God, who were born not of the blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.