

# First Presbyterian Church

*For Christ in the Heart of Charlotte*

*Founded in 1821*

## Order of Worship

*Third Sunday in Advent  
December 12, 2021  
11 a.m.*

### Preparation

Prelude

Fugue on the Magnificat

Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome

The Reverend Pen Peery

Chiming of the Trinity

### Adoration

Lighting of the Advent Candle

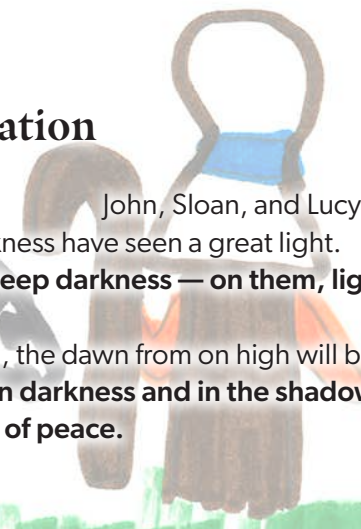
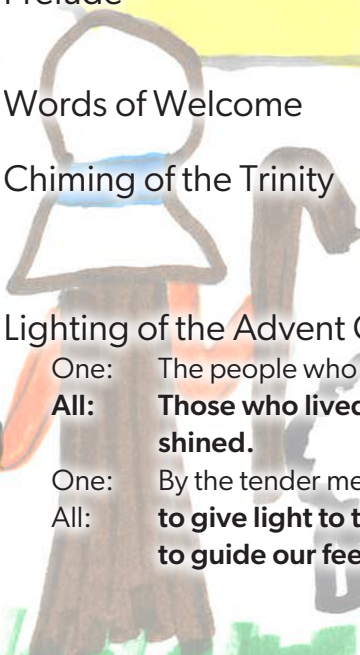
John, Sloan, and Lucy Anne Dossor

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

All: **Those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them, light has shined.**

One: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

All: **to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.**



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;  
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,  
 you have seen his na - tal star: to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

# Confession

## Call to Confession

The Reverend Robert Galloway

## Prayer of Confession

**Word of God, come and live among us again. Clear away the things that clutter our hearts and lives, making it difficult to see and do your will. And where we have chosen to believe your way is obscure, preferring our way to yours, make your truth shine out. When we have chosen to focus on cheer at the expense of joy, forgive us and cause righteousness and praise to spring up in your world once again. We pray in the name of the coming Christ.**

## Response to Confession

CRADLE SONG

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

## Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, believe the good news.  
All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

## \*Response to Pardon

GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

# Sacrament of Baptism

## Sacrament of Baptism

Wilmot Bruce Johnston  
Scarlett Hopkins Johnston

## \*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.

## Anthem

"People, Look East"

arr. June Nixon

*People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

The 11 a.m. service is televised over WAXN-TV, Channel 64 this morning and streamed live at [www.firstpres-charlotte.org](http://www.firstpres-charlotte.org) and on Facebook Live.

**The bulletin cover art** is by Ann Houston Young.

**The toys in front of the pulpit** will support twenty families at our partner school, Westerly Hills Academy.

**Bruce and Scarlett are the son and daughter** of Ashley and Stephen Johnston.

**The Elder** assisting with the baptism is Mike Elliott.

# Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon

"Risk Management"

The Reverend Pen Peery

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at  
3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and  
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

*Refrain*

star of my life is Je - sus.  
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at  
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

# Response

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

The Reverend Anna Dickson

**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.**

Stewardship of Life

Offertory Anthem

"And the Glory of the Lord" from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

\*Doxology

REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son. Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

# Sending Forth

\*Hymn No. 134

"Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -  
her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness  
and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
and heaven and na - ture sing,  
and  
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
heaven and na - ture sing,

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore! Amen.*

Postlude

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

J. S. Bach



We are glad you are worshipping 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

Anna R. Dickson  
Associate Pastor for Congregational Care  
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Robert L. Galloway  
Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Young Adults  
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Mary Margaret Porter  
Parish Associate  
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Charles C. Williamson  
Parish Associate  
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William P. Young, III  
Director of Music Ministries  
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Are you interested in joining our church?

Contact Jane Ives  
Membership Coordinator  
jives@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

## First Presbyterian Church Announcements

### Room In The Inn

Starting December 7, we will be hosting eight vaccinated, unsheltered neighbors on Tuesday nights but only with the support of many volunteers. | To sign up, visit [bit.ly/ritivolunteer](http://bit.ly/ritivolunteer).

### The Willard Lecture: Father Greg Boyle "The Power of Extravagant Tenderness", January 9, 5 p.m., Wood Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by the Willard Endowment and the Catherine S. Grier Community Building Initiative. | Register at [bit.ly/FPCGregBoyle2022](http://bit.ly/FPCGregBoyle2022).

### Youth Mission Trip to Mexico, June 16-21, 2022

Registration is open through December 16. | For information, email [twall@firstpres-charlotte.org](mailto:twall@firstpres-charlotte.org). Register at [bit.ly/fpchsmission2022](http://bit.ly/fpchsmission2022).

### Advent/Christmas Calendar, All events take place in Wood Fellowship Hall

- Service of Wholeness and Healing, *December 16, 7:30 p.m.*
- Service of Lessons and Carols, *December 19, 11 a.m.*
- Christmas Eve Service (suitable for children and families), *December 24, 4 p.m.*
- Christmas Eve Handbell Concert, *December 24, 7:15 p.m.*
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, *December 24, 8 p.m.* (This service will be broadcast on WAXN-TV and WSOC-TV at 11 p.m. - Please note that there will NOT be an in-person service at 11 p.m. this year.)
- Worship with FUPC (Rev. Lorenzo Small, Sr. preaching), *December 26, 11 a.m.*

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- Text to 73256
- Content of the text needs to be – givetofpc followed by a \$ and the dollar amount.
- You will be prompted to enter your payment information.
- You will receive an email receipt of payment.

